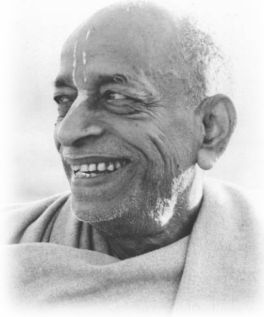


BRAHMA-VAIVARTA PURĀṆA

4.129.49-61

With English Translation and Notes



Dedicated to:

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Excerpted from the original Sanskrit text using an edition published in 1827 Śakābda in Calcutta in Bengali script by Pañcānana Tarkaratna. The context of this portion of the text is as follows. Lord Kṛṣṇa has sent His associates to Goloka towards the end of His manifest pastimes and is also getting ready to leave this world.

Table of Contents

TRANSLATION.....	1
NOTES ON EKA-VARṆA	6
MAHĀBHĀRATA	6
REVĀ-KHAṆḌA OF SKANDA PURĀṆA	7
BHṚGU-SĀMHITĀ	8
VIŠVAKSENA-SĀMHITĀ.....	9

Translation

TEXT 4.129.46

lavaṇodaḥ samāgatya tuṣṭāva puruṣottamam
ruroda tad-viyogena sāśru-netraś ca vihvalaḥ

[The presiding deity of] the salt-water [ocean] arrived and glorified Lord Puruṣottama. He became helpless while feeling separation from Him and with tears in his eyes, he cried.

TEXTS 4.129.47-48

gaṅgā sarasvatī padmāvati ca yamunā tathā
godāvarī svarṇarekhā kāverī narmadā mune

*śarāvati bāhudā ca kṛtamālā ca puṇyadā
samāyayūś ca tāḥ sarvāḥ praṇemuḥ parameśvaram*

O sage, the pious Gaṅgā, Sarasvatī, Padmāvatī, Yamunā, Godāvarī, Svarnārekhā, Kāverī, Narmadā, Śarāvati, Bāhudā and Kṛtamālā assembled and all of them offered their obeisances unto the Supreme Lord.

TEXT 4.129.49
*uvāca jāhnavī devī rudatī parameśvaram
sāśru-netrātīdinā sā viraha-jvara-kātarā*

Agitated by the fever of the [impending] separation [from the Lord], goddess Jāhnavī was in great misery. She cried while [shedding] tears from her eyes [and] spoke to the Supreme Lord [as follows].

TEXT 4.129.50
bhāgīrathy uvāca

*he nātha ramaṇa-śreṣṭha yāsi golokam uttamam
asmākaṁ kā gatir nātha bhaviṣyati kalau yuge*

Bhāgīrathī said: O Lord, O best of enjoyers, You will leave for the supreme [abode] Goloka. O Lord, what will be our fate in Kali-yuga?

TEXTS 4.129.51-52
śrī-bhagavān uvāca

*kaleḥ pañca sahasrāṇi varṣāṇi tiṣṭha bhū-tale
pāpāni pāpino yāni tubhyaṁ dāsyanti snānataḥ*

*man-mantropāsaka-sparśād bhasmī-bhūtāni tat-kṣaṇāt
bhaviṣyanti darśanāc ca snānād eva hi jāhnavi*

The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: Jāhnavī, stay on the surface of the earth for five thousand years in Kali-yuga. The sins that sinners give you by bathing [in you] will be instantaneously burnt to ashes when those who worship [Me] through My mantra touch, see and bathe [in you].

TEXT 4.129.53
*harer nāmāni yatraiva purāṇāni bhavanti hi
tatra gatvā sāvadhānam ābhiḥ sārḍham ca śroṣyasi*

You and these [other] rivers should go to the places where the holy names of Lord Hari [and] the Purāṇas are [recited] and attentively hear [them].

TEXT 4.129.54
*purāṇa-śravaṇāc caiva harer nāmānukīrtanāt
bhasmī-bhūtāni pāpāni bhaviṣyanti kṣaṇena ca*

By listening to the Purāṇas and by constant kīrtana of Lord Hari's holy names, [those] sins will be burnt to ashes in a moment.

TEXT 4.129.55
*yāni kāni ca pāpāni brahma-hatyādikāni ca
bhasmī-bhūtāni tāny eva vaiṣṇavāliṅganena ca*

By embracing a Vaiṣṇava, all kinds of sins such as those due to the murder of a brāhmaṇa are burnt to ashes.

TEXT 4.129.56

*tṛṇāni śuṣka-kāṣṭhāni dahanti pāvake yathā
tathā hi vaiṣṇavālāpe pāpāni pāpinām api*

Just as grass [and] dry wood burn out while in fire, the sins of sinners also [burn out] while they [humbly] converse with a Vaiṣṇava.

TEXT 4.129.57

*pṛthivyām yāni tīrthāni puṇyāny api ca jāhnavī
mad-bhaktānām śarīreṣu santi pūteṣu santatam*

Jāhnavī, all the sacred and holy places on earth constantly stay in the purified bodies of My devotees.

TEXT 4.129.58

*mad-bhakta-pāda-rajasā sadyaḥ pūtā vasundharā
sadyaḥ pūtāni tīrthāni sadyaḥ pūtām jagat tathā*

The earth is immediately purified by the dust from the feet of My devotees. The holy places are immediately purified [by them]. The universe is also immediately purified [by them].

TEXT 4.129.59

*man-mantropāsakā viprā ye mad-ucchiṣṭabhojināḥ
mām eva nityam dhyāyante te mat-praṇādhikāḥ priyāḥ*

Vipras who worship Me through My mantra and eat My remnants always meditate upon Me alone. They are more dear to Me than My very life.

TEXT 4.129.60

*tad-upasparśa-mātreṇa pūte vāyuś ca pāvakaḥ
kaler daśa-sahasrāni mad-bhaktāḥ santi bhū-tale*

Merely by touching them the wind and air become purified. My devotees will be on the surface of the earth for ten thousand [years] in Kali-yuga.

TEXT 4.129.61

*eka-varṇā bhaviṣyanti mad-bhakteṣu gateṣu ca
mad-bhakta-śūnyā pṛthvī sā kali-grastā bhaviṣyati*

After My devotees depart [from the world], there will only be people of one varṇa. Devoid of My devotees, the earth will be seized by Kali.

Notes on EKA-VARṆA

The original Sanskrit for “people of one varṇa” is *eka-varṇa*. This *cannot* refer to the Vaiṣṇavas *in this context* because (1) the Vaiṣṇavas have already *departed* from this world, and (2) the same expression *eka-varṇa* is used in the scriptures to refer to extremely sinful people who take birth while Kali-yuga progresses. A few instances from the scriptures are provided as a sample herewith.

MAHĀBHĀRATA

The Mahābhārata, while talking about how Kali-yuga *normally* proceeds, refers to *eka-varṇas* as sinful śūdras in a conversation between Śrī Mārkaṇḍeya Rṣi and King Yudhiṣṭhira in Canto 3, Chapter 188 of Mahābhārata.¹

Mahābhārata 3.188.41 states:

*brāhmaṇāḥ kṣatriyā vaiśyā na śiṣyanti janādhipa
eka-varṇas tadā loko bhaviṣyati yuga-kṣaye*

“There will be no brāhmaṇas, kṣatriyas and vaiśyas left, O king. At the time of destruction due to that yuga, the people will be **of only one varṇa**.”

“Only one varṇa” in this context can only refer to śūdras, and from that chapter in the Mahābhārata, it is clear that these are actually *sinful* śūdras. There is no question of such *eka-varṇas* being Vaiṣṇavas, because Vaiṣṇavas by definition are sinless.

¹ The numbering is that of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute’s edition of Mahābhārata.

REVĀ-KHAṆḌA OF SKANDA PURĀṆA

The Revā-khaṇḍa of Skanda Purāṇa (35.19-21) states:

*kukarmāṇi kariṣyanti dharmiṣṭhās tōpasās tathā
kalau yuge tathā prāpte kāle kaulā digambarāḥ*

*eka-varṇāḥ prajāḥ sarvā rājā mlecco bhaviṣyati
hine yuge tathā prāpte baudhasthe caiva keśave*

*alpāyusaś caiva martyā alpa-vīrya-parākramāḥ
nānā-deśopadravāś ca bhaviṣyanti mahā-mune*

“Religious people and ascetics will perform evil acts. When Kali-yuga arrives, people from noble families will become naked. The entire population will be **of only one varṇa**. The king will become a mlecca. When the degraded yuga arrives and Lord Keśava situates Himself among the Buddhists, mortals will reduce in longevity and their prowess and courage will reduce. O great saint, there will be disturbances in many places.”²

This is also a conversation between Śrī Mārkaṇḍeya and King Yudhiṣṭhira, and a scrutiny of this chapter will show that these *eka-varṇas* have nothing to do with Vaiṣṇava-dharma.

² The text is taken from GRETIL (Göttingen Register of Electronic Texts in Indian Languages) from <http://gretil.sub.uni-goettingen.de/gretil.html>.

BHṚGU-SAMĪHITĀ

This is the Vaikhānasa scripture Bhṛgu-samhitā, not its astrological namesake. Chapter 37 of this Vaiṣṇava scripture talks about the nature of the four yugas. While talking about Kali-yuga, texts 37.48-49 note that in Kali-yuga, the following will occur:

*alpa-kṣīrās tathā gāvah kṣīrāt sarpir na jāyate
eka-varṇā bhaviṣyanti varṇās catvāra eva ca*

*nāsti varṇāntaram tatra layam yāsyanti mānavāḥ
santaḥ sīdanty asantaś ca vilasanti samantataḥ*

“Cows will give very little milk. Clarified butter would not come out of milk. The four varṇas will be **of only one varṇa**. There will be no other varṇa at [and] mankind will merge into that. Saints will be dejected and the non-saintly will rejoice all over.”

If the four varṇas merge into a varṇa-less community of pure Vaiṣṇavas, there is no reason for the saints to be dejected or for the non-saintly to rejoice over. Therefore, “of only one varṇa” here can only refer to a sinful population, which by definition cannot be Vaiṣṇavas.

VIŠVAKSENA-SAMĪHITĀ

This is a Pāñcarātriḥa scripture. We find the following two verses (Chapter 39, texts 307 and 308) related to the topic under discussion:

*caṇḍālatvaṁ gate loke vedāḥ sarve tirohitāḥ
tirohiteṣu vedeṣu yajñādi-kratavas tathā*

*eka-varṇam jagat sarvaṁ vastu niśceṣṭakam bhavet
jāti-saṅkara-doṣeṇa dvijānām maraṇam bhavet*

“When the people become caṇḍālas, all the Vedas will disappear. When the Vedas disappear, the various types of fire sacrifices will also [disappear]. The entire world will become **of only one varṇa**. Everything will become inert. By the defect of the admixture of the varṇas, the twice-born will die.”³

“When the people become caṇḍālas, all the Vedas will disappear” indicate that the eka-varṇas will be sinful people with no connection to Vedic dharma, which further indicates that they won’t be Vaiṣṇavas at all because every activity of the Vaiṣṇava community is based on the Vedas.⁴ Also, contrast “the twice-born will die” here with Brahma-vaivarta Purāṇa 4.129.59.

³ The edition of Viśvaksena-samhitā used was published by Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati in 1972.

⁴ Śruti-smṛti-purāṇādi-pañcarātra-vidhiṁ vinā / aikāntikī harer bhaktir utpātāyaiva kalpate.