

Śrī Rudram

Anuvāka 4

नमः॑ क्षत्त॑भ्यस्संग्र॑हि॒द्वि॒तु॑भ्यश्च॒ वो॑ नमः॑ । ११ ॥
namaḥ॑ kṣatṛb̥hyaṣaṅgrāhi̇ṭṛb̥hyaśca vo॑ namaḥ॑ । 11 ।

namaḥ – salutation; kṣatṛb̥hyaḥ – to the charioteers (who train the charioteers), saṅgrahīṭṛb̥hyaḥ to those who wield the reins; ca –and vaḥ – to you; namaḥ – salutation.

Salutation to you in the form of charioteers (who train the charioteers) and those who wield the reins.

Namaḥ kṣatṛb̥hyaḥ – Salutation to the one who is in the form of charioteers who are śikṣakās, who teach people how to do sārathya, charioteering. The Lord is the one who is in the form of trainers of charioteering, the guru. He is also saṅgrahīṭṛ, one who is holding the reins, the charioteer, the disciple. My salutation to the Lord wo is both of them.

नमस्त॑क्ष॒भ्यो रथ॑कारेभ्यश्च॒ वो॑ नमः॑ । १२ ॥
nāmastakṣab̥hyo rathakāreb̥hyaśca vo॑ namaḥ॑ । 12 ॥

namaḥ – salutation; takṣab̥hyaḥ – to the carpenters; rathakāreb̥hyaḥ – to the chariot makers; ca – and; vaḥ – to you; namaḥ – salutation.

Salutation to you in the form of carpenters and chariot-makers.

Namaḥ takṣab̥hyaḥ – Salutation to the one who is a carpenters. Rathakārah is an architect who has a plan and design for the chariot. Takṣaḥ puts things together and creates a chariot in keeping with the design. It is like a computer operator and the designer of the hardware and software. These are all to be included now. Any knowledge has to be revealed in the language that the recipients know. The language of the ṛṣis being Sanskrit, what is revealed is in Sanskrit. The ṛṣis did not have the knowledge of computers. Bhagavān is not restricted to the knowledge of the ṛṣis and so we include the computer knowledge too.

Kṛṣṇā says in the tenth chapter of the Bhagavad Gītā that any glory, vibhūti is me. In this section, the Lord says everything is me, whether there is vibhūti or whether they are ordinary carpenters of the expert rathakārs, both are me.

नमः॑ कु॒लाले॑भ्यः॒ कर्म॑रेभ्यश्च॒ वो॑ नमः॑ ॥ १३ ॥
nāmaḥ॑ kulāleb̥hyaḥ kaṛmāreb̥hyaśca vo॑ namaḥ॑ ॥ 13 ॥

namaḥ – salutation; kulāleb̥hyaḥ – to the potmakers; karmāreb̥hyaḥ – to the blacksmiths; ca= and; vaḥ – to you; namaḥ – salutation.

Salutation to you in the form of pot-makers and blacksmiths.

Kulāla is a pot-maker, a maker of any earthenware, such as a vase and so on. Karmāra is a blacksmith. Any metal work is done by karmāras. In this section of sarvātmatva, nobody is left out.

नमः पुञ्जिष्टेभ्यो निषादेभ्यश्च वो नमः ॥ १४ ॥

namāḥ puñjīṣṭebhyaḥ niṣādebhyaśca vo namaḥ || 14 ||

namaḥ – salutation; puñjīṣṭebhyaḥ – to those who are bird-catchers; niṣādebhyaḥ – to the fishermen; ca and vaḥ – to you; namaḥ – salutation.

Salutation to you who are in the form of bird-catchers and fishermen.

Puñjīṣṭas are people who set traps and catch different types of birds. They then sell or eat them. Niṣādas are people who earn their livelihood by catching fish for their food and also for selling. These days even devotees do poultry and leather business. But the Lord includes them all.

नम इषुकृद्भ्यो धन्वकृद्भ्यश्च वो नमः ॥ १५ ॥

namā iṣukṛdbhyo dhanvākṛdbhyaśca vo namaḥ || 15 ||

namaḥ – salutation; iṣukṛdbhyaḥ – to those who make arrows; dhanvakṛdbhyaḥ – to those who make bows’ ca – and; vaḥ – to you; namaḥ – salutation.

Salutation to you in the form of those who make arrows and bows.

Iṣukṛts are those who make arrows. Dhanvakṛts are those who make the bows. The Lord is both.

नमो मृगयुभ्यश्चनिभ्यश्च वो नमः ॥ १६ ॥

namo mṛgayubhyaśṣvanibhyaśca vo namaḥ || 16 ||

namaḥ – salutation; mṛgayubhyaḥ – to those who hunt animals; śvanibhyaḥ – to those who lead the dogs while hunting; ca –and; vaḥ – to you; namaḥ – salutation.

Salutation to you in the form of those who hunt animals and who take the dogs out on leash while hunting.

Mṛgayus¹ are hunters who hunt deer and other animals in the forest for food and to make a living. Chinese medicines have a lot of substances derived from animal body parts. The word mṛga can mean either deer in particular or animals in general. People with dogs hunt and those without dogs also hunt.

नमः श्वभ्यः श्वपतिभ्यश्च वो नमः ॥ १७ ॥

nāmāḥ śvabhyaḥ śvāpatibhyaśca vo namaḥ || 17 ||

Salutations to you the one who is in the form of dogs and dog owners.

The Lord is the very dogs themselves. And he is śvapatis, those who own dogs and train them.

“To be continued....”

¹ The derivation of the word ‘mṛgayu’: mṛgam yāttiti mṛgayug – one who goes after (hunts) an animal.