

Questions on Mundaka Upanishad

1. Explain the meaning of Mundaka and the Upanishad shanti mantra.
2. Why is Self-Knowledge Supreme (Sarva-Vidya-Pratistha)? (verse 1.1.1)
3. Discuss the question of Shaunaka Rishi in verse 1.1.3. Why is it important to know that by knowing which everything else is known?
4. Who would have such question, would really dwell upon it and look for an answer as well?
5. What is Para Vidya and Apra Vidya? What is their scope?
6. Discuss how Para and Apra vidya are distinct.
7. What is revealed by verse 1.1.6? How is it relevant to the question of Shaunaka?
8. What are the three different examples of creation and how they highlight different points about creation from Imperishable – Akshara?
9. What is the difference between Sarvajna and Sarvavit?
10. What is meant by 'Whose austerity is Knowledge' in verse 1.1.9?
11. Why discussion on Karma or Apra Vidya is taken up in section 2 of first Mundaka? How is it relevant to someone who does not perform Vedic karmas to begin with?
12. What is destruction of seven worlds in 1.2.3? For whom? How to avoid it?
13. What is attained by the performers of various actions?
14. What are the limitations of Karma? Why such people are called 'deluded'?
15. What are some of the strong remarks the Upanishad makes about those who take karma alone as the Supreme? Does this mean we should not perform any Vedic karma?
16. Discuss 1.2.12. How are some of the qualifications of the student highlighted here.
17. What if I do not have dispassion as described in 1.2.12? Should I study Upanishad or give up?
18. If I think I am losing out on all the fun in the world and not getting much out of Vedanta, what is the right advice for me to make Vedanta more effective?
19. Why is the pursuit of Knowledge important?