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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 26th of April 2015, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 3:

Kapila Maharshi was discoursing on various topics of Divine principle, the creation, the nature, the relation between Lord and nature, liberation, yoga, steps of Bhakti yoga and types of bhakti. We have been discussing these topics for almost 2 years now.

We should also recollect that this conversation between Devahuti and Kapila was being discoursed by Sukha to Pairkshit, Maitreya to Vidura and Sutha to Sownaka and other sages at different layers. Details relation to formation of creation were discussed 3 times till now. By recollecting this aspects again and again, will ensure descent of Divine into oneself and growing in us actively. If we forget the aspects that we discussed, due to our daily routine, we get back to our personality and get stuck in it. This constant and continuous recollection of Divine in one way or the other helps us to uplift oneself from the bondage of personality and helps us move towards the Divine. In the process, a bridge towards the Divine is formed which we call formation of Antahkarana Sareera. Worship and Divine recollection at all times is only way by which one can realise the Divine. Recollection should be as continuous as possible. When you close your eyes, the Divine in a lighted form should appear before you. One should reach such a state.

Otherwise we are always stuck in our problems and keep thinking of them all times and just keep moving in a cyclic path of life and death. The principle which the path of Bhagavata teaches us that if we remain in Divine recollection, all our objective problems are gradually eliminated. They cannot be solved completely by you remaining in them.

So if you remain with the Lord at all times, a bridge is formed within. We say "Higher bridge beginning". That is a later stage, first the lower bridge should be formed. Just by saying "Higher Bridge beginning", nothing will happen. The Lord should remain in your mind at all times whatever is the situation. You should not see just the situation. And the Lord should not be limited to a formal worship. Sometimes we even fail to remain in Divine alignment even during a ritual. So remaining in Divine alignment at all times is very important. Divine alignment is not a part time job. It should happen in all times and all situations. All the devotees whose stories we recollect did so. You should put an effort towards this practice until it starts happening naturally.

It should become a natural habit. Habit is very powerful once it is made. So this is the secret given in Bhagavatam and same was told by Lord Krishna in different ways almost 35 times in Bhagawadgita.

So transformation happens only when this practice happens continuously and at all times. You cannot limit it to some situations. Through this transformation, your nature becomes a Divine nature. All the impurities within are gradually removed in the process.

The personality has lot of impurities in the form of anger, jealousy, pride, prejudice, unwanted desires, etc. Lord Krishna tells that you cannot eliminate all of them by yourself and he tells "Submit yourself to me". Divine alignment at all times does not mean that you start acting out of ordinary. You can remain ordinary outside while the practice happens within in silence. You should remember that what you see and what you hear is Divine. The form may not appear so. The Lord is present in all forms though the forms may appear to be different as you see. It is like one actor playing different roles in different movies. Do we not remember the actor even though he is not in his original form and playing a role with a makeup in a movie? The same should happen here. You should see the ONE Lord in all.

If you do not see the Lord in all, there is not much transformation, your behaviour remains the same, you are easily disturbed and irritated, then all the rituals and prayers that you do are absolutely useless. Also you stand as a bad example to others who are yet to enter the path. They think that you are no better than them even though you are doing so many prayers and rituals and so they do not get interest to join the path.

So this practice matters a lot. We discussed this many times but I keep telling again and again because practice is only way to Divinity and we are easily deviated from practice and hence recollection is very important. Hearing discourses or just doing some prayers will not help. They just become a fashion if there is no continuous practice.

One can remain comfortable and peaceful only if they are at peace within. Objective comforts can never satiate you until you are comfortable within. Even if you have very comfortable arrangements in your room and think of taking rest, one unnecessary thought can take away all your comfort and peace. Even if there is no comfort in objectivity, one Divine thought can give you peace. Such thoughts help in stabilizing your mind. Meditating on stable objects like sky, ocean, beautiful mountain gives stability to the mind. If you see unstable objects, your mind also becomes unstable. Visualizing a beautiful form of the Lord gives stability to the mind. No others thoughts come to your mind if you visualize in such a manner. Without stability, there is no comfort. Most of the times the desires that we have disturb our mind and there is no comfort. We think that so and so object will give us comfort but in fact that thought itself has disturbed your peace. It is because one desire will lead to other and there is no stopping point. Ravana spent his

whole life in accumulating in that manner but he was never happy and comfortable. Happiness and comfort have to come from within.

It is ignorant to think that getting so and so objects will help us lead a comfortable life forever. Such an understanding is fundamentally wrong. That is why people keep crying for objects which one thinks that gives him comfort. If something which you think will give you comfort is making you cry or making you run after it or disturbing you, is there not something wrong with your concept of comfort? So here it is told that the only way to being comfortable at all times is remaining at peace within. That is possible by seeing the Lord in everyone and everything. You should see the Divine play happening around you. Then nothing will disturb you. You will be happy seeing anything and everything and in all situations. What you have or don't have in objectivity does not matter anymore. The behaviour of the people around you, may be good or bad, does not matter because you are always seeing the ONE. THAT is the only true identity. All other identities are mistaken identities.

The Lord is present within the being who is the indweller of the body. Symbolic to that, in most of the temples, the deity is present in the innermost chamber after you cross 3 entrances. If you can see the indweller of the indweller of each and every form around, then you are never disturbed by anything. There are many advantages of seeing in such a manner. So it is told that all identities and relations that we associate with like wife, children, animals, friends, etc. are all false. Everyone has only one true identity. The ONE is present in every around us. If you see in that manner, you relate with each of your relations in the right manner and they too relate with you without causing any disturbance to you. Seeing the Divine in close relations is important than to seeing the Divine in others because peaceful co-existence with them is essential.

There are many who lead a hell like life in this body because of the many desires, bondages, attachments, etc. that one has. They are ones who keep running in fulfilling their desires which are never fulfilled. They keep taking one life after the other to fulfill their desires. But one should remember that desires are not fulfilled if you keep running after them. If you fulfill your responsibilities towards everyone around you, then fruits automatically come to you. What fruits you receive depend on the happiness of the person who is benefitted by your acts. So it is ignorant to run after desires, instead one should stick to duties and responsibilities. Then whatever is due to you will definitely come to you. It also gives you comfort and peace. There were great ones who even sacrificed the body to fulfil their responsibilities. We have the story of Sage Dadhichi who gave away his spinal cord for the benefit of creation. He knew that everything belonged to the Lord and nothing belongs to him. Can we give away like that? The only thing we might give is hair which is because we are sure that it will grow back. ☺

We try to own many things and then try to protect them. There is only one savior in the whole creation and if you are with HIM, you are protected. We have attachment towards many things

and strongest is the bodily attachment. We think that it belongs to us and we build a lot of safety measures to protect it from everything. There are many who died in natural disasters like the one that happened yesterday in Nepal. Could they protect the body during such situations? Did the houses they built and thought that they owned stand when the earthquake came? Whatever you do, when the time comes, everything that came to you has to go. So it is ignorant to think we can protect and control everything with our intelligence. We are so anxious about things in our life that we want to control everything. We want to even control our children and their lives. But many times we realize that we failed in achieving the intended result.

Remember that Intelligence cannot protect us, only responsibility protects us. Help will come when you are in need only when you stick to your responsibility. We can see many examples in Ramayana and Mahabharat. Rama and Dharmaraja got a lot of help which was not planned by them. Ravana was highly intelligent in planning battles. Every night, he ordered to throw away all the bodies of his soldiers who died in the battle so that the other side cannot access the situation and left over strength. It is also to boost the morale of the soldiers who newly enter the battlefield. Otherwise the sight of dead bodies may drop their courage. That was a very good battle strategy. But when Hanuman brought Sanjeevan mountain to save Lakshmana, the power of the medicinal herbs on that mountain was such that those who even died and were lying there came back to life. So the strategy of Ravana to throw away the dead bodies proved counter-productive. Rama did not plan all this. It just happened because he just stuck to his duty.

So sticking to our responsibilities and dharma (eternal law) is very important. If you try to get into something which is not your responsibility or which is not your dharma, it will lead you to many unwanted consequences which will affect you for lives to come. So we should never compromise on dharma just because it is convenient to us for the time being. The consequences may be horrible. If you earn money illegally to support your family, it will haunt you in your old age and even in your future lives. The family cannot share those consequences. There are even great devotees who had to face horrible consequences due to unwanted acts in their past lives. Aurobindo faced it for 3 years before departing. If such ones cannot escape it, we cannot. That is why what kind of life you lead is important.

So only responsibility and dharma will protect you. Nothing else can protect you. That is what Kapila Maharshi tells here. Kapila Maharshi is listing some of the consequences that one has to face during old age and before death due to unlawful way of living during earlier stages of one's life. Even if you like, you may not be able to eat properly. You may not be able to digest properly. You may not be able to move without someone's support. You feel that the time for departure is fast approaching. When that time comes, 2 soldiers appear before you. You fear a lot seeing them. They pull hard to bring you out of the body because you are stuck in it. Death will be highly painful. All the wrong things that he has done in past appear before like a movie giving him a lot of pain during the time of Passover. It is like seeing a horror movie. I will quickly read

and not detail much here because some might dream about them thinking too much. It is said that it takes about 72 minutes for all this painful process to pass for the ones who committed most horrible sins. The time decreases as the degree of sins committed decreases. You will be taken to the plane of Yama (pluto) by the end of that time.

If you lead a responsible and dharmic life all through, then you need not face the painful death. After this painful process, the soul is again ready to take to a new body afresh. This process is also a cleansing process that one has to go through based on the sins committed. Master EK further tells that there are many who think that this painful process of death as described is not true and it is just told to cause fear among those who do wrong things but it is true and one has to face it depending on sins committed. We get a doubt that how one can know all this. One with an inner vision can see this happening. Normal people cannot see it. It is just how the doctor sees the disease on seeing the suffering of the patient.

There is some more explanation given here by Master EK which we will discuss in the next class. We will have next class in Radhamadhavam (in the new building).

-Swasthi