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OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
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Volume 11

1988

Number 2

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The Soteriological Purpose of Nāgārjuna's Philosophy: A Study of Chapter Twenty-three of the *Mūla-madhyamaka- kārikās*¹

by William L. Ames

Nāgārjuna's *Mūla-madhyamaka-kārikās* (MMK) is the fundamental text of the Madhyamaka² school of Buddhist philosophy. It is largely devoted to a critical analysis of various conceptual categories, such as cause and effect, motion and rest, agent and action, etc. Particular attention is paid to the categories into which Buddhist Abhidharma analyzed the world. The Madhyamaka analysis is said to show the emptiness (*śūnyatā*) of all phenomena (all *dharmas*).

Some readers, both ancient and modern, have taken Nāgārjuna's position to be one of extreme skepticism, if not nihilism. Some have also charged that his arguments are little more than sophistry. Others have had a more positive evaluation of Madhyamaka, but they have put forward varying interpretations of Nāgārjuna's aim and methods.³

An examination of all these views is beyond the scope of this article; and in any case, the matter has been much discussed by a number of scholars. To be brief, let me just say that I agree with those who see the notion of intrinsic nature (*svabhāva*) as a key to understanding Madhyamaka. Intrinsic nature is defined in MMK 15:2cd as being noncontingent and not dependent on anything other than itself.⁴ Thus according to Nāgārjuna, it is necessarily unchanging and permanent.⁵ The main target of the Mādhyamikas' criticism is the belief that our conceptual categories refer to entities (*bhāva*) which exist by virtue of having an intrinsic nature. Such entities would be inconsistent with the

facts of impermanence (*anityatā*) and dependent origination (*pratītya-samutpāda*), which are basic to the Buddhist world-view.

Hence, according to the Mādhyamikas, all phenomena are empty in the sense of being empty of intrinsic nature. Nāgārjuna compares the way in which things *do* exist to the mode of existence of mirages and magical illusions. (See MMK 17:31–33, for example.) Like such illusions, things appear in dependence on causes and conditions; but they are not appearances of intrinsically existent entities.

The question I would like to address is the following: How does the philosophical analysis which I have just described relate to the soteriological goals of Buddhism? That Nāgārjuna is concerned with these goals is stated quite explicitly in such works as the *Ratnāvalī*,⁶ but it is also clearly implied at several places in the MMK. For example, MMK 18:5 says,

Because of the cessation of action (*karman*) and afflictions (*kleśa*), there is liberation. Action and afflictions are due to conceptual construction (*vikalpa*).

Those [conceptual constructions come] from linguistic proliferation (*prapañca*); but linguistic proliferation ceases in emptiness.⁷

Madhyamaka is thus conceived of as a means, with liberation as its ultimate end. But the question remains, how does philosophical argumentation lead to spiritual goals? To attempt to answer this question, I will examine chapter twenty-three of the MMK, where the connection between philosophy and soteriology is particularly close to the surface. (In this chapter, Nāgārjuna frequently alludes to arguments made earlier in the MMK without repeating them in detail; but I think that the general thrust of the chapter will be clear even to readers unfamiliar with the MMK.) I have consulted the commentaries, primarily the *Prajñāpradīpa* and the *Prasannapadā*; but my discussion will be based insofar as possible on the MMK itself.

Chapter twenty-three of the MMK takes up a theme introduced earlier. In MMK 17:26b, Nāgārjuna stated that “those afflictions [do] not [exist] in reality (*tattvataḥ*).”⁸ (The afflictions (*kleśa*) are desire (*rāga*), hatred (*dveṣa*), and confusion (*moha*).) In the first two verses of chapter twenty-three, he explains why the afflictions are not real:

- <1> It has been said that desire, hatred, and confusion arise from conceptual construction (*saṃkalpa*). They indeed occur in dependence on the errors of [apprehending things as] pleasant or unpleasant.
- <2> Those which occur in dependence on the errors of [apprehending things as] pleasant or unpleasant Do not exist because of intrinsic nature. Therefore the afflictions [do] not [exist] in reality.

Here the phrase which I have translated as “the errors of [apprehending things as] pleasant or unpleasant” is the compound *śubha* (pleasant) plus *aśubha* (unpleasant) plus *viparyāsa* (error) with a masculine plural ending. Candrakīrti takes it to be a triple *dvandva*, “the pleasant, the unpleasant, and error;” but the Tibetan translations of the commentaries of Bhāvaviveka, Buddhapālita, and the author of the *Akutoḥbhayā* understand it to be a *tatpuruṣa*, as I have translated it here. I have also added the phrase “apprehending things as” for the sake of clarity.

Thus the afflictions are not ultimately real because they do not exist by virtue of some intrinsic nature of their own. They exist in dependence on the conceptually constructed errors of taking things to be pleasant or unpleasant.

Additional reasons are given in the next three verses. In MMK 23:3–4, it is argued that afflictions must belong to someone; but since neither the existence nor the nonexistence of the self can be established, the afflictions also cannot be established. The fifth verse looks at the relation between the afflictions and the afflicted mind. Alluding to similar analyses earlier in the MMK,⁹ it notes that the afflictions and the one who is afflicted cannot be shown to be the same or different. Therefore, by implication, neither of them possesses an intrinsic nature.

If one supposes that the afflictions derive some sort of ultimate reality from their dependence on error, Nāgārjuna replies in verse six,

- <6> The errors of [apprehending things as] pleasant or unpleasant do not exist by intrinsic nature.
What are the afflictions [which occur] in dependence on the errors of [apprehending things as] pleasant or unpleasant?

The remainder of chapter twenty-three is largely devoted to explaining why error does not exist by intrinsic nature. As we saw in verse one, error (*viparyāsa* or *viparyaya*) is closely related to conceptual construction (*saṃkalpa*). Verse seven tells us that the objects of the six senses are conceptually constructed (*vikalpyate*) as the objects of desire, hatred, and confusion. Nāgārjuna has already shown—particularly in chapter three of the MMK—that the six sense objects have no intrinsic nature. Thus 23:8ab says,

<8ab> Forms, sounds, tastes, and tangibles, smells and dharmas, are isolated (*kevala*).¹⁰

The commentaries gloss “isolated” as “without intrinsic nature.” The verse continues,

<8cd> They are like a city of the *gandharvas*; they are similar to a mirage or a dream.

Since the objects of the afflictions are not ultimately real, neither are the afflictions; and the same can be said of errors, which also refer to the sense objects. Therefore in verse nine Nāgārjuna asks,

<9> How will either the pleasant or the unpleasant occur
In those [objects], which are like a person [created by] magical illusion and similar to a reflection?

In other words, objects are perceived by the senses; and this includes the perception of *dharmas* by the mind. Error or conceptual construction takes these objects to be either pleasant or unpleasant, giving rise to desire, hatred, and so on. But since the objects themselves have no intrinsic nature, neither do the errors and afflictions, which are based on those objects.

Moreover, the pleasant and the unpleasant exist only in relation to each other. Neither is established by its own intrinsic nature, since that would imply that they could exist separately. Thus in verses ten and eleven, Nāgārjuna says,

<10> The pleasant, in dependence on which we could designate the unpleasant as unpleasant,

- Does not exist without relation (*anapekṣya*) [to the unpleasant]. Therefore the pleasant is not possible.
- <11> The unpleasant, in dependence on which we could designate the pleasant as pleasant,
Does not exist without relation [to the pleasant]. Therefore the unpleasant is not possible.¹¹

That is to say, neither the pleasant nor the unpleasant can be established unless the other is first established. If one argues that they come into being simultaneously in mutual dependence, this, for Nāgārjuna, shows that neither has any intrinsic nature. (See related arguments in chapters six and eleven of the MMK.) Thus in verse twelve, Nāgārjuna asks,

- <12> If the pleasant does not exist, how will desire arise?
If the unpleasant does not exist, how will hatred arise?

In these last three verses, as is often the case in the MMK, some qualification such as “by intrinsic nature” or “in ultimate reality” (*paramārthataḥ*) must be supplied from the context of the work as a whole. One can scarcely deny that on the conventional level, things are perceived as pleasant or unpleasant and that attachment and aversion do arise.

There is, however, another way to look at such statements. I argued previously that Nāgārjuna wants to make an ontological point about the way in which phenomena exist or do not exist. We can now begin to see that he is also showing the reader a new way of looking at the world. From this new perspective, errors and afflictions do not arise; or if they do arise, they do not bind one.

Nāgārjuna’s interest in leading the reader to a new kind of experience may also account for the fact that chapter twenty-three, like the MMK generally, is not tightly structured. Often, more than one argument is adduced to prove the same point; and that point may be repeated in different words. As philosophical argumentation, this is redundant; but such repetition can be very useful for purposes of reflection and meditation.

Nāgārjuna has so far examined error in terms of the pleasant and the unpleasant. Now he turns to a traditional set of four errors described in *Aṅguttara-nikāya* II 52. They are: (1) to hold

that the impermanent (*anitya*) is permanent (*nitya*); (2) to hold that suffering (*duḥkha*) is happiness (*sukha*); (3) to hold that the impure (*aśuci*) is pure (*śuci*); and (4) to hold that what is not a self (*anātman*) is a self (*ātman*). In MMK 23:13–14, Nāgārjuna discusses the first error, namely, to mistake the impermanent for the permanent.

- <13> “The impermanent is permanent”: If to hold thus is an error,
 [Then] because permanence does not exist in what is empty, why is it not an error to hold [that the empty is permanent]?
 <14> “The impermanent is impermanent”: If to hold thus is not an error,
 [Then] because impermanence does not exist in what is empty, why is it not an error to hold [that the empty is impermanent]?¹²

In other words, what is empty of intrinsic nature cannot be said to be either permanent or impermanent. Presumably, this is so because there is no independent, self-existent entity of which either permanence or impermanence could be predicated.

Suppose that one admits that no ultimately real entity exists which could be either permanent or impermanent. One might still argue that the act of mistaking or holding things to be either permanent or impermanent does exist. If the act of holding exists, then the one who holds, the cognition by which one holds, and the object which is held to be such-and-such must all exist.

Nāgārjuna replies in verse fifteen:

- <15> That by which one holds, the holding, the holder, and what is being held,
 Are all extinguished (*upaśānta*). Therefore holding does not exist.

Here “holding” is *grāha*; “that by which one holds” is *yena grhṇāti*; the “holder” is *grahīṭṛ*; and “what is being held” is *yad grhyate*. Gramatically, “holding” is the *bhāva* or verbal action; “that by which one holds” is the *kaṛaṇa* or instrument; the “holder” is the *kartṛ* or agent; and “what is being held” is the

karman or direct object. This sort of argument occurs at a number of places in the MMK, notably in chapter two and chapter eight. The point is that all these elements that go to make up an action are interdependent, and that therefore none of them exists by intrinsic nature.¹³

Continuing the same line of thought in verse sixteen, Nāgārjuna asks,

- <16> If holding either falsely or correctly does not exist,
For whom would there be error? For whom would there
be nonerror?

Thus there are no grounds for attachment either to the idea that one is in error or to the idea that one is not in error.

Verses seventeen and eighteen also argue that no one who is in error, whether conceived of as a self or a mind, exists by intrinsic nature. They do so by using a pattern of reasoning first used in chapter two of the MMK and referred to repeatedly in subsequent chapters.

- <17> For one who is [already] in error, errors are not possible.
For one who is not [yet] in error, errors are not possible.
<18> For one who is [in the process of] coming to be in error,
errors are not possible.
Consider for yourself: For whom are errors possible?

Here the focus is on the moment at which someone enters the state of being in error. If at that moment, one is already in error (*viparīta*), then coming to be in error again is redundant. (Here it is assumed that the error in question is the same in both cases.) If one is not yet in error (*aviparīta*), then by definition one is free from error; and it would be contradictory to say that one is free from error and comes to be in error at the same moment. As for one who is in the process of coming to be in error (*viparyasyamāna*), it is argued that there is no such third category, different both from one who is in error and one who is not in error. If what is meant is that one is partly in error and partly not in error, then the previous arguments apply to each part separately. Thus by this argument also, there is no self-existent entity which could be called "one who is in error."

Verse nineteen presents yet another argument on the same

point. Alluding to the examination of origination in the first chapter of the MMK, it says,

- <19> If errors are unoriginated, how will they exist?
 If errors are unoriginated, how will one who has fallen
 into error exist?

Here, of course, “unoriginated” (*anutpanna*) means “not originated by intrinsic nature.”

Following verse nineteen, the *Prasannapadā* adds a verse which is not found in the earlier Tibetan translations. I will also omit it here. Thus in what follows, verses 20 through 24 correspond to verses 21 through 25 of the *Prasannapadā*'s chapter twenty-three.

In verses ten and eleven, Nāgārjuna argued that since the pleasant and the unpleasant are established only in relation to each other, neither exists by intrinsic nature. Now, in verses twenty and twenty-one, he makes a similar argument concerning the four errors which were mentioned previously.

- <20> If self and purity and permanence and happiness exist,
 [Then] self, purity, permanence, and happiness are not
 errors.
 <21> If self and purity and permanence and happiness do not
 exist,
 [Then] nonself, impurity, impermanence, and suffering
 do not exist.

In other words, if conditioned things are permanent, then the notion of permanence is not an error. On the other hand, if there is nothing which is permanent, then the concept of permanence could not arise; and there would be nothing in relation to which impermanence could be conceived. Since the concepts of permanence and impermanence are relational, it is not possible to say that one is purely erroneous while the other is purely correct.

The relative character of permanence and impermanence also undermines the notion that there are entities which are permanent or impermanent by intrinsic nature. Intrinsic nature is, by definition, independent and “self-contained;” but permanence and impermanence imply each other. If we say that some-

thing is permanent, it can be so only in relation to something else which is impermanent; but intrinsic nature cannot be relational. These same arguments also apply to the other three pairs of alleged errors and nonerrors.

In the last three verses of chapter twenty-three, Nāgārjuna discusses the soteriological side of Madhyamaka more explicitly. Suppose that someone has pondered what has been said so far and has come to some deep understanding of it, deep enough that categories like pleasant and unpleasant are experienced as conceptual imputations rather than as objective facts about the world. Or, in more traditional terms, suppose that *śrutamayī prajñā* has been developed into *cintāmayī prajñā* and that in turn into *bhāvanāmayī prajñā*.¹⁴ What is the result for the person who has done so? In verse twenty-two, Nāgārjuna says,

<22> Thus ignorance (*avidyā*) ceases because of the cessation of error.
When ignorance has ceased, karmic conditionings (*saṃskārāḥ*) and so on cease.

While one would usually say that ignorance is a cause of error rather than *vice versa*,¹⁵ Nāgārjuna may mean that ignorance is a necessary and sufficient cause of error, so that the cessation of one necessarily entails the cessation of the other. As we have seen, ignorance and error lead to desire, hatred, and confusion; and these afflictions, in turn, lead to actions performed under their influence. In this context, *saṃskārāḥ*, which I have translated as “karmic conditionings,” are equivalent to *karman*, “action.” The context, of course, is the twelfold dependent origination, of which *avidyā* and *saṃskārāḥ* are the first two members. In verse twenty-two, “and so on” evidently refers to the remaining ten members, ending with birth (*jāti*) and old-age-and-death (*jarā-maraṇa*).

The idea that the cessation of ignorance leads to the cessation of suffering and rebirth is quite traditional in Buddhism. For Nāgārjuna, however, this “cessation” is not the ceasing to exist of some real entity called “ignorance” or “error.” Instead, it is the realization that all things, including even error and ignorance, lack intrinsic nature and do not exist as self-sufficient entities.

Indeed, according to Nāgārjuna, if ignorance and afflictions existed by intrinsic nature, liberation would be impossible. Thus verse twenty-three asks,

- <23> If any afflictions of anyone were existent by intrinsic nature,
How could they be abandoned? Who will abandon the existent?

Conversely, verse twenty-four inquires,

- <24> If any afflictions of anyone were nonexistent by intrinsic nature,
How could they be abandoned? Who will abandon the nonexistent?

Nāgārjuna states in chapter fifteen of the MMK that intrinsic nature is necessarily unchanging.¹⁶ Presumably, this is so because the independence and self-sufficiency of intrinsic nature would make it impervious to other influences. Thus if one had afflictions by intrinsic nature, this condition would continue indefinitely.

On the other hand, if the afflictions were nonexistent by intrinsic nature (*abhūtāḥ svabhāvena*), the question of abandoning them would not arise. Here *abhūtāḥ svabhāvena* apparently refers to a kind of absolute nonexistence in which things would be intrinsically unable even to appear. Nāgārjuna has said that the mode of existence of phenomena is similar to that of mirages or dreams. It is not the case that they exist by intrinsic nature, but they are perceived and experienced.

To sum up, according to Nāgārjuna, liberation does not come about through escaping or suppressing ignorance and error, but through a profound comprehension of their true nature, which is their lack of intrinsic nature. As Nāgārjuna put it in another work, the *Yuktiśaṣṭikā*,

The thorough comprehension of saṃsāric existence (*bhava*) itself is called nirvāṇa.¹⁷

Thus a Mādhyamika can say that ignorance and error cease, in the sense that one comes to understand something which one

did not understand before. But if one means that a real entity called "ignorance" is destroyed and another real entity called "enlightenment" or "liberation" is produced, this very idea becomes an obstacle to liberation. Before one is liberated, things lack intrinsic nature; and they are equally lacking in intrinsic nature after one is liberated.

Chapter twenty-three of the MMK shows how Nāgārjuna carries on philosophical analysis with a soteriological end in view. The soteriological goal is paramount, but philosophy can function as an important part of the soteriological process. Philosophy opens the door to an understanding of things as they really are. Other factors of the path come into play, as Nāgārjuna discusses in the *Ratnāvalī* and elsewhere; but it is the thorough realization of this understanding which constitutes liberation.

NOTES

1. An earlier version of this paper was read at the Eighth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, Calif., Aug. 8–10, 1987.

2. As a general rule, the name of the school and its philosophy is "Madhyamaka;" a follower of the school is a "Mādhyamika." See David Seyfort Ruegg, *The Literature of the Madhyamka School in India*, vol. VII, Fasc. 1 of *A History of Indian Literature*, ed. Jan Gonda, Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1981, p. 1 and n. 3.

3. See the discussion in Ruegg, *op. cit.*, pp. 2–3, with the references cited in nn. 7–9, especially Frederick J. Streng, *Emptiness: A Study in Religious Meaning*, Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1967, pp. 243–5.

4. *akṛtrimaḥ svabhāvo hi nirapekṣaḥ paratra ca.*

5. See MMK 15:8cd, *prakṛter anyathābhāvo na hi jatūpapadyate*, where *prakṛti* is used as a synonym of *svabhāva*.

6. See, e.g., the discussion in Christian Lindtner, *Nāgārjuniana: Studies in the Writings and Philosophy of Nāgārjuna*, Indiske Studier 4, Copenhagen: Akademisk Forlag, 1982, pp. 249–77. (See also Christian Lindtner, *Master of Wisdom*, Berkeley, Calif.: Dharma Publishing, 1986, pp. 314–44. *Master of Wisdom* is a revised version of *Nāgārjuniana*.)

7. *karmakleśakṣayān mokṣaḥ karmakleśā vikalpataḥ| te prapañcāt prapañcas tu śūnyatāyāṃ nirudhyate||*

8. *te ca kleśā na tattvataḥ.*

9. See especially MMK 2:18–21 and chapter six.

10. In 23:8ab, Nāgārjuna almost quotes a passage from the early Buddhist canon: *evam rūpā rasā saddā gandhā phassā ca kevalā iṭṭhā dhammā anīṭṭhā*

ca na ppavedhenti tādino (*Āṅguttaranikāya* III 379; see also *Vinaya* I 185, *Theraḡāthā* 643, and *Kathāvatthu* 90).

11. My translation of verses ten and eleven follows the wording of the early Tibetan translations. The *Akutobhayā*, the *Buddhapālita-Mūlamadhyamavṛtti*, the *Prajñāpradīpa*, and the *Prajñāpradīpa-ṭīkā* were all translated by Jñānagarbha and Cog ro Klu'i rgyal mtshan in the early ninth century. In some places, as here, their text of the verses of MMK is a little different from that found in the Tibetan translation and the Sanskrit manuscripts of the *Prasannapadā*, all of which are considerably later. See the appendix for the reconstructed Sanskrit text.

12. In MMK 23:13–14, as in 23:10–11, the wording of the earlier Tibetan translations is different from the text of the MMK in the *Prasannapadā*. Again, I have translated the earlier version.

13. An argument closely related to that in MMK 23:15 is given in *Vigrahavyāvartanī* 13–16, 66–67, where Nāgārjuna mentions *grāha*, *grāhya*, and *grahīṭṛ*.

14. See, e.g., Lindtner, *Nāgārjuniana*, pp. 269, 274 (*Master of Wisdom*, pp. 334–5, 339). The three types of *prajñā* or “discernment” are derived from *śruti*, “hearing,” i.e., hearing and learning the content of texts or oral teachings; *cintā*, “reflection” on what has been learned, including logical argument and analysis; and *bhāvanā*, “meditation” on what has thus been learned and examined.

15. See, e.g., *Abhidharmakośa* 5:32cd,33 and 5:36cd, with the *bhāṣya*.

16. See note 5.

17. *parijñānaṃ bhavasyaiva nirvāṇam iti kathyate*, *Yuktiṣaṣṭhikā* 6cd. See Lindtner, *Nāgārjuniana*, pp. 104–5 (*Master of Wisdom*, pp. 74–5, 174).

APPENDIX

Sanskrit Text of MMK, Chapter Twenty-Three

The text of most of the verses follows the edition of Louis de la Vallée Poussin, *Mūlamadhyamakakārikās de Nāgārjuna avec la Prasannapadā, Commentaire de Candrakīrti*, Bibliotheca Buddhica 4, St. Pétersbourg: Académie Impériale des Sciences, 1913, as emended by J.W. de Jong, “Textcritical Notes on the *Prasannapadā*,” *Indo-Iranian Journal* 20 (1978), pp. 217–52. The exceptions are 23:10,11,13,14, where the Sanskrit is reconstructed on the basis of the earlier Tibetan translations. See Lindtner, *Nāgārjuniana*, p. 26 n. 79 (*Master of Wisdom*, pp. 352–3 n. 61) and Akira Saito, *A Study of the Buddhapālita-Mūlamadhyamaka-vṛtti*, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Australian National University, 1984, p. xvi. The *Prasannapadā*’s verse 23–20 is omitted in the early translations and also here.

saṃkalpaprabhavo rāgo dveṣo mohaś ca kathyate|
śubhāśubhaviparyāsān saṃbhavanti pratītya hi||

śubhāśubhaviparyāsān saṃbhavanti pratītya ye te svabhāvān na vidyante tasmāt kleśā na tattvataḥ	2
ātmano 'stitvanāstitve na kathamñic ca sidhyataḥ taṃ vināstitvanāstitve kleśānāṃ sidhyataḥ katham	3
kasyacid dhi bhavantīme kleśāḥ sa ca na sidhyati kaścīd āho vinā kañcit santi kleśā na kasyacit	4
svakāyadrṣṭivat kleśāḥ kliṣṭe santi na pañcadhā svakāyadrṣṭivat kliṣṭaṃ kleśeṣv api na pañcadhā	5
svabhāvato na vidyante śubhāśubhaviparyayāḥ pratītya katamān kleśāḥ śubhāśubhaviparyayān	6
rūpaśabdarasasparśā gandhā dharmās ca ṣaḍvidham vastu rāgasya doṣasya mohasya ca vikalpyate	7
rūpaśabdarasasparśā gandhā dharmās ca kevalāḥ gandharvanagarākārā maricisvapnasamñibhāḥ	8
aśubham vā śubham vāpi kutas teṣu bhaviṣyati māyāpuruṣakalpeṣu pratibimbameṣu ca	9
anapekṣya śubham nāsty aśubham prajñāpayemahi yat pratītyāśubham tasmāc chubham naivopapadyate	10
anapekṣyāśubham nāsti śubham prajñāpayemahi yat pratītya śubham tasmād aśubham naiva vidyate	11
avidyamāne ca śubhe kuto rāgo bhaviṣyati aśubhe 'vidyamāne ca kuto dveṣo bhaviṣyati	12
anitye nityam ity evaṃ yadi grāho viparyayaḥ na nityaṃ vidyate śūnye kuto grāho 'viparyayaḥ	13
anitye 'nityam ity evaṃ yadi grāho 'viparyayaḥ nānityam vidyate śūnye kuto grāho 'viparyayaḥ	14
yena grhñāti yo grāho grahitā yac ca grhyate upaśāntāni sarvaṇi tasmād grāho na vidyate	15
avidyamāne grāhe ca mithyā vā samyag eva vā bhaved viparyayaḥ kasya bhavet kasyāvīparyayaḥ	16
na cāpi viparītasya saṃbhavanti viparyayāḥ na cāpy avīparītasya saṃbhavanti viparyayāḥ	17

na viparyasyamānasya saṁbhavanti viparyayāḥ vimṛśasva svayaṁ kasya saṁbhavanti viparyayāḥ	18
anutpannāḥ kathaṁ nāma bhaviṣyanti viparyayāḥ viparyayeshv ajāteṣu viparyayagataḥ kutah	19
ātmā ca śuci nityaṁ ca sukhaṁ ca yadi vidyate ātmā ca śuci nityaṁ ca sukhaṁ ca na viparyayāḥ	20
nātmā ca śuci nityaṁ ca sukhaṁ ca yadi vidyate anātmā 'śucy anityaṁ ca naiva duḥkhaṁ ca vidyate	21
evaṁ nirudhyate 'vidyā viparyayanirodhanāt avidyāyāṁ niruddhāyāṁ saṁskārādyāṁ nirudhyate	22
yadi bhūtāḥ svabhāvena kleśāḥ kecid dhi kasyacit kathaṁ nāma prahīeran kaḥ svabhāvaṁ prahāsyati	23
yady abhūtāḥ svabhāvena kleśāḥ kecid dhi kasyacit kathaṁ nāma prahīeran ko 'sadbhāvaṁ prahāsyati	24