

Report

National Webinar on Rajovada
June 29,2021

Rajovada is part of a series of books authored by renowned Vedic scholar Pandit Madhusudan Ojha on the subject of creation. Based on the nasadiya sukta of the Rigveda, Ojhaji has explored various questions of Creation in these books. Shri Shankar Shikshayatan organised a national webinar on Rajovada on June 29, 2021 as part of a series of discourses on Ojhaji's works on the mysteries of Creation. This was the sixth webinar in the series this year.

Different principles related to creation have been examined in Rajovada. Ojhaji has presented various aspects of srishti or creation, referred to in this book as sarga, in three chapters. The title of the first chapter is Avapansarg. Avapan means seeding. The second chapter, titled Vishwasrut sarga, explains the tattvas that made up the universe. Third chapter, Bhuta sarga, describes all material beings including matter and living beings.

The lead speaker at the seminar, Prof. Videshwar Jha of Kameshar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, touched upon some of these aspects in his presentation. He pointed out that there were several meanings of the word, rajj--it denotes guna or quality, soil and aditya or the rays of the sun. Ojhaji has used `rajj` for aditya in this book--`aditya eshosti rajasch yosau` (Rajovada, verse 5). Rajj could also mean Brihaspati, said Prof Jha, explaining how Ojhaji has used `rajj` in different contexts and meanings. In this book, Ojhaji has presented a finite element as the cause of Creation. This element is rajj. When we see the earth, it seems limited. So does the atmosphere and the region beyond the sun. In Ojhaji's words:

``yadatra pashyami, mitam tadikshyate, prithvi mitha, dhyausch mitantaram mitam
Mitam cha grihanati hi, grihanati matistasmadamisham mitimasti karanam.``
--Rajovada, verse 8

Distinguished speaker, Prof. Ram Kumar Sharma of Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur, said the book presented a comprehensive view of the material cause of Creation. The tattva or element that was vast or big was known as bhuma. This bhuma exists in the knot of rajj-tattwa and contains the entire universe.

``Bhuma bahutvam bahubhi rajobhigranthiha krato bhumni dhratoyamarthah
Jagraha bhumanmidam tatastadbhutam vidubhrutamidam samastam.``
- --Rajovada, verse 186

The material world is visible in three forms--minute form, normal form and in gross physical form. Fire makes rajo-tattwa minute in form, soma gives it physical form and both make it normal form.

Prof. P.T. G. Y. Sampathkumaracharyulu of National Sanskrit University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, gave an account of Ojhaji's vivid explanations on Creation. He picked out Ojhaji's examination of vaishvanara or the soul. He said the earth, atmosphere and the region beyond the sun are called triloka or triadic world. Agni or fire element exists on the earth, vayu in the atmosphere and the sun in the region above. The following verse of Ojhaji in Rajovada clarifies that fire, air and the sun are vaishvanara.

``Prathvyantariskham, dyurimani vishvanyagnishcha vayuscha ravinrassyuah
Vishveshu teshu kramashah sthithaste vishvanarasthena cha te prasidaha.``
--Rajovada, verse 133

According to Ojhaji, in the vedic-vijnana agni is angira, vayu is vidyut is electricity and surya is aditya and their combination makes the creation possible.

`` atrangira agnirathaisha vayuvridyuth sa gaurityabhidhiyathe cha
Suryoyamaditya eti, trayanameshamaneke prabhavanti bhedaha.
-- Rajovada, verse 134

Saraswat guest speaker, Prof. Mahanand Jha of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit University, Delhi, said there are four kinds of rajj--guna, anu, renu and skanda. In the book, guna is referred for bala; anu is a special element, renu in nyaya-darshana means trasarenu or an element in which six atoms reside. In Jain philosophy, renu denotes pudagla and it agitates the process of creation. According to Ojhaji--

``Rajansi sarvani gunanarenuskanda-prabhedat pravidushchatudra
Gunam balam prahuranum vishesham renum trasam pudaglamahurantyam.``
--Rajovada, verse 19

In his address, Prof. Santosh Kumar Shukla, convener, Shri Shankar Shikshayatan and Head of Department, Sanskrit and Ancient Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, said the element that triggered the process of creation was rajj. Ojhaji has clarified in his Dashavada-rahasya that rajj was the element that began the Creation. This reference is also found in Rajovada:--

``Arambhanam tatvamihochyate rajjaha``
--Dashavada-rahasya, verse 1, Rajovada, verse 4

Prof. Shukla pointed out that in the puranas as well as from the viewpoint of vedic-vijnana there were seven lokas--bhuloka, bhualoka, svaloka, mahaloka, janahloka, tapoloka and satyaloka. The element manifest in all these lokas or worlds is rajja. The earth, atmosphere and dyuloka makes the triadic world. These worlds are the birthplace of creation. The creation will also dissolve into these three worlds.

``yadvatra lokasatrya eva bodhya dhyoranthriksham prithvithi bhedath
Sarvasya chasya prabhavaha pratishta parayanam te traya eva lokaha.``
--Rajovada, verse 5

He explained how Ojhaji had sourced references from Markandeya Purana and Agni Purana to establish the theory of creation according to vedic vijnana. The principle of agni-soma is drawn from Agni Purana. The element of fire is mobile while soma is static and the raja-tattwa existing in these two elements is the catalyst for the entire creation. This process is not visible to us and continues uninterrupted.

Dr Arvind Kumar Tiwari of Adarsh Vaidik Inter College, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, was among other speakers at the seminar.

The seminar was conducted by Dr Mani Shankar Dwivedi and Dr Lakshmi Kant Vimal.