

# THE SĀṂKHYA KĀRIKĀ OF ĪŚVARA KṚṢṆA



With appreciation for the many years of personal teaching in India with my root Yoga teacher TKV Desikachar, along with further word by word studies of the Sāṁkhya Kārikā through personal lessons with S Ramaswami.

This Sāṁkhya Kārikā Workbook is offered in the spirit of Paramparā.

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May it support those who use it in their journey towards Viveka and Svatantra.

āryā 1

duḥkha-trayā-abhighātāt-jijñāsā tat-abhighātake hetau |  
dṛṣṭe sā-apārthā cet na-ekāntā-atyantataḥ abhāvāt ||

āryā 2

dr̥ṣṭavat-ānuśravikaḥ saḥ hi-aviśuddhi-kṣayā-atiśaya-yuktaḥ |  
tat-viparītaḥ śreyān vyaktāḥ avyakta-jñā-vijñānāt ||

āryā 3

mūlaprakṛtiḥ avikṛtiḥ mahadādyāḥ prakṛti-vikṛtayaḥ sapta |  
ṣoḍaśakaḥ tu vikāraḥ na prakṛtiḥ na vikṛtiḥ puruṣaḥ ||

āryā 4

dṛṣṭam-anumānam-āptavacanam ca sarva-pramāṇa-siddhatvāt |  
trividham pramāṇam-iṣṭam prameya-siddhiḥ pramāṇāt-dhi ||

āryā 5

prati-viṣayādhyavasāyaḥ dṛṣṭam trividham-anumānam-ākhyātam |  
tat-liṅga-liṅgi-pūrvakam-āptaśrutiḥ āptavacanam tu ||

āryā 6

sāmānyataḥ tu dṛṣṭāt-atīndriyāṇāṃ pratītiḥ anumānāt |  
tasmādapi cā-siddham parokṣam-āpta-āgamāt-siddham ||

āryā 7

atidūrāt sāmīpyāt-indriyaghātāt-mano-anavasthānāt |  
saukṣmyāt-vyavadhānāt-abhibhavāt samānābhihārāt-ca ||



āryā 8

saukṣmyāt-tadanupalabdhiḥ nā-abhāvāt kāryataḥ tadupalabdheḥ |  
mahadādi tat-ca kāryaṃ prakṛtisarūpaṃ virūpaṃ ca ||

āryā 9

asat-akaraṇāt-upādānagrahaṇāt sarva-sambhavā-abhāvāt |  
śaktasya śakyakaraṇāt kāraṇabhāvāt-ca satkāryam ||

āryā 10

hetumat-anityam-avyāpi sakriyam-anekam-āśritaṃ līngam |  
sāvayavaṃ paratantraṃ vyaktaṃ viparītam-avyaktam ||

āryā 11

triguṇam-aviveki viṣayaḥ sāmānyam-acetanam prasavadharmi |  
vyaktaṁ tathā pradhānam tadviparitaḥ tathā ca pumān ||

āryā 12

pṛīti-apṛīti-viṣāda-ātmakāḥ prakāśa-pravṛtti-niyamārthāḥ |  
anyonya-abhibhava-āśraya-janana-mithuna-vṛttayaḥ ca guṇāḥ ||

āryā 13

sattvaṃ laghu prakāśakam-iṣṭam-upaṣṭambhakam calaṃ ca rajaḥ |  
guru varaṇakam-eva tamaḥ pradīpavat-ca-arthataḥ vṛttiḥ ||

āryā 14

avivekyādiḥ siddhaḥ traiguṇyāt-tat-viparyaya-abhāvāt |  
kāraṇa-guṇa-ātmakatvāt-kāryasya-avyaktam-āpi siddham ||

āryā 15

bhedānāṃ parimāṇāt samanvayat śaktiḥ pravṛtṭeḥ ca |  
kāraṇa-kārya-vibhāgāt-avibhāgāt-vaiśvarūpyasya ||



āryā 16

kāraṇam-asti-avyaktaṃ pravartate triguṇataḥ samdayāt-ca |  
pariṇāmataḥ salilavat prati-prati-guṇa-āśraya-viśeṣāt ||

āryā 17

saṅghāta-parārthatvāt triguṇādi-viparyāt-adhiṣṭhānāt |  
puruṣaḥ asti bhokṭṛbhāvāt kaivalyārthaṃ pravṛtteḥ ca ||

āryā 18

janana-maraṇa-karaṇānāṃ pratininyamāt-ayugapat-pravṛtthe ca |  
puruṣa-bahutvaṃ siddhaṃ traiguṇya-viparyayāt-ca-eva ||

āryā 19

tasmāt-ca viparyāsāt siddham sākṣitvam-asya puruṣasya |  
kaivalyaṃ mādhyastyaṃ draṣṭṛtvam-akartṛbhāvaḥ ca ||

āryā 20

tasmāt-tat-samyogāt-acetanaṃ cetanāvat-iva liṅgam |  
guṇakartṛtve-api tathā karteva bhavati-udāsīnaḥ ||

āryā 21

puruṣasya darśanārthaṃ kaivalyārthaṃ tathā pradhānasya |  
paṅgu-andhavat-ubhayoḥ api saṃyogaḥ tat-kṛtaḥ sargaḥ ||

āryā 22

prakṛteḥ mahāṃ tataḥ ahaṃkāraḥ tasmāt-gaṇaḥ ca śoḍaśakaḥ |  
tasmāt-api śoḍaśakāḥ pañcabhyaḥ pañcabhūtāni ||

āryā 23

adhyavasāyaḥ buddhiḥ dharmāḥ jñānaḥ virāga aiśvaryaḥ |  
sāttvikam-etaḍ-rūpaḥ tāmasam-asmāt-viparyastam ||



āryā 24

abhimānaḥ ahaṁkāraḥ tasmād dvidhaḥ pravartate sargaḥ |  
ekādāśakaḥ ca gaṇaḥ tanmātraḥ pañcakaḥ ca-eva ||

āryā 25

sāttvikaḥ ekādaśakaḥ pravartate vaikṛtād ahaṃkāraṭ |  
bhūtādeḥ tanmātraḥ sa tāmasaḥ taijasād ubhayam ||

āryā 26

buddhi-indriyaṇi cakṣuḥ srotra-ghrāṇa-rasana-tvak-ākhyāni |  
vāk-pāṇi-pāda-pāyū-upastāḥ karmendriyāṇi-āhuḥ ||

āryā 27

ubhayātmakam-atra manaḥ saṅkalpakam-indriyaṃ ca  
sādharmyāt |

guṇa-pariṇāma-viśeṣāt-nānātvaṃ bāhya-bhedāḥ ca ||

āryā 28

śabdadiṣu pañcānām ālocanamātram-iṣyate vṛttiḥ |  
vacana-ādāṇa-viharaṇa-utsarga-ānandāḥ ca pañcānām ||

āryā 29

svālakṣanyam vṛttiḥ trayasya saiṣā bhavati-asāmānya |  
sāmānya-karaṇa-vṛttiḥ prāṇādyā vāyavaḥ pañca ||

āryā 30

yugapat-catuṣṭayasya tu vṛttiḥ krama-śaśca tasya nirdiṣṭā |  
dṛṣṭe tathā-api-adṛṣṭe trayasya tat-pūrvikā vṛttiḥ ||

āryā 31

svāṃ svāṃ pratipadyante paraspara-ākuta-hetukāṃ vṛttim |  
puruṣārtha eva hetuḥ na kenacit kāryate karaṇam ||



āryā 32

karaṇaṃ trayodaśavidhaṃ tat āharaṇa dhāraṇa prakāśakaram |  
kāryaṃ ca tasya daśadha āhāryaṃ dhāryaṃ prakāśyaṃ ca ||

āryā 33

antaḥ karaṇaṃ trividhaṃ daśadhā bāhyaṃ trayasya viṣayākhyam |  
sāmpratakālaṃ bāhyaṃ trikālam ābhyantaraṃ karaṇam ||

āryā 34

buddhi indriyāṇi teṣāṃ pañca viśeṣa aviśeṣa viṣayāṇi |  
vāk bhavati śabda viṣayā śeṣāṇi tu pañca viṣayāṇi ||

āryā 35

śāntaḥ karaṇaṃ buddhiḥ sarvaṃ viṣayaṃ avagāhate yasmāt |  
tasmāt trividhaṃ karaṇaṃ dvāri dvārāṇi śeṣāṇi ||

āryā 36

ete pradīpakalphāḥ paraspara vilakṣaṇāḥ guṇa viśeṣāḥ |  
kṛtsaṃ puruṣayā arthaṃ prakāśya buddhau prayacchanti ||

āryā 37

sarvaṃ prati upabhogam yasmāt puruṣasya sādhayati buddhiḥ |  
sa eva ca viśinaṣṭi punaḥ pradhāna puruṣāntaram sūkṣmam ||

āryā 38

tanmātrāṇi aviśeṣāḥ tebhyo bhūtāni pañca pañcabhyaḥ |  
ete smṛtāḥ viśeṣāḥ śāntāḥ ghorāḥ ca mūḍhāḥ ca ||

āryā 39

sūkṣmāḥ mātāpitṛjāḥ saha prabhūtaiḥ tridhā viśeṣāḥ syuḥ |  
sūkṣmāḥ teṣāṃ niyatāḥ mātā pitṛjāḥ nivartaṇte ||



āryā 40

pūrva-utpannam asaktaṃ niyatam mahat ādi sūkṣma-paryāntam |  
saṃsarati nirupa-bhogaṃ bhāvaiḥ adhivāsitaṃ liṅgam ||

āryā 41

citram yathā āśrayam ṛte sthāṇvādibhyo vinā yathā chāyā |  
tadvat vinā viśeṣaiḥ na tiṣṭhati nirāśrayam liṅgam ||

āryā 42

puruṣārtha-hetukam idaṃ nimitta naimittika prasaṅgena |  
prakṛteḥ vibhutva yogat naṭavat vyavatiṣṭhate liṅgam ||

āryā 43

sāṃsiddhikāḥ ca bhāvāḥ prakṛtikāḥ vaikṛtikāḥ ca dharmādhāḥ |  
dr̥ṣṭāḥ karaṇāśrayiṇaḥ kāryāśrayiṇaḥ ca kalalādyāḥ ||

āryā 44

dharmeṇa gamanam ūrdhva gamanam adhastād bhavati  
adharmeṇa |  
jñānena ca apavargaḥ viparyayāt iṣyate bandhaḥ ||

āryā 45

vairāgyat prakṛtilayaḥ saṃsāro bhavati rājasāt rāgāt |  
aiśvaryāt avighātaḥ viparyayāt tad viparyāsaḥ ||

āryā 46

eṣah pratyayasargaḥ viparyaya-aśakti tuṣṭiḥ siddhi-ākhyaḥ |  
guṇa-vaiṣamya-vimardāt tasya ca bhedaḥ tu pāñcāśat ||

āryā 47

pañca viparyaya bhedaḥ bhavaṅti aśaktiḥ ca karaṇa vaikalyāt |  
aṣṭāvimśāti bhedaḥ tuṣṭiḥ navadhā aṣṭadhā siddhiḥ ||



āryā 48

bhedah tamasaḥ aṣṭa vidhaḥ mohasaya ca daśavidhaḥ  
maha-mohaḥ |  
tāmisraḥ aṣṭādaśadhā tathā bhavati aṅdhatā misraḥ ||

āryā 49

ekādaśa indriyavadhāḥ saha buddhi vadhaiḥ aśaktiḥ uddiṣṭā |  
saptadaśa vadhāḥ buddheḥ viparyayāt tuṣṭi siddhīnām ||

āryā 50

ādhyātmikāḥ cetasraḥ prakṛti upādāna kāla bhāgya ākhyāḥ |  
bāhyāḥ viṣaya uparamāt pañca nava tuṣṭayaḥ abhimatāḥ ||

āryā 51

ūhaḥ śabdaḥ adhyayanam dukkha-vighātāḥ trayah sukṛt prāptiḥ |  
dānam ca siddhayaḥ aṣṭau siddheḥ pūrvaḥ ankuśaḥ trividhaḥ ||

āryā 52

na vinā bhāvaiḥ liṅgaṃ na vinā liṅgena bhāva nirvṛttiḥ |  
liṅgena bhāvākhyaḥ tasmāt dvedhā pravartate sargaḥ ||

āryā 53

aṣṭa vikalpaḥ daivaḥ tairyagyonah ca pañcadhā bhavati |  
mānuṣakaḥ ca eka vidhaḥ samasataḥ bhautikaḥ sargaḥ ||

āryā 54

ūrdhvaṃ sattva-viśālaḥ tamo-viśālaḥ ca mūlataḥ sargaḥ |  
madhye rajo-viśālaḥ brahmādi stamba-prayaṅtaḥ ||

āryā 55

tatra jarāmarāṇa kṛtaṃ duḥkhaṃ prāpnoti cetanaḥ puruṣaḥ |  
liṅgasya avinivṛtteḥ tasmāt duḥkhaṃ svabhāvena ||



āryā 56

ityeṣaḥ prakṛti kṛtaḥ mahadādi viśeṣa bhūta paryantaḥ |  
prati puruṣa vimokṣārthaṃ svārthe iva pararthe ārambhaḥ ||

āryā 57

vatsa vivṛddhi nimittaṃ kṣīrasya yathā pravṛttiḥ ajñasya |  
puruṣa vimokṣa nimittaṃ tathā pravṛttiḥ pradhānasya ||

āryā 58

autsukya nivṛtti-arthaṃ yathā kriyasu pravartate lokaḥ |  
puruṣasya vimokṣārthaṃ pravartate tadvat avyaktam ||

āryā 59

raṅgasya darśayitvā nivartate nartakī yathā nṛtyāt |  
puruṣasya tathā ātmānaṃ prakāśya vinivartate prakṛtiḥ ||

āryā 60

nanavidhaiḥ upāyaiḥ upakāriṇi anupakāriṇaḥ puṃsaḥ |  
guṇavati aguṇasya sataḥ tasya artham apārthakaṃ carati ||

āryā 61

prakṛteḥ sukumārataraṃ na kiñcit asti iti me matiḥ bhavati |  
yā dṛṣṭā asmi iti punaḥ na darśanam upaiti puruṣasya ||

āryā 62

tasmāt na badhyate-asau na mucyate na api saṃsarati kaścit |  
saṃsarati badhyate mucyate ca nānāśrayā prakṛtiḥ ||

āryā 63

rūpaiḥ saptabhiḥ eva tu badhnāti ātmānam ātmanā prakṛtiḥ |  
saiva ca purṣārthaṃ prati vimocayati eka rūpeṇa ||



āryā 64

evaṃ tattvābhyāsāt na asmi na me na aham iti aparīṣeṣam |  
aviparyayāt viśuddhaṃ kevalam utpadyate jñānam ||

āryā 65

tena nivṛttapraśavā arthavaśāt sapta rūpa vinivṛttām |  
prakṛtiṃ paśyati puruṣaḥ prekṣakavat avasthitaḥ svacchaḥ ||

āryā 66

dr̥ṣṭā mayā iti upekṣakaḥ ekaḥ dr̥ṣṭā aham iti uparamati anya |  
sati saṃyoge-api prayojanaṃ nāsti sargasya ||

āryā 67

samyak-jñāna adhigamāt dharmadīnām akāraṇa prāptau |  
tiṣṭhati saṃskāra vaśāt cakṛā bhramivat dhṛta śarīraḥ ||

āryā 68

prāpte śarīrabhede caritārthatvāt pradhāna vinivṛtteḥ |  
aikāntikam ātyāntikam ubhayaṃ kaivalyaṃ prāpnoti ||

āryā 69

puruṣārtha jñānam idaṃ guhyaṃ paramarṣiṇā samākhyātam |  
sthiti utpatti pralayaḥ cintyaṅte yatṛa bhūtānām ||

āryā 70

etat pavitrām agryam muniḥ āsuraye-anukampayā |  
āsurīḥ api pañcaśikhāya tena ca bahudhā kṛtaṃ tantram ||

āryā 71

śiṣya-paramṛparyā-agatam īśvarakṛṣṇena caitad āryābhiḥ |  
saṃkṣiptam āryamatinā saṃyak-vijñāya siddhāntam ||



āryā 72

saptatyāṃ kila ye arthāḥ te arthāḥ kṛtsnasya ṣaṣṭitantrasya |  
ākhyāyikā-virahitāḥ paravāda-vivarjitāḥ cā api ||

āryā 73

tasmāt samāsa-dṛṣṭaṃ śāstram idaṃ nā-arthataḥ ca parihīnam |  
tantrasya ca bṛhanmūrteḥ darpaṇa-saṅkrāntam-iva bimḃam ||