

Upadesha Sahasri of Shankaracharya

Metrical Section
Chapter 6
Vishesha-apoha-prakarana

Translation by
Swami Tadatmananda
Arsha Bodha Center

छित्त्वा त्यक्तेन हस्तेन
Like a hand, severed and discarded,
chittvā tyaktena hastena

स्वयं नात्मा विशेष्यते ।
is not an attribute of atma,
svayaṃ nātmā viśeṣyate

तथा शिष्टेन सर्वेण
the same is true for all that remains
tathā śiṣṭena sarveṇa

येन येन विशेष्यते ॥
which is attributed (to atma).
yena yena viśeṣyate 6.1

तस्मात् त्यक्तेन हस्तेन
Like the discarded hand
tasmāt tyaktena hastena

तुल्यं सर्वं विशेषणम् ।
are all other attributes,
tulyaṃ sarvaṃ viśeṣaṇam

अनात्मत्वेन तस्माज् ज्ञो
because they are not atma. So, atma
anātmatvena tasmāj jñō

मुक्तः सर्वविशेषणैः ॥
is free from all attributes.
muktaḥ sarva-viśeṣaṇaiḥ 6.2

विशेषणमिदं सर्वं
All these attributes
viśeṣaṇam idaṃ sarvaṃ

साध्वलंकरणं यथा ।
are like beautiful ornaments
sādhvalankaranaṃ yathā

अविद्याध्यासतः सर्वं
due to superimposition.
avidyādhyāsataḥ sarvaṃ

ज्ञात आत्मन्यसद् भवेत् ॥
When atma is known, they are negated.
jñāta ātmany asad bhavet 6.3

ज्ञातैवात्मा सदा ग्राह्यो

Atma is to be understood as the knower

jñātaivātmā sadā grāhyo

ज्ञेयमुत्सृज्य केवलः ।

alone, after rejecting all that's known.

jñeyam utsrjya kevalaḥ

अहमित्यपि यद् ग्राह्यं

The ego is also to be understood

aham ityapi yad grāhyaṃ

व्यपेताङ्गसमं हि तत् ॥

to be like the discarded hand.

vyapetaṅga-samaṃ hi tat 6.4

यावान् स्यादिदमंशो यः

Since the object part

yāvān syād idam aṃśo yaḥ

स स्वतोऽन्यो विशेषणम् ।

is an attribute, it is other than atma.

sa svato 'nyo viśeṣaṇam

विशेषप्रक्षयो यत्र

When attributes are removed,

viśeṣa-prakṣayo yatra

सिद्धो ज्ञश्चित्रगुर्यथा ॥

atma is known, like the owner of the cow.

siddho jñāś citragur yathā 6.5

इदमंशोऽहमित्यत्र

The object part of "I"

idam-aṃśo 'ham ity atra

त्याज्यो नात्मेति पण्डितैः ।

is rejected by the wise as not-atma.

tyājyo nātmeti paṇḍitaiḥ

अहं ब्रह्मेति शिष्टांशो

"I am brahman" is the remaining part

ahaṃ brahmeti śiṣṭāṃśo

भूतपूर्वगतेर्भवेत् ॥

previously mixed with the object part.

bhūta-pūrva-gater bhavet 6.6