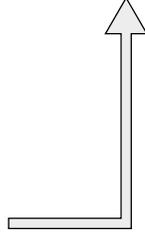


- 1 Ādi (225)
- 2 Sabhā (72)
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- 18 Svargārohana (5)

**Uttanka's Curse and
Krishna's Vishvarupa Darshana**

**Ashvamedika Parva
Chapters 53-54**



Swami Tadatmananda
Arsha Bodha Center

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

स प्रयातो महाबाहुः

The mighty Sri Krishna went
sa prayāto mahābāhuḥ

समेषु मरुधन्वसु |

to a flat, dry desert,
sameṣu maru-dhanvasu

ददर्शथ मुनिश्रेष्ठम

and then saw a great sage -
dadarśātha muni-śreṣṭham

उत्तङ्कममितौजसम् ||

Uttanka, of limitless power.
uttāṅkam amitaujasam (52.7)

स पृष्टः कुशलं तेन

He was politely greeted by Sri Krishna.
sa pṛṣṭaḥ kuśalaṁ tena

सम्पूज्य मधुसूदनम् |

After worshipping Sri Krishna,
sampūjya madhusūdanam

उत्तङ्को ब्राह्मणश्रेष्ठस्

Uttanka, the best of brahmanas,
uttāṅko brāhmaṇa-śreṣṭhas

ततः पप्रच्छ माधवम् ||

then asked Sri Krishna.
tataḥ papraccha mādhavam (52.9)

उत्तङ्क उवाच

Uttanka said,
uttanka uvāca

कच्चिच्छौरे त्वया गत्वा
O mighty Krishna, after going
kaccic chaure tvayā gatvā

कुरुपाण्डवसद्म तत् ।
to the palace of the Kauravas and Pandavas,
kuru-pāṇḍava-sadma tat

कृतं सौभ्रात्रमचलं
did you establish unshakable brotherly love among them?
kṛtaṁ saubhrātram acalaṁ

तन्मे व्याख्यातुमर्हसि ॥
Please tell me that.
tan me vyākhyātum arhasi (52.10)

वासुदेव उवाच

Sri Krishna said,
vāsudeva uvāca

कृतो यत्नो मया ब्रह्मन्
O Uttanka, I made an effort
kṛto yatno mayā brahman

सौभ्रात्रे कौरवान्प्रति ।
to establish the Kauravas in brotherly love,
saubhrātre kauravān prati

न चाशक्यन्त सन्धातुं
but they could not do so
na cāśakyanta sandhātum

तेऽधर्मरुचयो मया ॥
because they were inclined towards adharma.
te 'dharma-rucayo mayā (52.15)

ततस्ते निधनं प्राप्ताः

Later, they died,
tatas te nidhanam prāptāḥ

सर्वे ससुतबान्धवाः ।

all of them, along with their sons and relatives.
sarve sasuta-bāndhavāḥ

न दिष्टमभ्यतिक्रान्तुं

To evade what is ordained by karma
na diṣṭam abhyatikrāntuṁ

शक्यं बुद्ध्या बलेन वा ॥

it is not possible, though intelligence or strength.
śakyam buddhyā balena vā (52.16)

इत्युक्तवचने कृष्णे

Hearing these words of Sri Krishna,
ity ukta-vacane kṛṣṇe

भृशं क्रोधसमन्वितः ।

Uttanka became extremely angry
bhṛśam krodha-samanvitaḥ

उत्तङ्कः प्रत्युवाचैनं

and said this in reply
uttankaḥ pratyuvācainaṁ

रोषादुत्फाल्य लोचने ॥

with eyes full of rage.
roṣād utphālya locane (52.19)

उत्तङ्क उवाच

Uttanka said,
uttanka uvāca

यस्माच्छक्तेन ते कृष्ण

O Krishna, because you could not
yasmāc chaktena te kṛṣṇa

न त्राताः कुरुपाण्डवाः ।

make the Kauravas and Pandavas
na trātāḥ kuru-pāṇḍavāḥ

सम्बन्धिनः प्रियास्तस्माच्

loving brothers, therefore
sambandhinaḥ priyās tasmāc

छप्स्येऽहं त्वामसंशयम् ॥

I will certainly curse you.
chapsye 'ham tvām asaṁśayam (52.20)

वासुदेव उवाच

Sri Krishna said,
vāsudeva uvāca

शृणु मे विस्तरेणेदं

Hear this from me completely,
śṛṇu me vistareṇedaṁ

यद्वक्ष्ये भृगुनन्दन ।

what I'm about to tell you, O Uttanka.
yad vakṣye bhṛgu-nandana

गृहाणानुनयं चापि

Also, please accept my apologies
gṛhāṇānunayaṁ cāpi

तपस्वी ह्यसि भार्गव ॥

because you are a great ascetic, O Uttanka.
tapasvī hy asi bhārgava (52.23)

श्रुत्वा त्वमेतदध्यात्मं

After hearing about my nature,
śrutvā tvam etad adhyātmaṁ

मुञ्चेथाः शापमद्य वै ।

then you can cast your curse.
muñcethāḥ śāpam adya vai

न च ते तपसो नाशम्

To make your austerities in vain
na ca te tapaso nāśam

इच्छामि जपतां वर ॥

is not my desire, O holy Uttanka.
icchāmi japatāṁ vara (52.24,25)

मयि सर्वाणि भूतानि

All beings exist within me
mayi sarvāṇi bhūtāni

सर्वभूतेषु चाप्यहम् ।

and I exist, in all beings
sarva-bhūteṣu cāpy aham

स्थित इत्यभिजानीहि

established. Understand this.
sthita ity abhijānīhi

मा तेऽभूदत्र संशयः ॥

Have no doubt about it.
mā te 'bhūd atra saṁśayaḥ (53.3)

सदसच्चैव यत्प्राहुर्

All that is called existent or non-existent,
sad asac caiva yat prāhur

अव्यक्तं व्यक्तमेव च |

unmanifest or manifest,
avyaktaṁ vyaktam eva ca

अक्षरं च क्षरं चैव

unchanging or transitory,
akṣaraṁ ca kṣaraṁ caiva

सर्वमेतन्मदात्मकम् ||

all this exists because of me.
sarvam etan mad-ātmakam (53.5)

अहं विष्णुरहं ब्रह्मा

I am Vishnu. I am Brahma,
ahaṁ viṣṇur ahaṁ brahmā

शक्रोऽथ प्रभवाप्ययः |

Indra, the source and destination
śakro 'tha prabhavāpyayaḥ

भूतग्रामस्य सर्वस्य

of all made of five elements.
bhūta-grāmasya sarvasya

स्रष्टा संहार एव च ||

I am the creator and destroyer.
sraṣṭā saṁhāra eva ca (53.14)

धर्मसंरक्षणार्थाय

To protect dharma
dharma-saṁrakṣaṇārthāya

धर्मसंस्थापनाय च |

and to establish dharma,
dharma-saṁsthāpanāya ca

धर्मस्य सेतुं बध्नामि

I establish the path of dharma
dharmasya setuṁ badhnāmi

चलिते चलिते युगे ||

in each age.
calite calite yuge (53.13,15)

मानुष्ये वर्तमाने तु

But, while existing in this human form,
mānuṣye vartamāne tu

कृपणं याचिता मया |

I asked them humbly.
kṛpaṇaṁ yācitā mayā

न च ते जातसंमोहा

But being confused, they
na ca te jāta-saṁmohā

वचो गृह्णन्ति मे हितम् ||

did not accept my beneficial advice.
vaco gṛhṇanti me hitam (53.19)

तेऽधर्मेणेह संयुक्ताः

They were immersed in adharmā
te 'dharmeṇeha saṁyuktāḥ

परीताः कालधर्मणा ।

and overcome by the forces of time.
parītāḥ kāla-dharmaṇā

धर्मेण निहता युद्धे

They were killed in battle according to dharma
dharmeṇa nihatā yuddhe

गताः स्वर्गं न संशयः ॥

and reached heaven, without doubt.
gatāḥ svargaṁ na saṁśayaḥ (53.21)

उत्तङ्क उवाच

Uttanka said,
uttāṅka uvāca

अभिजानामि जगतः

I know that, for the world,
abhijānāmi jagataḥ

कर्तारं त्वां जनार्दन ।

you are its creator, O Krishna.
kartāraṁ tvāṁ janārdana

चित्तं च सुप्रसन्नं मे

My mind is extremely pleased
cittaṁ ca suprasannaṁ me

त्वद्भावगतमच्युत ॥

by your grace, O Krishna.
tvad-bhāvagatam acyuta (54.1,2)

यदि त्वनुग्रहं कञ्चित्

Now, if some further grace
yadi tv anugrahaṁ kañcit

त्वत्तोऽर्होऽहं जनार्दन ।

I deserve from you, O Krishna,
tvatto 'rho 'haṁ janārdana

द्रष्टुमिच्छामि ते रूपम्

then I want to see your divine form.
draṣṭum icchāmi te rūpam

ऐश्वरं तन्निदर्शय ॥

Please show me that power.
aiśvaraṁ tan nidarśaya (54.3)

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

ततः स तस्मै प्रीतात्मा

Then, to Uttanka, Sri Krishna
tataḥ sa tasmai prītātmā

दर्शयामास तद्वपुः ।

revealed his form
darśayāmāsa tad-vapuḥ

शाश्वतं वैष्णवं धीमान्

as eternal Vishnu, which the wise Uttanka
śāśvataṁ vaiṣṇavaṁ dhīmān

ददृशे यद्धनञ्जयः ॥

saw, O King Janamejaya.
dadṛśe yad dhanañjayaḥ (54.4)

स ददर्श महात्मानं

He saw the glorious,
sa dadarśa mahātmānaṁ

विश्वरूपं महाभुजम् ।

mighty, cosmic form of Sri Krishna.
viśvarūpaṁ mahābhujam

विस्मयं च ययौ विप्रस्

Uttanka was filled with amazement
vismayaṁ ca yayau vipras

तद्दृष्ट्वा रूपमैश्वरम् ॥

after seeing that glorious form.
tad dṛṣṭvā rūpam aiśvaram (54.5)

उत्तङ्क उवाच

Uttanka said,
uttaṅka uvāca

विश्वकर्मन्नमस्तेऽस्तु

O creator of all, salutations to you.
viśva-karman namaste 'stu

यस्य ते रूपमीदृशम् ।

This form of yours is such that,
yasya te rūpam īdṛśam

पद्भ्यां ते पृथिवी व्याप्ता

its feet cover the earth
padbhyāṃ te pṛthivī vyāptā

शिरसा चावृतं नभः ॥

and its head covers the heavens.
śirasā cāvṛtaṃ nabhaḥ (54.6)

संहरस्व पुनर्देव

O Lord, please withdraw
saṃharasva punar deva

रूपमक्षय्यमुत्तमम् ।

this cosmic, divine form
rūpam akṣayyam uttamam

पुनस्त्वां स्वेन रूपेण

and appear again in your own form
punas tvāṃ svena rūpeṇa

द्रष्टुमिच्छामि शाश्वतम् ॥

that I want to see.
draṣṭum icchāmi śāśvatam (54.8)