



Shri Shankar Shikshayatan

National Webinar on Ambhovada A Report

On August 28, 2021, Shri Shankar Shikshayatan organised eighth webinar in the series of discussions on Pandit Madhudusan Ojha's works on Creation. The theme of the focus this time was Ambhovada, one of Ojhaji's twelve books on Creation, based primarily on the nadakiya sukta of the Rigveda. Ojhaji marshalled his deep study of the Vedas, Puranas and other granthas (texts) to examine key questions that have puzzled humankind for ages.

In his introductory remarks, Prof. Santosh Kumar Shukla, convener, Shri Shankar Shikshayatan and Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Ancient Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, pointed out a clear enunciation of the genesis of Creation in the Shvetashvataropanishad. The text mentions kala or time, svabhava (character), niyati (destiny), yadrichha (self will), bhuta (material) and purusha as the causes of Creation.

**``kalaha svabhavo niyatiryadrichabhutani yoniha purusha iti
chintaya
sanyoga aisham na tvatmabhavadatmapyanishah sukahdukah
hetoha.``**

-- Shvetashvataropanishad 1.2

**“कालः स्वभावो नियतिर्यदृच्छाभूतानियोनिः पुरुष इति चिन्त्या।
संयोग एषां न त्वात्मभावादात्माप्यनीशःसुखदुःखहेतोः॥”**

- श्वेताश्वतरोपनिषद्

१.२

In his compendium, Dashavada-rahasya (Ten Discourses on Creation), Pandit Madhusudan Ojha has given a vivid explanation of ten causes of Creation. He points out that these different causes are not contradictory

but must be viewed as a whole for a comprehensive understanding of Creation. In Ambhovada, Ojhaji has explained that the form of this universe is trilokatmaka or triadic. These three worlds are prithvi or earth, antariskha or inter-space and dhyuloka or the region beyond the sun. The Sun is the master of this triadic world and it is situated in the middle of the ocean.

``trailokyamuktam jagatah svarupam prathvyantariksham
dhyurithprabhedat
suryastrilokipatiresha suryo narayano bhati samundramadhye.``
--Dashavada-rahasya 71.1

“त्रैलोक्यमुक्तं जगतः स्वरूपं पृथ्व्यन्तरिक्षं द्युरितिप्रभेदात् ।
सूर्यत्रिलोकीपतिरेषसूर्यो नारायणो भाति समुद्रमध्ये ॥”

- दशवादरहस्य पृ. ७१
कारिका १

The sun emerges out of the ocean and dissolves in it. There is apa or water above and beneath the sun. Hence the universe is apomaya or watery.

Prof. Ganeshi Lal Suthar, former Director of Pandit Madhusuan Ojha Shodha Prakoshtha, Jainarain Vyas University, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), pointed out how Ojhaji has explained that the genesis of creation was perceived by prajapati. In the vedic science, Indra is called prajapati. Indra is manifest in all organs. But without pura or form, Indra cannot manifest in atma, hence prajapati created pushkar.

Prof. Saroj Kaushal, former head of the Department, Sanskrit, Jai Narain Vyas University, said the unmanifest truth before the creation was known as Brahma. From Brahma, emerged ambha, mara, mariachi and apah. In Chandra-loka, ambha manifests in the form of soma and in surya-loka, ambha is mariachi. From ambha is born the triadic world of the earth, inter-space and the region beyond the sun or dhyuloka. From mara, prithivi-loka is born. Marichi is apah which melts with the sun's rays and becomes rasa.

Other speakers included Prof Satyaprakash Dubey, former head of the department, Sanskrit, Jai Narain Vyas University.

The programme was coordinated by Shikshayatan's research scholars, Dr Lakshmi Kant Vimal and Dr Mani Shankar Dwivedi.