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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 03rd of May 2015, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 3:

Hearty fraternal greetings to the brotherhood. With the blessings of the Hierarchy of Masters, today we continue to have our Bhagavatam classes in the new Radhamadhavam building on this auspicious day of Vaisakha Full moon.

Man with his will, knowledge and action leads his life in a limited manner. But when the same man starts worshipping the Lord with devotion, the Divine will, knowledge and actions overrides his personal will, knowledge and action and gradually the life starts happening in a splendid manner. For that to happen, the ultimate practice that is given to us is to remain in Divine alignment at all times. That is to see him in and around us in everyone and in all situations. In the process, we realize our true identity. We realize that our existence is not true and it is the Lord himself existing as each one of us. Everything in this creation belongs to the Lord. We realize this grand truth in the process.

We think that the intelligence belongs to us, the body belongs to us, the life belongs to us but the truth is that everything belongs to HIM. If we think that all this belongs to us, the Lord just smiles at us knowing that we would realise the truth someday just like a father smiles with his child picks up an object belonging to the father and saying that "This is mine."

So one remains in Yoga and devotee as long as one remembers that I AM THAT I AM. Only then one is said to be a knower. We say "May the light in me be the light around me." We should see the ONE light in us and around us. Firstly what do we remember when we see ourself in a mirror. Do you remember that you are a Divine entity or do you remember your name and other identities? Only if you are able to see the Divine in you at all times, you are devotee. Otherwise you cannot be a devotee even if you may be doing many activities in the name of devotion. Remember the truth of I AM THAT I AM is the test for devotion. You may be doing many prayers, meditations and rituals but they turn out to be strenuous work without much fruit if you do not remember this truth at all times. If you remember this and do all that, then such activities become very fruitful. Every morning, when we start our day, we should recollect this truth. If we fail in the morning, we mostly fail during the rest of the day.

All beings are Sons of God. That is what Lord Krishna tells in Bhagawadgita. "Every being in this creation is my entity". So we should remember that everyone is THAT and THAT is the sole cause of everything happening in this creation. A Yogi sees this creation as a play of the Lord. That is why he is not affected by any situation. The Science of Omens works in a different manner for such a one. It is said that when a black cat appears when you are going somewhere, it is bad omen but when you see the Divine in that black cat, it is no more a bad omen. For a Yogi, these things do not apply.

If you start seeing the Divine instead of other identities and behaviours, the Divine starts responding to you even through them. Otherwise we get stuck in many opinions and prejudices. Kapila Maharshi tells here that if you fail in this practice and do many other things, all such things go in vain.

We generally remember our identities in this world but we forget the true identity. But all those identities are not very important because they are limited to this life. All those identities change in your next life. Those identities are not very important. So the only important and permanent identity is THAT I AM. To remember this identity is the most important identity.

So in the path of Bhagavata, the most important thing to remember is that everything and everyone that we see is Divine. This is only for those who wish to walk this path. Others can do whatever they want. But if you aspire to remain in this path, this is the most important practice. We are constantly reminded of the truth by our respiration. By remaining in alignment with respiration, we can constantly recollect the truth.

Kapila Maharshi tells here that one who sincerely practices this will definitely attain self-realization and Divine realization.

We should remember that this life is like a play or a movie where all beings play different roles. In this life, we have a role with a name, form, relations, etc. But the role changes in the next life. Also we have to consciously come out of our role on a daily basis before sleep. And during the day we have to see the Divine within oneself and in others around us. This is the only way to salvation. Without this practice, if you do many things in the name of Yoga or devotion, it is useless. Yoga means to remain in synthesis with the Lord all times.

A stage actor takes to different roles during stage plays but he will remember that he is none of those roles. He withdraws from those roles after the play is over. He does not continue with the same character off the stage. Though he remembers that he is not really that character, he still plays the role well as long as he is on stage. The role is short in a drama or movie but the role here is for a longer duration.

The actor might be playing the role of some diabolic and the makeup is done accordingly. When he sees himself in the mirror, at once he might be taken aback on seeing himself but then he gradually he remembers that it is just a make up for the role he is playing and he is not that. All the thoughts that we have relating to oneself are like an actor feeling that he is a diabolic seeing himself with that makeup in a mirror. All the thoughts and identities are temporary. To realize this, we need to spend some time thinking about "Who AM I?" Then we can withdraw from our false identities.

The worship we do in the morning is a way to align oneself with Divine so that we can remain in the alignment for the rest of the day. Worship is not for begging the Lord to fulfill our desires. It is humorously said "Begging starts in the worship room." It should not be so. Worship is for alignment with the Lord within. It is to submit oneself and one's personality to the Divine on a daily basis. It is like setting an instrument to zero error. All during prayer and chanting of stotras, this alignment should happen. If there is no alignment, chanting stotras is not fruitful. You can feel that the Divine has descended unto you in a lighted form.

Once alignment happens, then we can see the Divine in others as well for the rest of the day. We relate to everyone in the right manner according to the situation with getting affected by our personality likes and dislikes.

Everyday what happens is we think that many things belong to us which actually do not belong to us. All those are given only for the role play. The makeup and other objects given to us for the role play should be returned once the play is over. We cannot take them with us off the stage. They are given only for us to play our role in the right manner. Every night, we should take off all the makeup and just remain with our true identity because there is nothing but existence during sleep. In a play, if you are playing the role of Rama, do you think that you are really Rama? Don't you remember that you are playing the role of Rama? The same should be the case with this body and identities associated with it.

I keep telling the story of a man who bought a goat and 3 people steal that goat from him by convincing that man that it is a dog. We too are illusioned by our false identities and think of ourselves to be something which we are not.

So seeing the Lord is very important. If we see the Lord first, then seeing the other identities do not disturb you. If you see the name or behaviour first, you cannot recollect the Lord.

The Lord is present in form and above the form as formless principle. If you start seeing the Lord in form first, you can see the Lord as a formless principles gradually.

We should try to see the good qualities in others and praise their good qualities. Do not speak lies just to praise someone. Better remain silent if there is nothing to praise. Praise only if you believe that the other person has certain good qualities. That way, the Lord in other person is pleased.

If you surrender yourself to the Lord within, then the 8-fold nature around you does not bind you. You do not fall into the illusion created by nature. Then you are said to be liberated. So the one who remembers that I AM THAT I AM constantly, is a liberated one. If you remain with THAT, the 3 qualities and 5 elements do not affect you.

You get into various situations based on what you have done in the past. Your personality is built based on your past. You reap what you sow. so you cannot question why I got this. It is the consequence of your past actions. The Lord in the form of Time brings to you a personality and situations in accordance with what you have developed in the past. We cannot cry over what we got now. We should be concerned of what we should do now. You can work out to develop good qualities so that unwanted qualities that you have are gradually eliminated.

The Lord as Time also brings death to the person at some time and causes fear in the minds of people through this idea of death.

Suppose you are playing a role in a play where your character dies in the middle of the play. So you act like having died but do you fear of dying at that time. Do you think that you have died? The same applies to our body. We have depart from it when time comes. We need not fear it because we continue to exist. So seeing this life as a role play helps we realise the true identity. The worship that we are advised to in the morning and night are for this recollection. You can visualize that you are sleeping at the feet of the Lord in some temple. You can visualise that you are sleeping in some Ashram of a Rishi.

All this recollection helps us to gradually withdraw from this world and removes the attachments that we might have. It helps to gain the right experience through every role that we play without getting stuck in the role.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi.