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"Srimad Bhagavatham"

Discourse by Master Kumar Garu on Sunday, the 19th of February 2011, at Visakhapatnam.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Lord Maitreya is describing the nature of the Lord to Vidura. We discussed in the last class that the Lord has no experience of this creation (dream) and all experience is only to the beings in this creation. So the beings have sleep, dream and awareness states of experience.

Though the Lord exists as beings, due to the first veil of ignorance, the beings feel that they exist and experience everything in this creation. With that experience, he gains knowledge. When that knowledge is complete, he realizes that the Lord exists as him. This also creates devotion towards the Lord in him. He remembers that everything that happens through him is the Lord acting through him. His spiritual and mundane life's run smoothly and with great splendor as he remembers the Lord at all times. He sees everything in the creation as the magic of the Lord and enjoys the bliss of the Lord.

The others in ignorance forget the Lord and goes through Ups and Downs in life. He feels that the Life is a huge burden. He is bounded by his own karma. He has no experience of happiness.

Here Lord Maitreya gives the meaning of Bhakti (Devotion).

Our Manas (mind), senses, body and our relations are given to us by the Lord to have complete experience. Here relations should not bind us. If relations lead to attachments and they bind us, there is no good experience. It does not mean you stay reserved away from everyone. Such a one has no happiness. You should include everyone and move along with everyone without getting attached to anyone.

Now this mind, body and relations do not exist forever. They are all temporary and change from life to life. As all this is temporary, we should not get attached to anything. The only one who stays with us forever is the Lord. The one who remembers the Lord at all times is the one who is never bounded. Such a one knows how to live with others and attend to his duties without getting attached to any.

The lives of grand Masters are examples for such living. The life of Lord Rama is the best example with the Lord himself coming and showing us how to lead a life and experience it to the best.

Suppose you planted a plant and taking care of it regularly. Do you always sit with it and hug it? You just feel happy when the plants grow. Similarly a gardener takes care of a garden but never attached to them. Same should be with us.

So the only thing that remains and you (the being) and the Lord (basis for the existence of being). Everything else comes and goes. Everything else is just for the sake of experience. Any work that comes to you is for your experience. It is not for you to get attached to it or possess it or feel proud of it. If you escape from the

work that comes to you, you lose the related experience. The work again comes to you again and again until you get that experience.

The one who is attached to something does more towards that thing and neglects other things. Also when one does not perform the work that comes to him and tries to do someone else's work is also bounded. When the work is complete, one should know to renounce from that work. Otherwise it again causes binding.

All Yogis take birth, perform the work given to them and depart once the work is complete. It is only possible to them. They take birth and depart according to the work to be done.

An actor should know when to enter and when to leave the stage in a drama or cinema. If one does over-acting; such a one is not a good actor. He cannot please the audience.

Our nature is like children in school. The children in class are disciplined and behave properly as long as the teacher is in the class. Once the teacher leaves the class, the students behave like monkeys without any control. Similarly, only as long as the Lord is recollected by us and we are aligned with the Lord, our nature behaves properly.

So Bhakti (devotion) is the boon given by the Lord to us to stay in alignment with him. Lord Krishna says "The impulse, for you to remember me and stay in alignment with me, comes from me. I grace the one who is to be uplifted." Until then one goes through ups and downs.

Once you have devotion towards the Lord, your nature stays in your control. Such a one has no problems in life. Problems exist only when you see something other than the Lord. When everything is seen as the Lord, there are no problems in life. An ardent devotee has no problems in life. The Lord teaches everything to a devotee as and when it is required by him. That is the facility in devotion.

So for liberation, devotion towards the Lord is enough. Please underline that point. Lord Krishna gives many practices to Arjuna but in the end he says, "All this cannot be done by you. So just remember me and do everything. I will take care of everything."

Lord Maitreya is telling this to Vidura because Vidura is a great scholar and knew many things but not the most important thing of Bhakti. That is why he got stuck with his knowledge.

Devotion increases when one sees the good qualities in the persons around him. If you see the bad habits of others and comment on them, then your devotion goes on diminishing. The one who sees and highlights the bad qualities of the greatest personalities is the most foolish one. A devotee is one who sees good qualities even in the persons leading a worst life.

One may be doing rituals, visiting temples and performing acts of goodwill regularly but still may not be in alignment with the Lord. The main cause for not being able to be in alignment with the Lord is one's inability to see the virtues (good) in everyone around.

After listening all this, Vidura pays his respect to Maitreya and does Namaskaram to him. Now Vidura speaks to Maitreya:

“O Great one, with your instruction, I understood how Lord Narayana is the one Lord of the universe. You also cleared my doubt of how beings in the body are bounded by their karma.”

Many feel that if all the beings are forms of the Lord, why did the beings become bad or get stuck in doing their karma? It is only because of the separation from the Lord and forgetting the Lord. It results in ignorance.

Vidura continues

“I also understood why the Lord is not bounded by anything in this creation. I also understood that the beings in this creation are under the veil of maya and are bounded by the 3 qualities. To overcome the veil of maya and the 3 qualities, they have to stay in alignment with the one who is beyond the 3 qualities.

I also understood if one has devotion towards the Lord is the knower and is out of ignorance. I understood that the Lord is the basis for this creation and how this creation came out from him. The Lord is in us and so we are in the Lord.”

It is like the ocean is in the wave, so the wave is in the ocean. How can a wave feel “I AM” when it is a part of the ocean? The wave emerges and dissolves and emerges again. Same with us. So we are all in him and emerge from him and dissolve into him.

Many things happen around us. Everything that happens in this world has a past cause for it. Nothing happens in this creation without purpose. A devotee knows this and sees everything as the magic of the Lord. The others try to find causes and end up nowhere. They go on thinking “Why this happened and why that happened!” So don’t question anything. Just go on performing your duties and learn to accept everything. The one who goes on trying to find logic behind everything is never happy. The one who accepts everything is always happy. Such is the present status of Vidura who is looking for logic behind what has happened and is in sadness. He now understands that all this is the magic of the Lord and everything that has happened now has a past cause which is unknown to us.

Vidura Continues...

“The one, who fears that if he remembers that the Lord is as him, then what will happen to him and his freedom, is always sad.”

One who remembers and sees the Lord in everyone and attends to his duties is the only one who can be liberated. One who feels happy or sad by thinking about the happenings in the world is stuck in the mundane world. If we see the present situation in the world, many countries are in crisis. The knower accepts the present situation as he knows the time is such now. He does not feel sad about the present scenario of the world. So never feel sad about what is happening in the world. Learn to accept it. Nothing happens if you feel sad. Master EK used to say “If something good happens when we feel sad about something, then we can feel sad as a group.”

Master EK wrote in Mandara Scripture about the creation “There is no why of it, only the how of it.” So do not question “Why?” We know very little. We do not know the past or future, we know very little at present. How can we try to find the logic by knowing so little? All is in divine order. So remember that and accept everything.

Vidura now understands that he knows very little and knows that everything as per Lord's will.

After having cleared so many of his doubt's, now Vidura asks some more questions which we will discuss in the coming classes.

-Swasthi