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Moksha Dharma Parva
**Pancashikha teaches
Janaka about death**

Shānti Parva
Chapter 307

Swami Tadatmananda
Arsha Bodha Center

युधिष्ठिर उवाच
Yudhishtira said,
yudhiṣṭhira uvāca

तपसा वा सुमहता

By intense austerities,
tapasā vā sumahatā

कर्मणा वा श्रुतेन वा |

or by Vedic rituals,
karmaṇā vā śrutena vā

रसायनप्रयोगैर्वा

or by the use of medicines -
rasāyana-prayogair vā

कैर्नोपैति जरान्तकौ ||

by what means can one avoid old age and death?
kair nopaiti jarāntakau (307.2)

भीष्म उवाच

Bhishma said,
bhīṣma uvāca

अत्राप्युदाहरन्तीमम

With regard to that, there is an example
atrāpy udāharantīmam

इतिहासं पुरातनम् ।

in old story

itihāsaṁ purātanam

भिक्षोः पञ्चशिखस्येह

about a dialogue between Pancashikha
bhikṣoḥ pañcaśikhasyeha

संवादं जनकस्य च ॥

and King Janaka.

saṁvādaṁ janakasya ca (307.3)

जनक उवाच

King Janaka said,
janaka uvāca

केन वृत्तेन भगवन्

O Pancashikha, by what means
kena vṛttena bhagavan

नतिक्रामेज्जरान्तकौ ।

can one avoid old age and death?
natikrāmej jarāntakau

तपसा वाथ बुद्ध्या वा

By austerities? Or by knowledge?
tapasā vātha buddhyā vā

कर्मणा वा श्रुतेन वा ॥

Or by Vedic rituals?

karmaṇā vā śrutena vā (307.5)

पञ्चशिख उवाच

Rishi Pancashikha said,
pañcaśikha uvāca

निवृत्तिर्नैतयोरस्ति

For old age and death, there is no cessation,
nivr̥ttir naitayor asti

नानिवृत्तिः कथञ्चन |

but they are not absolutely certain.
nānivr̥tṭiḥ kathañcana

न ह्यहानि निवर्तन्ते

Days do not cease,
na hy ahāni nivartante

न मासा न पुनः क्षपाः ||

nor months, nor seasons.
na māsā na punaḥ kṣapāḥ (307.6,7)

सोऽयं प्रपद्यतेऽध्वानं

One who follows the path (of life)
so 'yaṁ prapadyate 'dhvānam

चिराय ध्रुवमध्रुवः |

for a long time is certainly mortal.
cirāya dhruvam adhruvaḥ

सर्वभूतसमुच्छेदः

The destruction of all creatures
sarva-bhūta-samucchedaḥ

स्रोतसेवोह्यते सदा ||

is inevitable, like for one carried off by current.
srotasevohyate sadā (307.7,8)

उह्यमानं निमज्जन्तम

Swept up in the current, submerged
uhyamānam nimajjantam

अप्लवे कालसागरे |

without a boat in the ocean of time
aplave kāla-sāgare

जरामृत्युमहाग्राहे

where crocodiles of old-age and death swim,
jarā-mṛtyu-mahāgrāhe

न कश्चिदभिपद्यते ||

no one escapes.
na kaścīd abhipadyate (307.8)

पथि सङ्गतमेवेदं

On the path, one gets united with
pathi saṅgatam evedam

दारैरन्यैश्च बन्धुभिः |

wives and other relatives.
dārair anyaiś ca bandhubhiḥ

नायमत्यन्तसंवासो

But he will not dwell forever
nāyam atyanta-saṁvāso

लब्धपूर्वो हि केनचित् ||

with anyone he has met before.
labdha-pūrvo hi kenacit (307.9)

जरामृत्यू हि भूतानां

For all creatures, birth and death
jarā-mṛtyū hi bhūtānām

खादितारौ वृकाविव ।

are like wolves who eat
khāditārau vṛkāviva

बलिनां दुर्बलानां च

the young, the weak,
balinām durbalānām ca

ह्रस्वानां महतामपि ॥

the small, and the big.
hrasvānām mahatām api (307.11)

एवम्भूतेषु भूतेषु

Thus, when all creatures are
evam bhūteṣu bhūteṣu

नित्यभूताध्रुवेषु च ।

mortal and eternally reborn,
nitya-bhūtādhruveṣu ca

कथं हृष्येत जातेषु

how can one rejoice over a birth
katham hṛṣyeta jāteṣu

मृतेषु च कथं ज्वरेत् ॥

and how can one grieve over a death?
mṛteṣu ca katham jvaret (307.12)