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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 27th of April 2014, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 3:

Kapila Maharshi was giving the importance of Devotion in the path of Yoga. The secret given in Bhagavatam is that Yoga is not fulfilled unless it is associated with devotion. Without devotion, there is no scope for experiencing the Divine, living in Divine presence and existence in higher planes. If you just follow some Yogic practices without Devotion, life will be dry without any splendor in it. Without Devotion and Divine Worship, there will be no fulfillment in life. Even the Grand Sages and Masters keep worshipping the Divine on a daily lives. It is due to their devotion towards the Lord. If you do not worship the Lord, it means that you do not have any devotion and it means that you are not interested in the Divine and as a result, no kind of Yoga practice will be fruitful.

Worship of the Divine principle should happen on a regular basis in some form, it may be regular chanting of some Stotra, daily prayer, daily ritual and so on. It results in neutralization of ego without which reaching the Divine is not possible.

Bhakti (Devotion) Yoga is quicker way to divine than the 8-fold path of Yoga. Yoga should happen in association with Devotion for fulfillment in life and quicker progress in the path to Divine. That is why Master EK added worship of Divine in the form of Stotras and rituals to the Yoga path of Master CVV which gave fulfillment to the path and to those who followed it. Not only personal life but also family life and life in society is fulfilled by Divine worship.

Even for Yoga practice to happen without any hindrances, Devotion is required. There are many hindrances in one's life due to many reasons which will not Yoga practice to happen constantly. Most people have so busy professional lives that they cannot even sit for Morning and Evening prayer. Worship of the Lord helps in removing such hindrances. Apart from hindrances in the outer world, there are also hindrances in the inside us which may sometimes take lives to overcome. Devotion and Worship help in this direction too.

Also remember that everything in this world is temporary and everything changes with time. Time dissolves everything in this world. People come and go; relations come and go and so on. So why do you need to attach yourself to such temporary things. Realising this is very important to progress in the

path. Without detachment, you can constantly practice and progress. For detachment to stabilize in you, the solution given is to see the Divine in all. It leads to equanimity. You are not stuck to anyone or anything.

Remember another thing that nature accumulates more and more wealth around the one who is not interested in wealth because only such a one distributes and utilizes the wealth to the best. So the more you are detached, the more accumulates around you effortlessly.

A detached one is always prepared to depart any moment. He expresses his readiness every night to the Lord. Such a one remains only as long as he has to do some fruitful activity. He departs the moment he knows that he has nothing to do in that body. That is how Rama left immediately after the coronation of his sons and similarly Dharmaraja left after the coronation of his grandson, Parikshit.

So the summary is that without Devotion, following some path of Yoga is not a wise decision.

The first thing required in the path of Devotion & Yoga is Sraddha. Sraddha is having deep interest, dedication, sincerity and persistence in the path. Sraddha ensures that your worship or ritual happens on a regular basis. Generally we start with lot of interest but that interest is diluted as time passes. It is due to lack of Sraddha. There should be Sraddha in every act that you do. It should be present while you talk, while you walk, while you do some work and so on. Anything should not happen in a disinterested manner. It should become a habit. Then it replicated in the path as well. If you have Sraddha only while doing some things and you remain too casual or disinterested in doing other things, Sraddha does not last even in the former ones. If you have Sraddha, the quality of the work you do also increases gradually. Placing an object at the same place after every use is an aspect of Sraddha.

Another aspect is have love for the Lord and not just belief. Master EK used to say “What is so special in believing the Lord, most people do because they need him? One should have unconditional love towards the Lord.” This love for the Lord also aids you in seeing the Lord in all at all times. You cannot hate someone and love the Lord at the same time because the Lord is present in him too. More the people you hate, more you are far away from the Lord. If you love the Lord and see him in all, you do not hate anyone and you are not affected by any situation. Such is the state of a Devotee.

Do not relate to the personality of the other person, relate to the soul. Then there is no strong liking or disliking of anyone or any object. Otherwise, the likes and dislikes keep swinging in both directions. When you are able to see the Lord in all, you stand above the likes and dislikes and you remain in poise (Satwa).

-Swasthi

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