

13. Jyeshtha-Krishna Ekadasi, or Aparā Ekadasi

Sri Yudhishtira Maharaj said, Oh Janardana, what is the name of the Ekadasi that occurs during the dark fortnight (*Krishna paksha*) of the month of *Jyeshtha* (May-June)? I wish to hear from You the glories of this sacred day of Hari. Please narrate everything to me Oh, the name of this unlimitedly meritorious Ekadasi is Aparā Ekadasi. Whoever fasts on this holy day becomes famous all over the universe. Even such sins as killing a Brahman, a cow, or an embryo; blasphemy; or having sex with another man's wife are completely eradicated by observing Aparā Ekadasi. Oh king people who bear false witness are most sinful.

A person who falsely or sarcastically glorifies another; one who cheats while weighing something on a scale; one who fails to execute the duties of his *varna* or Ashrama (an unqualified man's posing as a Brahmin, for example, or a person's reciting the Vedas wrongly); one who invents his own scriptures; one who cheats others; one who is a charlatan astrologer, a cheating accountant, or a false Ayurvedic doctor. All these are surely as bad as persons who bears false witness, and they are all destined for hellish punishments. But simply by observing Aparā Ekadasi, all such sinners become completely free of their sinful reactions.

Warriors who fall from their *kshatriya-dharma* and flee the battlefield go to a ferocious hell. But, even such a fallen Kshatriya, if he observes fasting on the Aparā Ekadasi, is freed of that great sinful reaction and goes to heaven. That disciple is the greatest sinner who, after receiving a proper spiritual education from his spiritual master, turns around and blasphemes him. Such a so-called disciple suffers unlimitedly. But even he, rascal though he be, if he simply observes Aparā Ekadasi, can attain to the spiritual world. Listen, Oh king, as I describe to you further glories of this amazing Ekadasi.

The merit attained by one who performs all of the following acts of piety is equal to the merit achieved by one who observes Aparā Ekadasi: bathing three times daily in Pushkara-kshetra during Kartika (October-November); bathing at Ganga and offering oblations to one's forefather at Prayag in the month of Magh (January-February) when the sun is in the zodiac of Capricorn; rendering service to Lord Shiva at Varanasi (Benares) during Shiva-ratri; offering oblations to one's forefathers at Gaya; bathing in the sacred Gautami River when Jupiter transits Leo (Simha); having *darshan* of Lord Shiva at Kedarnatha; seeing Lord Badrinath when the Sun transits the sign of Aquarius (Kumbha); and bathing at the time of a

solar eclipse at Kurukshetra and giving cows, elephants, and gold there in charity. All the merit one gets from performing these pious acts is gained by a person who observes the Aparā Ekadasi fast. Also, the merit attained by one who donates a pregnant cow, along with gold and fertile land, is attained by one who fasts on this day. In other words, Aparā Ekadasi is the sun blazing before one's dark misdeeds, and it is a lion stalking the meek deer of impiety. Therefore, whoever truly fears his past and present sins must observe Aparā Ekadasi very strictly.

Therefore one must faithfully observe the sacred Aparā Ekadasi and worship the Supreme Lord, Sri Vishnu. One who does so is freed of all his sins and promoted to the abode of Lord Vishnu. Oh King, for the benefit of all humanity I have thus described to you this the importance of the holy Aparā Ekadasi. Anyone who hears or reads this description is certainly freed from all kinds of sins.

Thus ends the narration of the glories of Jyeshtha-krishna Ekadasi, or Aparā Ekadasi, from the Brahmanda Purana.