

athāṣṭamo'dhyāyah

idānīm aṣṭame prastutān jñātavyopādeya-bhedān vivinakti –

kim tad brahma kim adhyātmam kim karma puruṣottama |
adhibhūtam ca kim proktam adhidaivam kim ucyate ||1||
adhiyajñah katham ko'tra dehe'smin madhusūdana |
prayāṇa-kāle ca katham jñeyo'si niyatātmabhiḥ ||2||

jarā-maraṇa-moksāya bhagavantam āśritya yataṁānām jñātavyatayoktaṁ tad
brahmādhyātmam ca karma ca kim iti vaktavyam ? aiśvaryārthīnām jñātavyam adhibhūtam
adhidaivam ca kim ? trayāṇām jñātavyo'dhiyajña-śabda-nirdiṣṭāś ca kah ? tasya cādhiyajñā-
bhāvah katham ? prayāṇa-kāle caibhis tribhīḥ niyatātmabhiḥ katham jñeyo'si ? ||8.1 -- 8.2||

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śrī-bhagavān uvāca –

akṣaram brahma paramam svabhāvo'dhyātmam ucyate |
bhūtabhāvodbhava-karo visargah karma-saṁjñitah ||3||

tad brahma iti nirdiṣṭam paramam akṣaram na kṣaratīty akṣaram kṣetrajñam samaṣṭi-rūpam |
tathā ca śrutir avyaktam akṣare līyate'kṣaram tamasi līyate [SuU 2] ity ādikā | paramam
akṣaram prakṛti-vinirmuktātma-svarūpam | svabhāvo'dhyātmam ucyate svabhāvah prakṛtir
anātma-bhūtam ātmani saṁbaddhyamānam bhūta-sūkṣma-tad-vāsanādikam pañcāgni-
vidyāyām jñātavyatayā uditam | tad-ubhayam prāpyatayā tyājyatayā ca mumukṣubhir
jñātavyam |

bhūta-bhāvo manusyādi-bhāvah, tad-udbhava-karo yo visargah pañcamyām āhutāv āpaḥ
puruṣa-vacaso bhavanti [ChāU 5.3.3] iti śruti-siddho yoṣit-saṁbandha-jah, sa karma-
saṁjñitah | tac cākhilaṁ sānubandham udvejanīyatayā parihaṇīyatayā ca mumukṣubhir
jñātavyam | parihaṇīyatā cānantaram eva vakṣyate – yad icchanto brahmācaryam caranti
[8.11] iti ||8.3||

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adhibhūtam kṣaro bhāvah puruṣas cādhidaivatam |
adhiyajño'ham evātra dehe deha-bhṛtāṁ vara ||4||

aiśvaryārthīnām jñātavyatayā nirdiṣṭam adhibhūtam kṣaro bhāvo viyad-ādi-bhūteṣu
vartamānas tat-parīṇāma-viśeṣah kṣaraṇa-svabhāvo vilakṣaṇah śabda-sparśādih sāśrayah,
vilakṣaṇah sāśrayah śabda-sparśa-rūpa-rasa-gandhā aiśvaryārthibhiḥ prāpyah | tair
anusandheyah |

puruṣāś cādhidaivatam adhidaivata-śabda-nirdiṣṭah puruṣah | adhidaivataṁ daivatopari
vartamānam indra-prajāpati-prabhṛti-kṛtsna-daivatopari vartamānah | indra-prajāpati-
prabhṛtīnām bhogya-jātād vilakṣaṇa-śabdāder bhoktā puruṣah | sā ca bhoktṛtvāvasthā
aiśvaryārthibhiḥ prāpyatayā anusandheyā |

adhiyajño'ham evādhiyajña-śabda-nirdiṣṭo'ham eva | adhiyajño yajñair ārādhyatayā
vartamānah | atrendrādau mama deha-bhūte ātmatayāvasthito'ham eva yajñair ārādhyā iti
mahā-yajñādi-nitya-naimittakānuṣṭhāna-velāyām trayāṇām adhikāriṇām anusandheyam
etat ||8.4||

--o)0(o--

idam api trayāṇām sādhāraṇam —

anta-kāle ca mām eva smaran muktvā kalevaram |
yah prayāti sa mad-bhāvam yāti nāsty atra samśayah ||5||

anta-kāle ca mām eva smaran kalevaram tyaktvā yah prayāti, sa mad-bhāvam yāti | mama yo
bhāvah svabhāvas tam yāti | tadānīm yathā mām anusāndhatte tathā-vidhākāro bhavatīty
arthah | yathā ādi-bharatādayas tadānīm smaryamāṇa-mṛga-sajātiyākārāḥ saṁbhūtāḥ ||8.5||

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smartuh sva-viṣaya-sajātiya-kāratāpādanam antya-pratyayasya svabhāva iti suspaṣṭam āha —

yam yam vāpi smaran bhāvam tyajaty ante kalevaram |
tam tam evaiti kaunteya sadā tad-bhāva-bhāvitah ||6||

ante'nta-kāle yam yam vāpi bhāvam smaran kalevaram tyajati tam tam bhāvam eva
maraṇāntaram eti | antya-pratyayaś ca pūrva-bhāvita-viṣaya eva jāyate ||8.6||

--o)0(o--

yasmāt pūrva-kālābhyasta-viṣaye evāntya-pratyayo jāyate --

tasmāt sarveṣu kāleṣu mām anusmara yudhya ca |
mayy arpita-mano-buddhir mām evaiṣyasy asamśayah ||7||

tasmāt sarveṣu kāleṣv āprayāṇād ahar-ahaḥ mām anusmarāhar-ahar anusmr̄ti-karam
yuddhādikam varṇāśramānubandhi-śruti-smṛti-codita-nitya-naimittikam ca karma kuru |
etad-upāyena mayy arpita-mano-buddhir anta-kāle ca mām eva smaran yathābhilaṣita-
prakāraṁ mām prāpsyasi nātra samśayah ||8.7||

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evam sāmānyena sarvatra sva-prāpyāvāptir antya-pratyayādhīnā ity uktvā tad-arthaṁ trayāṇāṁ upāsana-prakāra-bhedāṁ vaktum upakramate | tatraiśvaryārthināṁ upāsana-prakāraṁ yathopāsanam antya-pratyaya-prakāraṁ caḥ —

abhyāsa-yoga-yuktena cetasā nānya-gāminā |
paramāṁ puruṣāṁ divyāṁ yāti pārthānucintayan ||8||

aharaha abhyāsa-yogābhīm yuktatayā nānya-gāminā cetasā anta-kāle paramāṁ puruṣāṁ divyāṁ mām vaksyamāṇa-prakāraṁ cintayan mām eva yāty ādi-bharata-mrgatva-prāptivad aiśvarya-viśiṣṭatayā mat-samānākāro bhavati | abhyāso nitya-naimittikāviruddheśu sarvesu kāleṣu manasā upāsya-saṁśilanam, yogas tv aharaha yoga-kāle'nuṣṭhiyamānam yathokta-lakṣaṇam upāsanam ||8.8||

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kavīm purāṇām anuśāsitāram
aṇor aṇīyāṁsam anusmared yaḥ |
sarvasya dhātāram acintya-rūpam
āditya-varṇām tamasah parastāt ||9||

prayāṇa-kāle manasācalena
bhaktyā yukto yoga-balena caiva |
bhruvor madhye prāṇām āveśya samyak
sa tam param puruṣām upaiti divyām ||10||

kavīm sarvajñām purāṇām purātanām anuśāsitāram viśvaya praśāsitāram aṇor aṇīyāṁsam jīvād api sūkṣmataram sarvasya dhātāram sarvasya sraṣṭaram acintya-rūpām sakaleṭara-visajātiya-svarūpam āditya-varṇām tamasah parastāt aprākṛta-svāsādhāraṇa-divya-rūpam | tam evam-bhūtam aharaha abhyasyamāna-bhakti-yukta-yoga-balena ārūḍha-saṁskāratayā acalena manasā prayāṇa-kāle bhruvor madhye prāṇām āveśya saṁsthāpya tatra bhruvor madhye divyām puruṣām yo'nusmaret sa tam eva upaiti tad-bhāvām yāti, tat-samānaiśvaryo bhavatīty arthaḥ ||8.9 -- 8.10||

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atha kaivalyārthināṁ smaraṇa-prakāram āha —

yad akṣaram veda-vido vadanti
viśanti yad yatayo vīta-rāgāḥ |
yad icchanto brahmacaryām caranti
tat te padām saṁgrahaṇa pravakṣye ||11||

yad akṣaram asthūlatvādi-guṇakām veda-vido vadanti vīta-rāgāś ca yatayo yad akṣaram viśanti yad akṣaram prāptum icchanto brahmacaryām caranti tat te padām saṁgrahaṇa

pravakṣye | padyate gamyate'nena iti padam tan nikhila-vedānta-vedyam mat-svarūpam akṣaram yathā upāsyam tathā saṅkṣepeṇa pravakṣyāmīty arthaḥ ||8.11||

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sarva-dvārāṇi samyamya mano hṛdi nirudhya ca |
mūrdhny ādhāyātmanah prāṇam āsthito yoga-dhāraṇām ||12||

sarvāṇi śrotrādīnīndriyāṇi jñāna-dvāra-bhūtāni samyamya sva-vyāpārebhyo vinivartya hṛdaya-kamala-niviṣṭe mayy akṣare mano nirudhya yogākhyām dhāraṇām āsthito mayy eva niścalām sthitim āsthitaḥ ||8.12||

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om ity ekākṣaram brahma vyāharan mām anusmaran |
yah prayāti tyajan deham sa yāti paramām gatim ||13||

om ity ekākṣaram brahma mad-vācakam vyāharan vācyam mām anusmaran ātmamanah prāṇam mūrdhny ādhāya deham tyajan yaḥ prayāti sa yāti paramām gatim prakṛti-viyuktam mat-samānākāram apunar-āvṛttim ātmānam prāpnottīty arthaḥ **yah sa sarvesu bhūtesu naśyatsu na vinaśyati** || **avyakto'kṣara ity uktas tam āhuḥ paramām gatim** | [8.20,21] ity anantaram eva vakṣyate ||8.12 -- 8.13||

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evam aiśvaryārthinaḥ kaivalyārthinaś ca sva-prāpyānuguṇo bhagavad-upāsana-prakāra uktah |
atha jñānino bhagavad-upāsana-prakāram prāpti-kāram cāha —

ananya-cetāḥ satataṁ yo mām smarati nityaśah |
tasyāham sulabhaḥ pārtha nitya-yuktasya yoginah ||14||

nityaśo mām udyoga-prabhṛti satataṁ sarva-kālam ananya-cetā yaḥ smaraty atyartham mat-priyatvena mat-smṛtyā vinā ātma-dhāraṇam alabhamāno niratiśaya-priyam mām yaḥ smarati tasya nitya-yuktasya nitya-yogam kāṅkṣamāṇasya yogino'ham sulabho'ham eva prāpyaḥ | na mad-bhāva aiśvaryādikah suprāpaś ca | tad-viyogam asahamāno'ham eva tam vṛṇe | mat-prāpty-anuguṇopāsana-vipākam tad-virodhi-nirasanam atyartham mat-priyatvādikam cāham eva dadāmīty arthaḥ | **yam evaiṣa vṛṇute tena labhyah** [MuṇḍU 3.2.3] iti hi śrūyate | vakṣyate ca —

teṣām satata-yuktānām bhajatām pṛīti-pūrvakam |
dadāmi buddhi-yogam tam yena mām upayānti te ||
teṣām evānukampārtham aham ajñāna-jam tamah |
nāśayāmy ātma-bhāva-stho jñāna-dīpena bhāsvatā || [10.10-11] iti ||8.14||

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ataḥ param adhyāya-śeṣeṇa jñāninaḥ kaivalyārthinaś cāpunar-āvṛttim aiśvaryārthinaḥ punar-āvṛttim cāha —

māṁ upetya punar-janma duḥkhālayam aśāśvatam |
nāpnuvanti mahātmānaḥ saṃsiddhiṁ paramāṁ gatāḥ ||15||

māṁ prāpya punar nikhila-duḥkhālayam asthiram janma na prāpnvantī yata ete mahātmāno mahā-manaso yathāvasthita-mat-svarūpa-jñānā atyarthā-mat-priyatvena mayā vinā ātma-dhāraṇam alabhamānā mayy āsakta-manaso mad-āśrayā māṁ upāsyā parama-saṃsiddhi-rūpam māṁ prāptāḥ ||8.15||

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aiśvarya-gatiṁ prāptānāṁ bhagavantām prāptānāṁ ca punar-āvṛttav apunar-āvṛttau ca hetum anantaram āha —

ā brahma-bhuvanāl lokāḥ punar-āvartino’rjuna |
māṁ upetya tu kaunteya punar-janma na vidyate ||16||

brahma-loka-paryantā brahmāṇḍodara-vartinaḥ sarve lokā bhogaiśvaryālayāḥ punar-āvartino vināśināḥ | ata aiśvarya-gatiṁ prāptānāṁ prāpya-sthāna-vināśād vinaśitvam avarjanīyam | māṁ sarva-jñām satya-saṃkalpaṁ nikhila-jagad-utpatti-sthiti-laya-lilāṁ parama-kārunikāṁ sadaika-rūpāṁ prāptānāṁ vināśa-prasaṅgābhāvāt teṣāṁ punar-janma na vidyate ||8.16||

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brahma-loka-paryantānāṁ lokānāṁ tad-antar-vartinām ca parama-puruṣa-saṃkalpa-kṛtām utpatti-vināśa-kāla-vyavasthām āha —

sahasra-yuga-paryantam ahar yad brahmaṇo viduḥ |
rātrim yuga-sahasrāntām te’ho-rātra-vido janāḥ ||17||

ye manusyādi-catur-makhāntānāṁ mat-saṃkalpa-kṛtāho-rātra-vyavasthāvido janāḥ, te brahmaṇāś catur-mukhasya yad ahaś catur-yuga-sahasrāvāsānam viduḥ, rātrim ca tathā-rūpām ||8.17||

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avyaktād vyaktayah sarvāḥ prabhavanty ahar-āgame |
rātry-āgame pralīyante tatraivāvyakta-saṃjñake ||18||

tatra brahmaṇāḥ, ahar-āgama-samaye trilokyāntar-vartinyo dehendriya-bhogya-bhoga-sthāna-rūpā vyaktaś catur-mukha-dehāvasthād avyaktāt prabhavanti | tatraivāvyaktāvasthāviśeṣe catur-mukha-dehe rātry-āgama-samaye pralīyante ||8.18||

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bhūta-grāmaḥ sa evāyam bhūtvā bhūtvā pralīyate |
rātry-āgame'vaśah pārtha prabhavaty ahar-āgame ||19||

sa evāyam karma-vaśyo bhūta-grāmo'har-āgame bhūtvā bhūtvā rātry-āgame pralīyate punar apy ahar-āgame prabhavati | tathā varṣā-śatāvasāna-rūpa-yuga-sahasrānte brahma-loka-paryantā lokā brahmā ca, prthivī apsu pralīyate āpas tejasī liyante ity-ādi-krameṇāvyaktākṣara-tamah-paryantam mayy eva pralīyante |

evam mad-vyatiriktaśya kṛtsnasya kāla-vyavasthayā matta utpatter mayi pralayāc ca utpatti-vināśa-yogitvam avarjanīyam ity aiśvarya-gatim prāptānām punar-āvṛttir aparihāryā | mām upetānām tu na punar-āvṛtti-prasaṅgah ||8.19||

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atha kaivalya-prāptānām api punar-āvṛttir na vidyata ity āha —

paras tasmāt tu bhāvo'nyo'vyakto'vyaktāt sanātanah |
yah sa sarveṣu bhūteṣu naśyatsu na vinaśyati ||20||
avyakto'kṣara ity uktas tam āhuḥ paramām gatim |
yam prāpya na nivartante tad dhāma paramām mama ||21||

tasmād avyaktād acetana-prakṛti-rūpāt puruṣārthatayā para utkṛṣṭo bhāvo'nyo jñānaikākāratayā tasmād visajātiyo'vyaktaḥ kenacit pramāṇena na vyajyata ity avyaktaḥ svāṁvedya-sādhāraṇākāra ity arthaḥ | sanātana utpatti-vināśānarhatayā nityaḥ | yah sarveṣu viyad-ādiṣu bhūteṣu sa-kāraṇeṣu sa-kāryeṣu vinaśyatsu tatra tatra sthito'pi na vinaśyati so'vyakto'kṣara ity uktāḥ | **ye tv akṣaram anirdeśyam avyaktām paryupāsate** [Gītā 12.3], **kūṭastho'kṣara ucyate** [Gītā 15.16] ity-ādiṣu tam veda-vidaḥ paramām gatim āhuḥ | ayam eva yah prayāti tyajan dehaṁ sa yāti paramām gatim [Gītā 8.5] ity atra parama-gati-śabda-nirdiṣṭo'kṣarah prakṛti-saṁsarga-viyukta-svarūpeṇāvasthitā ātmā ity arthaḥ |

[Not in all editions: yam evam-bhūtaṁ svarūpeṇāvasthitam prāpya na nivartante tan mama paramām dhāma paramām niyamana-sthānam | acetana-prakṛtir ekam niyamana-sthānam, tat-saṁsṛṣṭa-rūpā jīva-prakṛtir dvitiyam niyamana-sthānam acit-saṁsarga-viyuktam svarūpeṇāvasthitam mukta-svarūpam paramām niyamana-sthānam ity arthaḥ]]

taṁ cāpunar-āvṛtti-rūpam | athavā prakāśa-vācī dhāma-śabdaḥ, prakāśaś ceha jñānam abhipretam prakṛti-saṁsṛṣṭat paricchinna-jñāna-rūpād ātmāno'paricchinna-jñāna-rūpatayā mukta-svarūpam paramām dhāma ||8.20-21]

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jñāninaḥ prāpyam tu tasmād atyanta-vibhaktam ity āha —

puruṣah sa paraḥ pārtha bhaktyā labhyas tv ananyayā |
yasyāntah-sthāni bhūtāni yena sarvam idam tatam ||22||

mattah parataram nānyat kiñcidasti dhanajaya |
mayi sarvam idam protam sūtre maṇigaṇā iva || [7.7]

mām ebhyah param avyayam [7.13] ity ādinā nirdiṣṭasya yasyāntah-sthāni sarvāṇi bhūtāni,
yena ca pareṇa puruṣena sarvam idam tatam sa para-puruṣo **ananya-cetah satatam** [8.14] ity
ananyayā bhaktyā labhyah |

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yatra kāle tv anāvṛttim āvṛttim caiva yoginah |
prayātā yānti tam kālam vakṣyāmi bharatarśabha ||23||
agnir jyotir ahaḥ śuklah ṣaṇ-māsā uttarāyaṇam |
tatra prayātā gacchanti brahma brahma-vido janāḥ ||24||

athātma-yāthātmya-vidah parama-puruṣa-niṣṭhasya ca sādhāraṇīm arcir-ādikām gatim āha
dvayor apy arcir-ādikā gatiḥ **śrutau** śrutā, sā cāpunar-āvṛtti-lakṣaṇā | tathā pañcāgni-vidyāyāṁ
tad ya itthāṁ vidur ye ceme’raṇye śraddhā tapa ity upāsate te’rciṣam abhisambhavanty
arcīṣo’haḥ [ChāU 5.10.1] ity ādav arcir-ādikayā gaty-āgatasya para-brahma-prāptir apunar-
āvṛtiś coktā **sa enān brahma gamayati** ... etena pratipadyamānā imam mānavam āvartam
nāvartante [ChāU 4.15.5] iti |

na ca prajāpati-vākyādau śruti-para-vidyāṅga-bhūtātma-prāpti-visayeyam – **tad ya itthāṁ**
viduh iti gati-śrutir, ye ceme’raṇye śraddhāṁ tapa ityupāsate [ChāU 5.10.1] iti para-vidyāyāḥ
prīthak-śruti-vaiyarthiyāt |

pañcāgni-vidyāyāṁ ca **iti tu pañcamyām āhutāv āpaḥ puruṣa-vacaso bhavanti** [ChāU 5.9.1] iti
ramaṇīya-caraṇāḥ kapūya-caraṇāḥ [ChāU 5.10.7] iti puṇya-pāpa-hetuko manusyādi-bhāvo
apām eva bhūtāntara-saṁśṛṣṭanām ātmanas tu yat-pariṣvaṅga-mātram iti cid-acitor vivekam
abhidhāya **tad ya itthāṁ viduh ... te’rciṣam abhisambhavanti** [ChāU 5.10.1], **imam mānavam**
āvartam nāvartante [ChāU 4.15.5] iti vivikte cid-acid-vastuni tyājyatayā prāpyatayā ca tad ya
itthāṁ vidus te’rcirādinā gacchanti na ca punar āvartante ity uktam iti gamyate |

ātma-yāthātmya-vidah parama-purusa-niṣṭhasya ca **sa enān brahma gamayati** [ChāU 4.15.5]
iti brahma-prāpti-vacanād acid-viyuktam ātma-vastu brahmātmakatayā brahma-śeṣataika-
rasam ity anusandheyam | tat-kratu-nyāyāc ca para-śeṣataika-rasatvarīn ca **ya ātmani tiṣṭhan**
yasyātmā śarīram [ŚaBrā 14.6.5.30] ity-ādi-śruti-siddham |

atra kāla-śabdo mārgasyāhah-prabhṛti-saṁvatsarānta-kālābhīmāni-devatā-bhūyastayā
mārgopalakṣaṇārthaḥ | yasmin mārgे prayātā yogino’nāvṛttim | puṇya-karmāṇaś cāvṛttim
yānti, tam mārgāṁ vakṣyāmīty arthaḥ | agnir jyotir ahaḥ śuklah ṣaṇ-māsā uttarāyaṇam, iti
saṁvatsarādīnām pradarśanam ||8.23-24||

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dhūmo rātris tathā kṛṣṇah ṣaṇmāsā dakṣiṇāyanam |
tatra cāndramasam jyotir yogī prāpya nivartate ||25||

etac ca dhūmādi-mārga-stha-pitṛ-lokādeḥ pradarśanam | atra yogi-śabda puṇya-karma-sambandhi-viṣayah ||8.25||

-o)0(o--

śukla-kṛṣṇe gatī hy ete jagataḥ śāśvate mate |
ekayā yāty anāvṛttim anyayāvartate punah ||26||

śuklā gatir arcir-ādikā | kṛṣṇā ca dhūmādikā | śuklayānāvṛttim yānti, kṛṣṇayā tu punar āvartante | ete śukla-kṛṣṇe gatī jñānināṁ vividhānāṁ puṇya-karmanāṁ ca śrutau śāśvate mate | **tad ya itthāṁ vidur ye ceme'ranye śraddhāṁ tapa ity upāsate te'rciṣam abhisambhavanti** [ChāU 5.10.1], **atha ya ime grāme iṣṭa-pūrte dattam ity upāsate te dhūmam abhisambhavanti** [ChāU 5.10.3] iti ||8.26||

--o)0(o--

naite sṛtī pārtha jānan yogī muhyati kaścana |
tasmāt sarveṣu kāleṣu yoga-yukto bhavārjuna ||27||

etau mārgau jānan yogī prayāṇa-kāle kaścana na muhyati | api tu svenaiva deva-yānena pathā yāti | tasmād aharahar arcir-ādi-gati-cintanākhya-yoga-yukto bhava ||8.27||

--o)0(o--

athādhyāya-dvayodita-śāstrārtha-vedana-phalam āha —

vedeṣu yajñeṣu tapaḥsu caiva
dāneṣu yat puṇya-phalam pradiṣṭam |
atyeti tat sarvam idam viditvā
yogī param sthānam upaiti cādyam ||28||

ṛg-yajuh-sāmātharva-rūpa-vedābhyaśa-yajña-tapo-dāna-prabhṛtiṣu sarveṣu puṇyeṣu yat phalam nirdiṣṭam idam adhyāya-dvayoditam bhagavan-māhātmyam viditvā tat sarvam atyeti etad-vedana-sukhātirekeṇa tat sarvān trṇavat manyate | yogī jñānī ca bhūtvā jñāninaḥ prāpyam param ādyam sthānam upaiti ||8.28||

iti śrīmad-rāmānujācārya-viracite bhāṣye'sṭamo'dhyāyah
||8||