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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 26th of January 2014, at Visakh.
(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 3:

Maharshi Kapila was discoursing on the topics of THAT principle, Cosmic person and Nature.

Kapila continues "The nature is of 5 types, one nature among the 3 qualities, one nature which remains un-manifest behind the 3 qualities, one nature which remains unchangeable, one nature which manifests as seeming appearing and non appearing in creation and the root nature. There are all the varieties in Nature."

Kapila is telling that everything that is seen in creation is nature and the basis of all this which is invisible is called Purusha (background consciousness). Though Purusha permeates the whole creation, he is not affected by the nature. Though we are all his images, we get stuck in nature and feel that we exist and feel that we have many belongings. It is all due to our ego. Do you accept if someone says that you do not exist and there is nothing that belongs to you in this creation? No! It is not so easy to accept because of maya (illusion). Though we are not moving while travelling in a train or flight, we feel that we are moving. It is an illusion that is created. Unless we have a comprehensive knowledge and realization of the nature and the Lord, we cannot accept the truth that we do not exist and only the Lord exists as all of us. The pulsation in us, SO-HAM is arranged for the purpose of recollection of this fact – I AM THAT I AM. It requires lot of practice to see the divine in all and even in oneself. Also this practice should be associated with detachment. Without detachment, you cannot even practice properly. As you practice, detachment increases, as you detach, more practice happens. Both practice and detachment go hand in hand and are mutually cumulative. People try to do many practices but due to strong attachments, they fail to reap the fruits. The question is in how many things you feel 'it is mine'; so many are things you are holding onto. First we hold onto it and gradually it starts holding us. So it requires lot of practice to detach from everything that you hold onto.

So only HE exists and we do not. The wave is temporary and only the ocean is permanent. The waves keep coming and going just like we have life and life. Our living is just a projection of the divine. So just keep observing the Lord in everything that is happening without forming any attachments. Just like we have the invisible electricity running the whole industry, we have the Lord in the background running this whole creation.

Then Kapila spoke about the 4 sets of 5 elements (20 principles) which we discussed many times. They are the 5 senses, 5 organs of action, 5 sensations and 5 elements. These 4 sets are presided over by the mind, Buddhi, Chittam and the localized consciousness (Ego), in that order. If this consciousness of the being is very much localized, resulting in strong ego, he develops a very strong personality which starts dominating the being and he becomes a slave to that personality. We discussed these aspects many times

earlier in Bhagavtam. This is repeated again and again because unless understanding is complete, you cannot move forward. Not only understanding, realisation is also important.

After hearing all this, Devahuti tells that "I understand that knowing the Lord and his nature is very important in having the knowledge required for realisation of THAT principle in the path."

Then Kapila speaks about 'Time' as a principle of the Cosmic Person (Purusha). He is the one who controls the wheel of time. Time is born along with Impulse. And in that time, everything manifests through nature. The Purusha is seed principle of creation while the nature is everything that appears, grows, recedes and disappears in creation. All this happens in time. So all this is said to be the play of the Lord. The nature gives you the experience in this play. When you stand above ego, you can too observe this play and enjoy it without any attachment. The Lord rejoices in this manner and we too can. We should develop that awareness. Generally we do lot of things but we do not have this awareness. For example, let us take a coconut tree. The growing principle in a coconut tree is Purusha while that which is growing is Nature. In water, the Purusha is present as the principle which quenches your thirst while water itself is nature. Can you have this awareness when you see water? Similarly you should be relate to Purusha and his nature while seeing everything.

All this knowledge was handed over to us by Grand Seers after thousands of years of penance and realisation. They even had many discussions among themselves and gave us a path which most of us can tread easily. There may be other paths which you can try but the path given by Seers is simplified for us and that which many have already tread. We can follow them or even have it our own way. There will be many ways to go from one place to another. But there will be a general path with some road going by which we can easily reach our destination. If you say, "No! I will not go by the road. I will go through the forest, climb up and down some mountains, etc. and reach that place." You can also reach destination that way but you will face many hardships in that path. In any case, the final truth or destination is one.

Kapila says that there is a limit to everything in creation including time and nature. Everything in nature is limited by time and finally even time is limited. Nothing can grow boundlessly. There is limit for a tree to grow. There is a limit for man to grow. Even time has a beginning and it has to end.

Kapila spoke about the 5 natures. One nature which is in the 3 qualities and one which is beyond it. Then there is unchanging nature (also called Pure Consciousness) and changing nature. Finally there is the root nature (Mula Prakruti). There are differences between some of these natures is very marginal and is very difficult to understand unless you stand above the 3 qualities. In Lalitha Sahasranama, all these natures are given as different forms of the Divine Mother.

The Purusha and his nature always sit in a single chair in creation. It means that they are equal. They do not see one greater to the other. They are the male and female principles in creation. Generally in Sanskrit we say Prakruti and Purusha. So the order should be actually female and male but not male and female. In English, we say male-female but it is not the right terminology. You cannot see the Lord without the Divine mother. Even the Lord takes to a form only with the help of Divine mother. For us to reach the Lord, we have to pass with the cooperation of the mother. We see the mother first and then the father. In fact, we cannot see the father, he can only be realized. If he is to be seen, it only through a form which belongs to the Mother.

The Lord manifests as the 3 logos of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara and works as the 3 qualities of the Divine Mother. Brahma is creator and the creation is his body. He too has a limitation and he cannot work beyond that limitation. The Brahma also has a life period of 100 years and the present Brahma is already 50 years old. So he is in the return path now.

For us, 42 years is sufficient after which we should start our preparation to go back because we generally live for not more than 84 years. You cannot keep on spreading all your life without retracing. Then you will suddenly be taken out of the field.

So the difference between the Lord and us is ego. He is not localized and we are localized. Ego leads us to attachment and bondage. Unless we are detached, we cannot overcome ego. It is not so easy. We cannot do it ourselves; that is why we are given the path of surrender, path of devotion. We should surrender ourselves to the Lord saying that we cannot overcome ego ourselves and request the Lord to pull us out. If we think that we can overcome ego ourselves, that thought itself binds us more in ego. Surrender to the Lord, will reduce your ego to some extent. That is why we have many songs and poems written by devotees saying "I am too weak to overcome your maya (illusion). I surrender myself to you."

We think that many things are under our control but many times things go out of control. Many times people speak of technical issues arising after they think that everything is under their control. For example, we have launching of space shuttle or some satellite. They plan everything and think that everything is under their control and just before the launch there arises some technical issue out of nowhere. Such things happen many times. It is not that Lord does everything against our plans but when our plans are out of tune with the rhythm, law and order in nature, they fail.

In my recent travel back from Hyderabad, I was travelling by flight. The flight was ready, the pilots were ready, the passengers were ready and the weather was fine for takeoff but still we could not take off on time. It was because the person who is in charge of the opening the gate was not present. ☺ He came late by 30 minutes and everyone was furious but what can they do, time is already lost. So we can never think that something is under our control. Everything is under HIS control and we are also under his control. When you work, remembering this fact, everything runs smoothly and you are not affected by the delays.

Even fear arises in us due to our attachments which in turn develop due to our ego. Fear is very common now days. You can check for yourself the cause of your fear. And most of the times people worship the Lord out of fear.

Kapila further tells "The Lord permeates through the 3 qualities of nature equally." We are also instructed to establish equilibrium among the 3 qualities in us. That is what Krishna tells in Bhagawadgita but he later tells, "It is not possible to you because the qualities are not under you but under me and my nature. So surrender yourself to me and I will ensure equilibrium."

Kapila tells "The special actions of the Lord become special acts in creation." We come across extraordinary things happening at times and they are highlighted in the news. They stand apart from the regular dharmas (laws) in creation. Salt is always salty and sugar is always sweet. Can anyone say, it is not? They are eternal truths. They are common but there are also specialties happening sometimes.

Suppose a new comer, unexpectedly, wins Australian Open, it becomes the headlines in news tomorrow. If someone from our city wins an Olympic gold medal, it becomes an extraordinary news in our city. Even some acts happening through us are special. They do not happen all the time. They should all be understood as the acts of the divine. We should observe and rejoice them as the splendour of the Lord.

I feel that these Bhagavatam classes are themselves very special. It is not that I have great knowledge of this scripture or the language or it is not that I am discoursing very well but it is the divine splendor at work. It is so splendorous that not only people come regularly to this place and hear but there are also people hearing them regularly in other places as well. The others are not just Telugu speaking people but also people who do know Telugu at all. They follow some English translation and even further translate it to other languages. What makes people develop taste for this even though they are not present here and they do not know the language that I am speaking? I get feedback from some through mails and am very much surprised. If you observe this whole set up, is it not the divine splendor at play? This is just an example. You can see the divine splendor at play, in many things, if you observe closely.

So remember that we are not the doer when things happen through us and we are not a failure when things fail to happen as planned. That is what Krishna tells Dharmaraja. "You are neither the cause of winning this war nor the cause for the death of all those who died in this war." So you should not feel great about the former or feel sad about the latter.

There was one incident that happened recently. A onion trader was in great losses and he was about to lose everything in 3 days time. He told the same to one of our members from WTT (you can ask Brother Adurthy Krishna of our Hyderabad group). That person told this trader not to worry and just told him to say "CVV" and everything would be fine. The trader did as told and in 3 weeks time he got 3 crore rupees (30 million rupees) which surprised him and also our member, when he was told about it. From then on, that person was supplying onions free of cost to all our group activities. Incidents like this reaffirm the greatness of the Master and renew our faith in him.

So that is how the Divine acts in creation and mostly his acts are beyond our comprehension. It is all the play of the Lord.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi