CHAPTER VIII

PHILOSOPHY

As the Puranas were written mainly for the masses, they contained topics of a popular nature. Philosophy being too abstract a subject for people in general was not considered to be one of the main subjects to be expounded in a Purana. Still, however, they Puranas are not completely bereft of philosophical thoughts.

The Brahma-Purana too is primarily a religious work rather than a philosophic treatise. The main philosophical thoughts of the Br. P. contained in the chapters 235-244 are borrowed verbation from the Santiparvan of the Mahabharata. As Dr. Deopurkar R.T. has already written a thesis on the Philosophical trends in the Santiparvan of the Mahabharata, it is not deemed here necessary to cover the same ground, as it would be an unnecessary repetition in the field

¹ F. Otto Schrader, Indian Culture, Vol. II, 1935-36, PP. 592-3.

of knowledge. The topics discussed in these ten Adhyayas are as follows: Sankhya philosophy, its principles, its ideas about god, soul and emancipation, its three gunas, the relation of body and soul, yoga philosophy, the ideas regarding soul, Adhikarins to get the knowledge of yoga, the relationship of samkhya and yoga, their comparative superiority over each other, both the philosophies considered to be authoritative, their points of similarity and difference, the twenty-four, twenty-five and twenty-six elements of samkhya, the yogic way, of getting emanicipation, greatness of yoga, diet of yogin, means to get yogic powers, prakrti and purusa, jiva and the supreme soul, Adhyatma, ksetra and ksetrajna, sattva and ksetrajna, knowledge and action, nature of Brahman and worldly parlance, the highest Dharma, ksara and aksara and vidya and avidya. For the table containing the parallel references from the Brahma Purana and the Mahabharata, vide chapter 1, viz. 'Introduction'.

Besides the above topics, the Br. P. contains stray references of a philosophical nature regarding cosmogony and

The thesis by Dr.Deopurkar who prepared it under the guidance of Prof. G.H.Bhatt was accepted by the University of Bombay in 1957 for the degree of Ph.D. and arrangement is being made for its publication. A copy of the thesis presented by Dr.Deopurkar to the Oriental Institute, Baroda, was made available to me.

cosmology, the concepts of god, soul, karman, Dharma, Truth, Jnan Jñana, Bhakti, Eschatology, Transmigration, karma-vipaka, etc., some of which have been already treated in the chapter VII on Religion.

God

megative and positive descriptions of Brahman and these two trends have developed into the concepts of higher and lower Brahman. The higher Brahman is attributeless, w indeterminate, faintless, impersonal and pure etc. whereas the lower Brahman is pure and endowed with qualities etc.

The Br. P. also contains numerous references ascribing both the types of attributes to lord Purusottama. The Br. P. in one place, identifies lord Visnu with 'Parabrahma' and states that the whole world is created from him, maintained by him and destroyed by him. This theory is at variance with the popular tradition of calling Brahma as the creator, Visnu as the maintainer and Siva as the destroyer of

³ cf. Niskalam niskriyam...Niravadyam niranjanam tam Isvaranam Paramam mahesvaram tam daivatanam Paramam ca daivatam Patim Patinam Paramam Parastad vidam devam bhuvanesam Idyam | SU 6.7 Ahandam brahmana vidvan | TU 2.9.1.

the world. Further it states that he is the highest state, from him the whole world consisting of mobile and immobile things emerges, he is the cause of all the rites, the performance of the sacrifice is also done through him and the sacrifice and its fruit are also constituted of his essence. A thing distinct from him does not exist (23.41-44).

Regarding the matters of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksa, Sabda is the means of proof and in that too the Vedas are the highest authority. The purusa who is eulogised in the Vedas is higher than the high (parat parah) and he is amurta and immortal whereas the other Zone is apara, mortal and murta. This murta form becomes three-fold according to the differences in Gunas and is called by various names as Brahma, Visnu and Siva. different forms are taken to benefit the world. The one essence takes three forms in order to undertake three different functions, viz. creation, maintenance and destruction. Thus Brahma creates, Visnu maintains and Siva destroys (130.7-This theory is reconciled with the above theory 14,21). where Visnu is assigned the triple functions in as much as three functions are assigned to three different gods though Elsewhere also it is stated that in reality they are one. one who wants to attain the four purusarthas, freedom from sin and final emancipation (nihsreyas) should realise the oneness of lord Visnu and Siva (129.112). At another place

also the unity of gods is established. Thus it is said that that ∠which is water is Agni, that which is Agni is Sūrya, that which is Sūrya is Viṣnu, that which is Viṣnu is Bhāskara. That which is Brahmā is Rudra and that which is Rudra is everything. Thus in reality there is only one but it is called by many names in order to create illusion.⁴

The knowledge of Brahman can be attained in two ways, by the study of vedas and by realisation (viveka). ignorance about Brahman is like darkness which should be removed by the light of knowledge obtained through realisation. One who understands Brahman by the study of vedas succeeds in realising him too. Those who desire Moksa should meditate on Brahman which is Avyakta, Ajara, Acintya, aja, avyaya, anirdesya, formless, devoid of hands and feet, all pervading, eternal, the cause of all the beings, the causeless, by whom the whole world is pervaded and the highest state. His status is designated as subtle in the srutis. the utpati, pralaya, the coming and going of all the beings, the vidya and avidya. He is called Bhagavan as he is devoid of Hayagunas and connotes the six elements, viz.: jnana, sakti, Bala, Aisvarya, Virya and Tejas. As he resides in all the

⁴ Eka evadvayah sambhurindramitragninamabhih Vadanti Bahudha vipra Bhrantopakrtihetave 158.24-27.

beings and all the beings reside in him, he is called Vasudeva.5 He resides within all the beings and is the Dhata and vidhata of the whole world. He is beyond the Gunas and dosas of all the beings and prakrti. He is beyond the Gunas too. He is beyond all the coverings but he himself covers the world. He is full of all the good qualities. He takes a form of his own liking for the benefit of the world. He is higher than the highest and klesa and other things do Isvara is vyastirūpa and samastinot exist in his presence. rupa and his nature is Avyakta i.e. unmanifest as well as prakata i.e. manifest. He is the lord of all, the eye of all, the sakti of all and he is known as Paramesvara. He is faultless, Nirmala and Ekarupa. He can be visualised as well as realised (233.70-75).

The Mangalasloka eulogises lord Visnu as Purusottama.

⁵ Yattadavyaktamajaramacintyamajamavyayam "
anirdesyamarupam ca panipadayasamyatam |
vittam sarvagatam nityam bhutayonimakaranam |
vyapyam vyaptam yatah sarvam tadvai pasyanti surayah |
tadbrahma paramam dhama taddheyam moksakamksibhih |
srutivakyoditam suksmam tadvisnoh paramam padam |
utpattim pralayam caiva bhutanamagatim gatim |
vetti yidyamavidyam ca sa vacyo bhagavaniti |
jhanasaktibalaisvaryaviryatejamsyasesatah |
Bhagvatsabdavacyani vina hayairgunadibhih |
Sarvani tatra bhutani nivasanti paratmani "
bhutesu ca sa sarvatma vasudevastatah smrtah |
(233.63-69)

By meditating on him one gets liberation which is dhruva and prapancarahita. He is Nitya, Vibhu, Niscala, Nityanandamaya, Prasanna, Amala, Sayesvara, Nirguna, beyond Vyakta and Avyakta, Vibhu, Ajara, the cause of the destruction of Samsara, and the bestower of liberation. Here also the triple function of creation, sustantance and destruction are assigned to him (1.1-2).

Various philosophical epithets and attributes are assigned to different gods. They are dealt with in the description of various gods in the chapter VI on 'Mythology' but here some of them are discussed with a view to give a clear idea of the Brahma-Purana regarding the philosophical nature of god. Thus it is said that the secret knowledge of Sun is avyakta, avacya and parama guhya. He is suksma, avijneya, avyakta, acala, dhruva, beyond the domain of senses and objects of senses, and all the beings. He is the Antaratman of all the beings and is called ksetrajňa. He is purusa and is beyond the three gunas. Ho is called Hiranyagarbha. In the yoga philosophy he is called the great pradhana. In samkhya as well as in yoga, he is called by many names. He is three-formed, the Atman of the whole world, sarva, holding the three worlds by his own power, though bodiless living in all the bodies. He is the witness of all and cannot be grasped by others. He is saguna, nirguna and attainable through jnana. His hands, feet, eyes, head and face are everywhere and he exists pervading the whole earth. he is the head, eyes, hands, nose and feet of the whole world. He is called ksetrajna because he knows the pain and pleasure of the ksetras. As he sleeps in a pura (pure sete) which is avyakta, he is called purusa. As he has many forms, he is called Visvarupa. He creates himself by his own self just as the water falling from the sky gets different tastes on account of the different qualities of land with which it comes in contact, just as the Vayu though one gets five names according to the five functions it performs in the body, just as on account of the differences in place of lighting the fire though one gets five names according to the functions it performs, Similarly, he gets different names on different occasions. Just as a lamp though one can light other thousand lamps similarly thousand forms emerge from him though he is one. He is called Aksaya, a prameya and sarvaga. From him the avyakta having three gunas is created . The Brahman who is sadasadatmaka is the yoni of the prakrti which exists in the avyakta and vyakta. There is no one higher than him and he should be known by Atman (30.57-80).

The highest form of lord Visnu is said to be kutastha, acala and dhruva. Even lord Brahmā and others are not able to know him. His nature is Suddha. He is nitya, higher than

Prakrti, Avyakta, Sasvata, endless, all-pervading, aja, vibhu, He is the akasa and is very tranquil. He is nirguna and niranjana (55.32-35). The vedantic epithets are note-Once lord Siva is said to create, protect and destroy the whole world. He is one, independent, non-dual and sukhatmaka (129.68). Brahman is said to be beyond the six types of feelings and it is to be known by conquering the self (178.92).Again lord Visnu is eulogised by both the types of attributes. Thus he is said to be sarvavyāpi, Jagannātha, the lord of all the worlds, the cause of creation, maintenance and destruction of the world, the bestower of pleasures to the world, indestructible, eternal, nirlepa, nirguna, suksma, nirvikāra, niranjana, devoid of all the limitations, manifesting only through satta, avikari, vibhu, nitya, sanatana, acala, nirmala, vyapī, nityatrupta, nirasraya, though avyakta manifesting into vyakta, Narayana, Anantatma, Prabhava, Avyaya, etc. (179.67-75).Once again the samkhya and vedantic thoughts mix together in the description of lord Visnu. Thus it is said that lord Visnu is tanmatrarupin, acintyamahimna, vyapin, having one as well as many forms, sabdarupa, unthinkable, vijnanarupa, higher than prakrti, the atman of all the beings, senses and pradhana. He is the Atman and Paramatman and resides in five forms. He is keara as well as akeara and is called by various names as Brahma, Vișnu and Siva. His nature,

purpose and name cannot be known. He is beyond name, jāti and imagination. He is the atman of all and devoid of all the modifications. He is Brahmā, Pasupati, Aryamā, Vidhatā, Dhatā, Wind, Fire, lord of water and wealth and Yama and though one protects the world in different forms (192.48-56). Again lord Viṣnu is said to be guṇātmaka consisting of senses and intellect, beyond the duals of sita, uṣṇa, etc. beyond the limitations like length, width etc., uncontaminated by the feelings of birth and others, etc. (203.6-9). At one place it is said that the wedas are the means of proof in matters having forms but the highest essence is formless (130.7,8).

At one place, it is stated that the state of equilibrium of the three gunss devoid of increase and decrease is called prakṛti or pradhāna and it is the cause of the whole world. Thus this whole prakṛti is avyakta and vyakta and the vyakta form merges into the avyakta form. The purusa who is different from prakṛti is Suddha, Akṣara, nitya and all-pervading and he is a part of Paramātmam. That who exists merely by sattā, who is jneya, jnanātmā, who is beyond the conglomeration of body, Ātman, etc. and beyond the imagination of nama, jāti etc. is Paramabrahma, Paramātmam and Paramesvara. He is lord Viṣṇu attaining whomone has not to come back to this world. The prakṛti and puruṣa both merge in this Paramātmam. He is the resort and lord of all the beings. He is praised in the

vedas and vedantas. One meditates on Visnu by both the types of karmans belonging to pravrtti- karmayoga and nivrtti - samkhyayoga. The followers of pravrttimarga praise him by Rcs, Yajus and samans; and those of the nivrttimarga worship him by jnanayoga. That which cannot be attained by grasva, dirgha and pluta svaras and which is not object of speech is lord visnu himself. He is vyakta as well as avyakta and is the Parmatman of the whole world (232.33-47). This treatment is in consonance with that of the epic samkhya.

The above survey testifies that the concept of god-head in the Br. P. is in consonance with that of the upanishad-ic Brahman. The opposite attributes like gross and subtle attributed to god above are in consonance with Vallabhācāryas doctrine of Viruddhadhamāsrayatva of Brahman. And the above survey also shows that the concept of godhead in the Br.P. is similar to that in the other Purānas.

Maya

Before the discussion, regarding cosmogony and

⁶ For details vide Dasgupta S.N., A History of Indian Philosophy, Vol. 1, P. 45; Radhakrishnan, S., Indian Philosophy, Vol. 1, P. 175.

⁷ For details vide Sinha J.N., History of Indian Philosophy, Vol.1, PP. 127 ff; Dasgupta S.N., Op.Cit., Vol.III, PP.497 ff.

cosmology is taken up, the lord's connection with Maya may be The word 'Maya' occurs as early as the Rgveda but there it means (1) creative power (ii) thaumaturgy or the power of working miracles (iii) viles, tricks, tactics employed by Indra and his opponents (iv) sourcery, witchcraft magic (v) in two instances illusion, appearance, etc. 8 The word 'craft' in English which in old signification meant 'occult power, magic', then 'skilfulness art' on the one hand and 'deceitful skill, wile' on the other may be said to represent the parallel for the word Maya in Sanskrit.9 In the Svetasvatara upanishad prakrti is said to be Māyā whereas Mahesvara is called mayin. The ordinary epic Maya is a trick of delusion. 10 The BG uses it in the sense of creative power, power of delusion possessed by god or the occult power of the In the Sankara-vedanta it is described as 'sad-asadanirvacanīyā' while in the Vallabha-vedānta it is described as the capacity of the lord to become everything. 11

The Br. P. uses the word 'Maya' in the sense of

⁸ Rajawade V.K.: Asurasya Māyā in the Rgveda, Proceedings and transactions of the first AIOC, Vol.II, PP.1-19, Vide Parab B.A., The miraculous and mysterious in vedic literature, PP.62 ff.

⁹ Macdonell A.A., Vedic Mythology, P. 24.

¹⁰ Hopkins E.W.; The Great Epic of India, P. 138.

¹¹ Kantawala S.G.: Op.Cit., PP. 530-531.

illusion when it states that this world which is Maya was created from the lord (1.1). Again the Maya of lord Visnu is compared to dream and Indrajala and is described as one which could be crossed with great difficulties, which infatuates others (228.20). Elsewhere it is said that the whole world with its mobile and immobile things is pervaded by the Maya of lord Visnu, on account of Maya one gets the feelings of 'I' and 'mine' and it creates the knowledge of 'atman' in the 'anatman' things. Those who engrossed in svadharma worship lord Visnu get freedom from his 'Maya' and get desired things. 12 Once lord Siva is said to create, maintain and (203.10.15)destroy the world with his Maya (129.68). Maya is also described as power of lord Visnu (228.17). Thus in some places Maya is also used in its earlier sense meaning artifice (50.50).

Cosmogony and Cosmology

Cosmological speculations are already met with in the Rv., though in vedic period, the basis of these speculations was not a generally adopted theory or mythological conception as to the origin of the world but widely different ideas prevailed which later on were developed and combined. In the period of the Brahmanas and upanisads though there is an apparent tendency towards close agreement a similar variety of

¹² anātmanyātmavijnanam sa te māyā janārdana laham mameti bhāvo tra yayā samupajāyate n 203.6-18.

opinion prevailed and uniformity was not achieved even in the Puranas. On the other hand regarding cosmography different writers of the same period are much more nearly at one regarding the plan and structure of the universe, at least in its main outlines, than regarding its origin and development, but it goes without saying that both sets of ideas - cosmogonic as well as cosmographic - are equally fanciful, and lack the basis of well-ascertained facts. 13

The passage from ERE, Vol. IV, discussing the nature of cosmogony and cosmography in the epics and Puranas is note-Since the Br. P. also contains the same characteristics: "The variety of views as to the origin of the world which obtained in the proceeding periods still continues, but there is a decided tendency towards introducing some order. The mythological elements of cosmogony are mostly adopted from vedic literature, and further developed, some are of more modern origin, both elements are variously combined. These mythological elements are as follows:- (i) The highest godhoad, Brahman or Atman, identified with Warayana, Visnu, Sambhu etc. according to the sectarian tendency of the author, (ii) The primeval waters or darkness (iii) The purusa or Hiranyagarbha who sprang up therein (iv) The world-egg which brought forth Brahma (or Prajapati, Pitamaha), (v) The lotus from which came Brahma, the

¹³ ERE, Vol. IV, PP. 155 ff.

lotus itself came either from the waters or from the navel of Viṣṇu (vi) The intermediate creators or mental sons of Brahmā, numbering seven or eight, Marīchi etc. (vii) The successive creations and destructions of the world."

While in the preceding period cosmogonic myths are of an episodical character, in the period of epics and Purāṇas the same subject is treated at a greater length and for its own sake. Its importance is fully recognised in the Purāṇas for cosmogony and secondary creation i.e. the successive destructions and renovations of world - belong to the five characteristic the Lopics of the Purāṇas. The Br. P. contains the following different versions regarding the cosmogonical speculations.

Cosmic-egg Theory and Samkhya Theory

This theory has mingled in its account with that of the samkhya and upanisads. Thus here it is stated that the purusa creates the world through pradhana which is avyakta, nitya and sadasadatmaka. Lord Brahma of immeasurable lustre is the purusa. He creates all the beings and is devoted to lord Narayana. From pradhana was produced Mahat and from Mahat the Ahamkara. From Ahamkara all the subtle beings were created. The account upto this resembles the samkhya theory developing itself into the upanisadic thought. Thus after the creation described above, lord Brahma created waters and

¹⁴ Ib1d

¹⁵ For a full discussion of this problem, vide Kirfel, Das Purana-Pancala-ksanam.

deposited his powers (virya) in it. From that a big golden After living in that egg for an year, lord egg emerged. Brahma divided it into two parts, one half of it became heaven and the other half became the earth. The middle portion became the sky. In all its ten directions was established the earth surrounded by waters. Then he created kala, manas, vaca, kama, krodha and Rati. Then he created the seven mind. born sages, lightening, clouds, rainbow, birds and rain. After that the Rcs, Yajus, Samans, Sadhyas and higher and lower types of beings were created. He then created the virat-purusa who became well-known as Manu (A.1).

Let us now examine how cosmogonical speculations belonging to different periods have contributed to the development of the above theory represented in the Brahma-Purāṇa. Thus the world according to the vedic notions consists of three parts, viz. earth, air and sky or heaven. Again, the unity of godhead is expressed in the puruṣasūkta X.90 and it is recognised and is directly expressed in others, viz. X.81,82, where he is called the one, the unborn and is placed above all the gods. The Brahmaṇas also contain many legends about Prajapati's creating the world. As regards the creation of waters, in the Brahmaṇas there are some passages in which the waters seem to have been believed to be coeval with him or to

have preceded him. 16 But the Br. P. presents a modification in stating that lord Brahma himself created the waters. The cosmic egg-theory is dealt with in the Satapatha Brahmana XI.1.6.1 ff. and the Chandogya upanisad iii.19. Again, the above account resembles to some extent that of the MS (I.5 ff).

Another version of the cosmic egg-theory mingling with samkhya principles as represented in the Br. P. is as follows: Just as the seed of kapittha is covered on all the sides by its Similarly the whole Brahmanda was covered on all the The andakatah is covered by the coverings sides by/Andakataha. ten times bigger than one another. The coverings were those of water, fire, wind, ether and Mahattattva. The Mahattattva is covered by pradhana or prakrti. Pradhana is endless and there is no number which can measure it. Therefore, it is called ananta and asamkhyata. It is the material cause of the whole world and is the Para prakrti. In it dwell a Koți Brahmandas. Just as the fire dwells in fuel and the sesamum oil in sesame similarly the cetana puruşa resides in the Pradhana or prakrti. The prakrti and purusa depend on each other and sustain themselves by the power of lord Visnu. power of lord Visnu is the cause of conjoining add disconnecting prakrti and purusa. The power of lord Visnu is the cause of disturbing the prakrti at the time of creation. Just as the

¹⁶ cf. Taittiriya Samhita V.6.4.2 and vii. 1.5.1.

wind bears the coolness of the water-drops, similarly the power of lord Visnu bears this world constituted of prakrti and Just as from a seed, the trunk, branches and other purusa. seeds are produced similarly from the unmodified prakrti first the Mahattattva and others are created, then gods are created and then their children and grand-children are created. as by the creation of the second tree, the first tree is not destroyed similarly by new creations the old creations are not Just as on account of the nearness akasa, kala destroyed. etc. are also the causes in the production of the tree similarly lord Visnu, though himself remaining unmodified becomes the cause of the whole world. Just as in the seed of corn reside the mula, nala, patra, amkura, kanda, kosa, flower, milk, tandula, tusa and they sprout up as soon as they get the opportunity similarly the gods and other beings reside in the form of various karmans and manifest themselves taking the help of lord Vișnu (23.22-40).

The above theory shows that the Brahma-Purana has freely laid down the samkhya philosophy and has tried to improve upon it. According to samkhya philosophy, there are two principles entirely independent of each other.: (1) the souls, purusas and (2) Prakrti, original nature or pradhana which is

made up of three Gunas in the state of equipoise. equilibrium is disturbed through the presence of the purusa then from prakṛti is developed Mahān or Buddhi which chiefly consists of sattva. From Buddhi is developed Ahamkara, a a substance. The function of which is to produce the conceit of individuality - Ahamkara - produces the mind, the five organs of sense, the five organs of action and the five subtle elements - tanmātras. The last combining with one another form the five gross elements: space, fire, wind, water and earth. trying to reconcile vedic cosmogony with the principles of sankhya philosophy, the Br.P. has introduced some changes in the above theory. Thus the Br. P. establishes the belief in a first cause in the form of Visnu, which is radically opposed to the samkhya doctrine of the mutually independent principles, purusa and prakrti, yet both views had to be harmonised, some-It is interesting to note that the Santiparvan of the Mbh. also admits the presence of Isvara as the twenty-sixth principle over the twenty-five principles and thus turning the atheistic sāmkhya into a theistic one. 17

The Br. P. gives another version of the philosophical theory introducing some changes of its own. Thus it is stated that when all the mobile and immobile things were destroyed and

¹⁷ Deopurkar R.T., Op.Cit., PP.30-35, Dasgupta S.N., Op.Cit., Vol.1, P.217.

covered by darkness first of all Buddhi, the cause of Gunas, From Buddhi was manifested Ahamkara, was created from prakrti. the cause of the five Mahabhutas, viz. Akasa, Vayu, Agni, Jala The samkhya doctrine which derived the elements and Earth. from ahakhara through the interposition of the transcendent tanmatras, seems to have been modified by the Brahma-Purana in as much as it omits the tanmatras and makes the Mahabhutas the direct product of Ahamkara, just as in the ups. the elements are said to have sprung directly from Brahman. This is in consonance with the epic view. Further it states that after the creation of the Mahabhutas, an egg was created in which the seven islands and the seven oceans were established and in it Visnu and Mahadeva resided. Then all the people were overpowered by Tamoguna and maditated on Paramesvara. Then a lustrous deity was created who removed darkness. That was lord Sun, The account of the creation of the Sun resembles to some extent the account given in the Chandogya upanisad (III.19).

From the above survey, it becomes clear that the cosmogony in the Brahma-Purana on the whole seems to be a later development. Here the evolutionary theory of Samkhya is so modified as to agree with the vedantic doctrine about the oneness of Brahman by assuming that purusa and prakrti are but two forms of the supreme deity here identified with Visnu according

to the sectarian character of the Purana.

Mythologico-Philosophical Theory

In this theory both the mythological and the philosophical accounts are intermingled. From the formless, the purusa who is Para, avyakta and Aksara is born. Prakrti is apara and ksara. From that the waters are created, from the waters a purusa is manifested, from him a lotus emerged and lord Brahma emerged from it. The earth, Vayu, Akasa, Apah and Jyoti were created before Brahma. Here it should be noted that the first creator and lord Brahma are considered to be separate. The divine speech then ordained Brahma to create the whole world. Brahma started performing a sacrifice and recited the purusasukta. The Brahmins were created from his mouth, the ksatriyas from hands, Indra from mouth, Agni from breath, the directions from ears, heaven from the head, Moon from the heart, Sun from the eyes, Antariksa from the navel, the Vaisyas from the thighs, the Sudras from the feet, the Esis from the pores, the osadhis from hair, the wild animals from nails, insects from anus, and the mobile and immobile and the seen and the unseen worlds are created from him as well as from lord Brahma (161.42-50). Thus mythological and theosophic notions inherited from the vedic period have been combined with notions of later origin and together they gave rise to Puranic cosmology.

As regards the various other worlds, the account of the Br. P. is as follows: The part on which the rays of the Sun and the Moon shine is called earth. The earth together with its rivers, oceans and mountains vast as well as round. At a distance of one lakh yojans above the earth, the Suryamandala is situated and above one lakh yojans from Suryamandala, the Candramandala is situated. The whole Naksatramandala is situated at a distance of one lakh yojans above the Candramandala. Budha is situated at a distance of two lakh yojans above the Sukra is at a distance of two lakh yojanas Naksatramandala. from Budha, Mangala is at a distance of two lakh yojanas from Sukra, Devaguru Brhaspati at the same distance from Sukra, Sanaiscara at the same distance from Brhaspati and the Saptarsimandala is at a distance of one lakh yojans from it. Dhruva is at a distance of one lakh yohanas from the Saptarsis and it is the centre of the Jyotirmandala. Maharloka is above Dhruva where people live for one kalpa. Its area is one crore yojanas. Above it is Janaloka whose area is two crore yojanas. The Brahmakumaras Sanandana and others live there. Tapoloka is four times bigger in area than that of Janaloka and is above the Janaloka and the bodiless delties vairajas live there. Satyaloka is six times bigger in area to that of Tapoloka and is situated above it. The Siddhas and the Esis live there. The people there are free from rebirth and death. As long as one can tread on feet, the region is called Bhuloka. The second

region called Bhuvarloka is situated between the earth and Surya and is inhabited by the sages. The area of Svarloka is fourteen lakh yojanas and is situated between Dhurva and Surya. Bhuh, Bhuvah and Svah constitute the Trailokya. The learned brahmins call these worlds to be destructible (krtaka) whereas the other three worlds above these, viz. Jana, Tapas, and Satya are said to be indestructible (akrtaka). The world between krtaka and akrtaka is Maharloka which is called krtakakrtaka. It becomes desolate at the end but is not destroyed. These seven are the great worlds (23.3-21).

Besides the seven great worlds there are the seven great patalas extending towards seventy thousand yojanas below the surface of the earth, each of its seven regions having a depth of ten thousand yojanas. The names of the seven nether regions are Atala, Vitala, Nitala, Sutala, Talātala, Rasatala and Patāla and their grounds are kṛṣṇa, sukla, aruṇa, pīta, sarkara, saila and kāncana. Pātala - the collective name of the seven nether worlds - is the abode of Fāgas, Dānavas and Daityas and it is better in beauty and magnificance than heavens. Below Pātala is the dragon Seṣa who bears the entire world like a didem upon his head and who is the foundation on which the seven pātalas rest (A.21). The hells or Narakas are beneath Pātāla (22.1). For a description of various hells vide the Appendix No.11. Besides this there are different worlds

pertaining to different gods, the names of which would be mentioned under the concept of kramamukti to be discussed below.?

Types of Destruction: Together with the theories of creation there are others giving ideas about the destruction of the world. Thus the Brahma-Purana describes three types of layas, viz. Brahma or Naimittika Pralaya, Atyantika Pralaya and Prakrta Pralaya. The laya which takes place at the end of a Kalpa is the Brahma-Pralaya, the laya bestowing final liberation is called atyantika pralaya, and the laya which takes place after two parardhas is called the Prakrta Pralaya.

Brahma Pralaya:- At the end of one thousand caturyugas, there is famine for hundred years and many persons perish. After that lord Visnu takes a terrible form and starts merging the world in bimself. He dries the whole world Ex ar through the seven rays of the Sun. in himselfy Then being more lustrous by the power of lord Visnu, the seven rays of Sun manifest themselves in the form of seven Suns and they burn all the three worlds together with the Patalas. The Patalas are burnt by the hot breathing of Sesanaga. that the Bhuvarloka and the Svarloka are burnt and being afraid of this terrible laya people rush to the Janaloka. lord Visnu produces clouds from his breath and they drown all the worlds by terrible showers of rain. The whole world is

covered by darkness. The clouds continue to rain for more than hundred years.

Naimittika Laya:- When the waters reach the Saptarsiloka, they cease to flow and the wind produced from the breath of lord Visnu destroys all the man clouds. Then lord Visnu, the first cause of the world, the beginningless, unthinkable and the creator of all beings devours the wind and rests on the Sesanāga. At that time he takes the form of lord Brahma and the Siddhas Sanaka and others of Janaloka praise him and these desirous of liberation meditate on him. Lord Visnu resorts to Yoganidra and meditates on his form Vasudeva. called Naimittika Pralaya, the nimitta being lord Visnu's sleep. As long as lord Visnu wakes, the whole world is active but during his sleep the whole world merges in him. of lord Brahma consists of one thousand caturyugas, at the time of sleeping the night also consists of the same period and at the end of sleep, lord Visnu again creates the world.

Prakrta Laya:- When on account of anavṛṣti and fire all the beings are destroyed the occasion for Prakṛta laya arises and at that time all the elements beginning from Mahattattva to visesa are destroyed. First the water merges smell in itself. On account of the destruction of gandha the whole world is transformed into water. Then Tejas merges the quality of fluid of water in itself, and the whole world is pervaded by

fire. Then Vayu merges Rupa, the characteristic quality of fire and vayu pervades the whole world. Then akasa devours sparsa, the characteristic quality of vayu. Vayu becomes tranquil and merely the akasa devoid of form, rasa, sparsa, gandha, and form pervades the whole world. The quality of akasa is sabda. Then the akasa merges the Bhūtadis, the Bhūtadis merge Mahattattva and the mala prakrti merges Mahattattva and all other things (A.232).

Atvantika Lava:- One gets atvantika lava when one attains the knowledge and detachment after suffering the troubles arising from Adhyatmika, Adhibhautika and Adhidaivika conditions. (233.1-3). Elsewhere too a description of Pralaya is provided by the Br. P. (52-110).

Samsara

Having examined the various theories about the creation and dissolution of the world let us now note down the views about the worldly parlance or samsāra.

The ideas about the worldly parlance are usually pessimistic in nature. Thus it is said that the world is very terrible, full of troubles and infatuating in nature (228.4.5). It is compared to an ocean in which there are crocodiles in the form of Raga, the water in it is made up of

passion, the senses are the whirlpools; and the hunger and thirst are its waves. It becomes dirty by the mud of infatuation and on account of greediness it is difficult to cross it (26.19-21). The same idea is repeated in many other places and the aspect of transitoriness of the world is emphasized (45.18), (49.24-27), (50.34-36), (57.36,37), (178.179,180), (179.7), (117.7.17).

Emancipation: Means and Types

According to the Hindu view of life there are various means to attain eman#cipation. The pre-eminent among them are the paths of action, knowledge and devotion.

Philosophy of Karman:— The Br. P. states that if actions are performed with kead some motive in the Bharatavarsa, they lead to heaven but if they are performed without any desire they lead to liberation (27,18,19). Thus the niskama karmayoga of Bhagavad-Gita advocated with great stress by the late Bal Kandha Gangadhara Tilaka is the view of the Br. P. too.

Again it is said that the fruit of the action depends on the type of action. Man gets the rewards of his own actions. One gets the fruit according to the seed he has sown. One cannot get a mango fruit from a nimba seed. By performing good actions, one becomes pure and detached. Then after getting the unobstructed knowledge he becomes a Jivanmukta,

and by devoting himself to lord Visnu he gets liberation. It can be easily seen that in this passage the three primary means, Viz. karman, jmana and Hhakti are represented as the three stages to get final liberation (139.19,20,25,26).

The Br. P. like Gita contains a discussion regarding the comparative importance of jnana and karman in one's life. The Br. P. states that there is a divergence of opinion regarding jnana and karman. Some people praise karman jnana whereas some persons praise karman. Out of the two karman is more important since jnana also is a type of action, therefore all men should strive for success by the performance of actions. Karman pervades the whole we earth and there is nothing in the world except action. The study, the practice of yoga and the worship of lors Siva, all these belong to the category of karmans. An actionless man does not exist in the world (145.8-11).

The Br. P. also advocates the theory of Bhavana, a kind of feeling or intention in performing some action. Thus it states that there are three causes in bringing about any action. The first one is karma, the secondis karta and the third one is vaja or upadana which should not be included under the category of karma. This reminds us of the theory of three causes viz. Samavayi, Asamavayi and Nimitta, of the

Naiyayikas. As the fruit of action depends on karman, inspite of the presence of many other causes, the variations in the fruit of action are seen on account of the presence and absence Karman again is twofold, one that is in the process of karman. of creation (kriyamāna) and the other which is already created The means that are the causes in the presence of (krta). action, the same means are the causes in the fruit of that The Bhavana brings about the correct type of action too. result. Thus whatever type of Bhavana a person keeps in mind while performing an action, that type of fruit he attains after the completion of the action. If the Bhavana is of a different type the result also would be quite different. Therefore, in the performance of actions like penance, vrata, dana, japa, sacrifice and others one should pay great attention to the Bhavana. The bhava is three-fold: Sattvika, Rajasa and Tamasa. Therefore, one should have the bhavana according to one's It is neither the karmakara nor the upadana that are the causes in bringing about a particular result but the main underlying reason is the bhavana. The same object is seen differently on account of the difference in Bhava. one should perform the karma according to the bhava and attain the desired result (173.10-25).

The theory of reciprocation is also referred to. Thus it is said that whatever karma one does here, one has to suffer

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its consequences also Therefore one should always understand one's responsibility in performing one's actions (215.58). The theory of karmavipaka is already discussed in the chapter VII on 'Religion'.

Liberation can be attained by the performance of action as well as by non-action. In vedas the path of action is considered to be higher than non-action. As everything is the result of karma and as all the purusarthas, liberation and enjoyment are obtained by the performance of actions one should perform actions (88. 10-13).

Jñana

The philosophy of jñana is also mentioned in the Br. P. Thus it is said that anger is the first enemy of man leading him to destruction, therefore one should destroy it by jñana. Trana is manifold, binding and is the cause of all evils. By destroying it with jñana one attains the happiness. Attachment - sanga - is the highest type of unrighteousness. Sanga is the enemy of asanga as well as of atman. By destroying it with jñana one should attain bliss. Samsaya or doubt is the destroyer of Dharma and artha and by destroying it one gets the highest bliss. The hope or desire enters in a man like a devil and destroys the whole of his happiness. By

destroying it one attains the Jivanmukti (139.13-17).

A discussion is held regarding the problem as to who should be called the giver of knowledge. It is stated that one who shows the unity of all the gods should be considered to be a real jnanada. That should be called jnana which destroys the diversities (158.25-27).

Jnana is the nature of Parabrahma and ajñana that of the bondage. The whole world is jñanasvarupa and there is nothing beyond jñana, vidya and avidya are the forms of jñana (22.45-49).

The concept of Bhakti is already discussed in the chapter VII on 'Religion'.

Types of Emancipation

In Indian philosophy various types of emancipation are recognised, e.g. salokya, samipya, sarupya, sayujya, krama, etc. By salokya-mukti is meant the existence in the same sphere as god. The samipya one implies an existence in the proximity of god. In the case of the sarupya there is the achievement of the same external form as a delty and in the sayujya there is the merger in god. The Br. P. provides

¹⁸ Kantawala S.G.; Op.Cit., P. 565.

two instances of sayujya mukti. Thus it states that by worshipping lord Sun, one gets sayujya with him (8.96). The sage Dadhīci is said to have attained sayujya with Brahman, the aprameya, the highest and one worthy to be worshipped by practising yoga. The final stages of yoga are here described in as much as the sage Dadhīci controlled the wind and fire within the body and carried them to Daharākāsa and fixing the intellect on the tip of the nose he became one with Brahman (110,49,50).

In the case of kramamukti there is gradual liberation. The soul passes from one celestial region to another in different births and finally reaches the highest place. The Br. P. also notes the idea of kramamukti when it states that by worshipping lord krsna, Balarama and Subhadra according to the proper rites one goes to Visnuloka in a bright aeroplane of white colour decorated with banners. He lives there for hundred years and recreates himself by various types of enjoyments and he is praised there by the Gandharvas, Apsarasas, Siddhas, gods, vidyadharas and uragas. After that he goes to Brahmaloka and lives there for ninety years. Then he goes to Rudraloka and lives there for eighty years. After that he goes to Goloka and lives there for seventy years. goes to Prajapatiloka and lives there for sixty years. he goes to Sakraloka and lives there for forty years. After

that he goes to the Nakṣatraloka and lives there for thirty years. After that he goes to the Sasarikaloka and lives there for twenty years. Then he goes to the Gandharvaloka and lives there for one kalpa. Then he comes to the world and becomes a religious king. After ruling righteously and performing the sacrifices he should go to the world of yogins and attain Siva who gives liberation. After enjoying there for the time ordained for him he comes back and takes a birth in the family of the yogins. He becomes a Brahmin well-versed in the four vedas, performs sacrifices, adheres to the Vaisnavayoga and attains emancipation (67.55-80).

Elsewhere it is **** said that after death a devoted vaisnava goes to Antariksa and enjoys there for ten manvantaras, in Gandharvaloka he enjoys for twenty manvantaras, in the Adityaloka for thirty manvantaras, in the Candraloka for forty manvantaras, in the Naksatraloka for fifty manvantaras, in the Devaloka for sixty manvantaras, in the Sakraloka for seventy manvantaras, in the Prajapatiloka for eighty manavantaras, in the Pitamahaloka for ninety manvantaras. After enjoying thus in various worlds he comes back to the world and again goes to the different worlds. Thus completing the rounds of births of hundred years ten times he goes to Hariloka and enjoys there for a hundred manvantaras, then goes to varahaloka and enjoys for ten thousand koti years, he then goes to Narasimhaloka and enjoys there for a koti ayuta varsas, then he goes to Visnupura

and enjoys there for an ayut varsas. After that he goes to Brahmaloka and enjoys there for satakoti varsas, then he goes to Narayanpura and enjoys for koti arbuda varsas, from there he goes to the Anaruddhapura and enjoys there for fourteen thousand koti varsas, from there he goes to Pradyumnapura and enjoys there for a lakh koti and three hundred years, from there he goes to the samkarsanaloka and enjoys there for a long time. After that he enters Vasudeva and is finally liberated (A.226). Incidentally these passages show the Brahma-Purana's belief regarding the number of bright worlds and the period of manyantaras.

Eschatology

What happens after death to a human being has been a great mystery that has intrigued and baffled mankind in all ages and was a question of vital importance among almost all ancient peoples. Death is generally considered to be terrible and awful but the Br. P. states that he who does not tell lies, who does not prove false to affection or friendship, who is an astika, who is devoted to the worship of gods and the honouring of brahmins, who does not bear malice to anyone, who gives water to thirsty and food to hungry has a happy death (214.34-39). But at the same time the sinners have to pass

¹⁹ Kame P.V., HDS., Vol. IV, P. 179.

through terrible tortures in hell (A.214-215). As regards the pleasures in heaven and tortures in hell, vide the chapter on Religion and the appendix on hells:

As regards liberation it is said that both enjoyment and liberation are good but enjoyment becomes devoid of pleasure at the end whereas Mukti is Nitya and nirvikara. Therefore, mukti is higher than enjoyment, liberation is very difficult to obtain as it needs detachment from all objects (88.5-10).

The Concept of Time:

The philosophy of time can be traced back to Av. where kala is eulogised as the creator of all the things. 20 Kala is also discussed in the svetasvatarabhasya. Generally kala is considered to be the nimitta of all the happenings and the jyotissastra recognises the omnipervasive effect of kala. The Pasupatas have identified kala with god and lord Mahadeva is worshipped in the form of Mahakalesvara.

The Br. P. also reflects on the concept of time.

It states that without time the growth of flowers, fruits, corn and herbs was not possible; without the recognition of the concept of time; im The regulations were not observed and

²⁰ AV. 19th Kanda, 53 and 54 suktas, for reconception of kala, vide kane P.v., HOS, vol. I, Past 1, Chs. XIV-XI.

oblations in fire were not offered (31.7,8). The whold world is kalatmaka. Kala is the cause in the happening and non-happening of things. The rivers, oceans, mountains, men, cattle, the whole world, gods, men, animals, trees and other things are created by kala and would be dissolved in it (212.56-58). Kala is the resort of Dharma. Dharma which is resorted to kala increases and decreases according to the kala (175.18).

The concept of Dharma

The Br. P. lays great stress on the concept of It devotes one whole adhyaya in describing righteousness. the excellent condition which the righteous people attain after death (A. 216). Again it is said that a man when born is alone and he dies alone. Alone he overcomes the difficulties and After death the whole family grieves for him for a while but gets again engrossed in their work. At that time Dharma alone accompanies him. Dharma alone helps a man in crossing all the difficulties. Dharma keeps an eye over all the actions of men. At the time of death the skin, bones, meat and blood give up the body but at that time the individual self enjoys happiness on account of Dharma. Dharma gives It is through Dharma that the artha, kama, and moksa are attained. Dharma is the mother, father, brother,

lord, master, friend, protector and maintainer. By Dharma one attains artha, by artha one attains kama, by kama one attains bhoga and pleasures. By Dharma one gets prosperity, becomes a god or a brahmin, and it saves one from all the fears. 21 Again it is said that Dharma is one but on account of the manifold nature of sadhya and sadhanas, Dharma is also considered to be manifold. Dharma has two resorts: Desa and kala. According to yugas there is increase and decrease in Dharma. Dharma resorted to kala always exist in dosa and in -spite of the destruction of yugas the dharma resorted to desa is not destroyed. Dharma which is devoid of both the asrayas In the Satyayuga Dharma exists resorting to cannot exist. both desa and kala. In the Tretayuga, one of its aspects is destroyed, in Dvapara two of its aspects are destroyed, and in Kaliyuga three of its aspects are destroyed (175.17-24).

Doctrine of Truth

The Br. P. contains a discussion regarding truth.

Thus it states that while protecting cows, women and brahmins, at the time of marriage, sexual intercourse, when life is at

²¹ Dharmadarthastatha kamo moksasca parikīrtyate "Dharmo mātā pitā Bhratā Dharmo nāthah khu suhruttatha IDharmah sumi sukhā goptā tathā dhātā ca nosakah "Dharmadartho rthatah kāmah kāmadbhogah sukhāni ca IDharmadalsvaryamekāgryam dharmatsvargagatih Parā "Dharmastu sevito viprāstrayate nahato bhayāt devatvam ca dvijatvam ca dharmātprāpnotyasamsayam "216.73-76.

stake and when everything is carried away, there is no sin in speaking lie and it is said to be in consonance with what Manu has said. But at the same time the Br. P. contends the view and states that Satya alone is respected in the world. Whatever happiness is there in the world is due to Satya. On account of the presence of Satya, the Sun, water, fire and wind perform their functions. All the four purusarthas are obtained by Satya and in the world as well as in the sacrifices Satya is the highest Brahman therefore one should never give it up. 23

Philosophy of Life

The Br. P. throws good light over the philosophy of life. Thus it states that the desires are not satisfied by their enjoyments, on the contrary they are enhanced. 24 One should think that the things of pleasure like corn, gold, cattle and women are not sufficient for oneself he should not

²² Gostrīdvijānām Parīrakṣaṇārtham vivāhakāle surataprasange! Praṇātyaye Sawvadhanāpahāre pancānṛtānyāhurapātakāni !! cf. also Manu v. 104.112 227.50

²³ Satyenārko Pratapati satyenāpo rasātmikah jvalatyagnisca satyena vāti satyena mārutah "Dharmārthekāmasamprāptirmoksaprāptisca durlabhā | Satyena jāyate pumsām tasmāt satyam na samtyajet "Satyam brahma param loke satyam yajnesu cottamam | Satyam svargasamāyātam tasmātsatyam na samtyajet "(227.53-55)

²⁴ Na jatu kamah kamanamupabhogena samyati | Havisa krsnavartmeva bhuya evabhivardhate | 12.40, cf. Bg. Ms II 94

le infatuated when a person does not have a vile feeling for any person either through mind, speech or action, he attains Brahman. When he is bereft of desires and abuses he attains In spite of getting old age, the desire for long Brahman. life and wealth does not lesson. The pleasures of kama are indestructible (12.40-48). Once it is said that whatever is created here is bound to perish. The wheel of the universe would continue to revolve, therefore those who give up their life for cows, gods and brahmins win in this life (110.63-66). One who lives here a life endowed with fame should be said to be living in the real sense but one leading a life devoid of fame is equal to a dead person (110.154-156). One who is born is sure to die therefore the wise persons should not despair about e: her separation, death, meeting, loss and gain: 25 The same the g at times becomes the cause of pleasure, pain, envy and Therefore, a thing which gives pleasure at some time anger. at other times therefore it seems that the thing gives p is neither pleasant nor painful but it is the mind by itsel Again it is said that one whose mind is that ma 25 Jat a niyato Mrtyuh patanan ca tathonnateh ngāvasānam ta samyogah sameayah ksayah " Vin: na budhāh sokam na harsam upayanti ye I Vij: retare cestăm siksantan santi tadrsan " tes mena duhkhaya sukhayerbyodayaya cal kopaya ca 26 vastr kvaoth duhkhatmakan kutah hTadéna pritate bhûtva yatastas ya Jayate | Tadera Kopaya Jatah Prabadaja ca Jayate 11 panarduh Sukhaduhkhadilaksanah 11 22. 45-47 Parinam na eva manusyanam karanam bandhamoksayon) cf

Mait.Up. 6.34 .

Brahmabindu up. 2

nder control has not to be afraid of anyone but one whose mind is not properly controlled has fears from all the sides (167.27)