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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master Kumar on Sunday, the 01st of December 2013, at Visakh.
(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 3:

Sri Maha Vishnu took birth as Lord Kapila and is detailing Bhakti (Devotion), Gyana (Knowledge), Vairagya (detachment/renunciation) and Yoga to his mother, Devahuti. Here, though Devahuti is his mother, in the tradition of Teacher-Student, there is only relation at the soul level and no worldly relation. But still, Kapila addresses her as mother.

Kapila says "When one realizes the Divine principle behind the Root nature, one stands liberated from the bondage of the 3 qualities." We should realize what we mean when we say I AM. We should the self and our personality around which there are 3 layers of mind, senses and body through which we relate to outer world. Depending upon the nature of the personality each one of us act in this world. This personality does not affect I AM.

We have electricity which manifests through a fan causing rotary motion, manifests as light through a bulb, etc. Is the nature of electricity to rotate or give light? The electricity has no nature of its own. It takes the nature of a fan or a bulb or some other appliance through which it works. The nature of the fan or bulb does not affect electricity. Similar is the relation between I AM and personality.

I AM is nothing but THAT I AM. We have an occult statement "I AM THAT I AM". We hear it many times. First we should know THAT. It is a principle which has no nature, no qualities and no form. From THAT, the Root Nature (Mula Prakruti) emerges. From Root nature, the creation manifests out of the 3 qualities. Mulaprakruthi (Root Nature) is also beyond qualities.

We are also pure in existence, but as we get into three qualities, we get modified some more. We get several thoughts or will and we enter into them. Once we enter into the 8 fold world, there is chance of us forgetting our original identity. But if we evolve beyond 3 qualities, there are no thoughts. There is no-thought state where one remains as pure light. You are beyond the thoughts that come through you. You stand as pulsating light. It referred to as Divine Mother. The Divine Father is unseen. He remains in the background but he is the basis for this light.

Electricity cannot be seen. But when it flows through appliances, the respective appliances work. Electricity is like Lord Absolute, and the appliances are the expression of HIM. This expression is the female aspect, the Divine Mother. The Divine Mother is the dynamic projection of the Lord Absolute. All the forms emerge out of the Divine Mother as various combinations of the 3 qualities and 5 elements and they animate by the presence of the Lord. The being that enters the form made out of 3 qualities and 5 elements is called Purusha. This is true with respect to the humans (males & females) and animals as well. All the forms grow and animate due to this presence of the soul inside. The one who entered the whole creation of 3 qualities and 5 elements is called Purana Purusha. It is the Supreme Soul.

So in this aspect, Madam Blavatsky, gave an example. Man created God in the form of Man. Man, created four arms God and started praying. A dog, at a distance, saw this and went to their community and said, “Men are fools, they created a form of themselves and started praying it. We’ve our own form, a bigger form of dog, and we pray it. It is the real God.” Similarly a cat sees man and dog praying and it creates a God in cat form. So in this manner, everyone created his own God and thinks that it is only the God. But there is one principle which is the basis for all this. That principle takes to all these forms. So we should look to THAT principle. If THAT recedes from all this, then everything falls.

So we are advised to see THAT background principle which is responsible for the existence and animation of all this irrespective of what happens. When one speaks, see the background principle which enables him to speak. He may be speaking right or wrong. It does not matter when you are relating to THAT.

Very few know THAT principle (Tatva). One who sees THAT does not see different religions. One who does not know THAT, he sees all religions as different, all gods as different and thinks his God is superior to other Gods. That is true to them until they realize the higher truth.

THAT principle is the highest in creation. We discussed the Cosmo Genesis in detail and know how the Cosmic Persons is born out of the 27 principles that emerge out of this ONE principle. Cosmic person is the Supreme Soul from whom all beings emerged as individual souls. This soul is surrounded by 8 layers of nature and we are stuck in them.

We should know that we took to a human form. It is not us. It is better thought. Some get stuck in even deeper veils. Who are you, when asked, some say, I’m a doctor, I’m so and so. But that is not full truth. Kapila is here telling about the complete truth. One who realizes the complete truth, stands above this 8 fold nature.

The feature of THAT (Tattva) is existence. It is always present irrespective of creational existence. Tatva or Brahman is present even without form. We detailed about Tattva and Cosmo Genesis for about 2 years here in Bhagavatam. You are THAT I AM. We are pure existence, till we get into 3 qualities. 3 qualities and 5 elements make the 8 layers around us. Based on the 3 qualities, the 5 elements keep changing from time to time. This 8 layered plane is called Kurukshetra, called as field of Action. To play in this field, we need to have knowledge. Can you play a game without knowing the game? If you play the game only in the way you have to play, you can return to your original state. Otherwise you are injured and lost in the game. The rule in this play is “only attend to your duties and nothing else”. If not, you create consequences out of your activities and consequently stuck in them. In sleep, you come out of the field and go back the next morning. If you lose the game, you are lifted from the field, in the form of death and sent back again to play. This keeps on happening until you win the game and come out of it.

We try to own everything and feel sad when it is not present. In 2nd chapter of Bhagawadgita, Krishna says, that which is not there will not come into existence, that which is present, will never cease to exist. We should remember this truth. We just need to look at what is our responsibility is and attend to it. If we get into other’s affairs, we get struck. We get nature’s support, when we follow our duty. So sticking to our duty is the best path. Krishna calls this as Karyam Karma. We have many moral stories which exemplify this truth to us.

So most of the times, we think ourselves as our body. As we identify, most of the times, with the body. Some say my body is not well. They are evolved beings. Instead of saying I'm not well, they say, my body is not well. During lunch time, they say, my body needs some food. It is passive speaking. Everything is formed around you but they are all not you. You stick them to you due to your ignorance.

So this is all THAT. See THAT in all especially in you. See THAT in I AM. It is neither male nor female and not even androgynous. It is combination of everything which cannot be described. One who realizes THAT is in the highest of states.

We are mostly stuck in our thoughts. We are the basis for our thoughts but they rule over us. Are thoughts coming due to me or am I coming due to my thoughts? These thoughts are like our children. We see children who don't listen to their parents. It is not normal. Hence we are advised to observe our thoughts on a daily basis. Master CVV advised us to do it as a part of prayer. Utter his mantra and just observe whatever comes.

Who am I? This is the main question we need to ask ourselves. This I AM is getting down through 8 layers, every morning. We need to know the path, on how to get back from these 8 layers. So in prayer, we need to contemplate on this and observe within. You keep sitting as long as the thoughts come. It like a challenge between you and your thoughts. Will they recede first or will you? But generally we cannot sit so long and we lose. We should have strong will to sit until we reach no-thought state. That is the feature of principle of Shiva. Thoughts fear to go near him.

We discussed about Tattva (THAT principle) now. In coming classes, we get into more details of it. As we go into further details, the trick with nature is that we forget about the main Tattva. That is why we should keep recollecting the basis from time to time.

Swasthi.