

"Comparative Cosmology" by Akif Manaf J., Ph.D.

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It is explained in the Bhagavatam that if someone from the earth were to reach the heavenly planets he neither can stay there with an earthly body nor can he observe the high-dimensional reality. There are many verses in the Bhagavatam, which describe traveling from one planet to another through outer space. For some living beings, such as advanced *yogis* and *devas*, inhabitants of higher planetary systems, it is possible to travel from one part of the universe to another without using spaceships. They are able to travel through space by using mystic power and are able to transcend the limitations of space and time. However, very advanced spacecrafts are also used for interplanetary travel. In the Bhagavatam and all Vedic literatures, there are many descriptions of *vimanas*, aircrafts.

The Bhagavatam describes spaceships of different categories. One category is gross mechanical spaceships called *ka-pota-vayu*. *Ka* means 'outer space,' and *pota* means 'ship.' These kind of spaceships are known on our planet. The second category of spaceships are very subtle. They are called *akasa-patana*. The *akasa-patana* spaceships can fly at the speed of mind. In the verse (4.12.27) of the Bhagavatam a transcendental spaceship is described. The general mass of people can neither see such crafts nor understand how they fly in the sky.

On different planets, there are different kinds of spaceships. On this gross planet earth, there are spaceships run by mechanical means, but on other planets, the spaceships are run by sound vibrations not by mechanical means. They are used by the denizens of the heavenly planets for enjoyment, such as traveling from one planet to another.

On other planets, such as the Siddhalokas, the denizens can travel from one planet to another without spaceships. The inhabitants of these planets are materially perfect beings who have full capacities to control gravity, space and time. They are naturally endowed with mystic powers to go from one planet to another without using any spaceships.

On the Satyaloka planetary system, the spacecrafts are controlled by psychic power not by gross mechanical means. The higher-dimensional sphere of the upper planetary systems is the natural field of flying spaceships of this type.

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