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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 10th of May 2015, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 3:

We were discussing the conversation of Kapila and Devahuti as being told by Lord Maitreya to Vidura and Sage Sukha to King Parikshit.

In that, we were discussing how beings keep doing many things in the pursuit of happiness and comfort. The meaning of being itself is that he is a pulsating consciousness which pursues happiness. The ultimate happiness lies in aligning with the source. Everyone looks for comfort in life but the one who is in Divine alignment at all times is the one who experiences ultimate comfort permanently. Divine alignment does not mean we only relate to one form or name or idol which we like. The name or form or idol is just a representation of the omnipresent principle. We should remember this while relating to Divine. We should not get stuck in names or forms. So such a Divine alignment will give us permanent happiness because the Divine is all permeating and ever present.

So one should worship the Divine, know the Divine principle and serve the Divine at all times to experience the ultimate bliss. Even for the creator, Brahma, the same rule applies. Here serving the Divine means to serve the fellow beings who are all Divine entities. If you keep seeing the Divine in others and serve them in whichever way you can, then you experience happiness. Every day you should check whether you are of service to others or not. Are you just living for yourself or others? If you just live for yourself, you just keep running after happiness which never really comes to you. If you see the Divine in others and serve the Divine by serving others, it will give you happiness which is permanent.

If you just remain in objectivity, there will be some problem or the other that you face and as a result you cannot remain happy. If you go inside and remain with the Lord within, then you experience bliss irrespective of what happens in objectivity. His will becomes your will and he starts acting through you.

You should worship the Lord asking him to bless you that Divine plan manifests through you, your will becomes Divine will and you remain with him at all times. Then you remain in Divine

bliss at all times and experience ultimate happiness. The Seers have discovered that this is the only way to permanent happiness. Nothing else can give you that experience.

A true devotee is always remains in Divine alignment and is always available to work out the Divine plan. He is always at comfort within. That is what we see with devotees like Hanuman. He is always with the Lord. If you are with THAT, you are always at comfort irrespective of where you are in objectivity. Outer things do not matter to those who are within. Such a one sees everything from within and does everything considering as Divine activity.

The Lord grants us all the grand wisdom of creation if you are with HIM. So for one to gain Divine knowledge, one should remain within. It does not mean you sit somewhere and stop doing everything. You remain within at all times if you are able to see the Divine in everything and everyone around you. You get all the knowledge required to relate to others in the right manner. You need not plan the interactions beforehand. It happens effortlessly.

One should remember that everything that is dependent on him, house, property, vehicles, spouse, children, animals, etc. are Divine entities entrusted to him. They do not belong to him. Then your spouse, children, friends, relatives, house, etc. becomes your wealth and gives you comfort. You get comfort from them if you are able to see the Divine in them. The body should be seen as something entrusted by Divine for us to work in this world. We should not cry or fear when he takes it back. If you see it as Divine, the body gives you comfort.

The Lord created all this for the comfort of the beings. One gets comfort from such things when one sees the Divine in them. Instead if we have different opinions over persons and things, we can never be comforted by them. Many times we are troubled by things gathered around us. We try to gather more and more things for comfort but that comfort never comes. The best example we have is Ravana who gathered many things but never experienced happiness out of anything he accumulated. On the other hand, Rama lived in a forest very comfortably.

To have desire to own things for comfort is ignorance. We desire and try to get things. We forget our responsibility and run after desires. But if you attend to your responsibilities, the nature takes care of your needs and comforts. That is the secret. Dharmaraja, Rama were taken care of nature because they only cared for their responsibilities. Arjuna was given an Akshaya Toonaram (a quiver which regenerates arrow endlessly as they are used up) because he was fighting for dharma and lead a life of offering. He need not carry a truck load of arrows when he goes for a war. We are brought up in skewed nature. Most of us are taught to desire for things instead teaching fulfilment of responsibilities. That is why after growing up, most of the people have lots of desires. The desires are never satiating. It is because when they were children, they were taught to desire and not to act responsibly.

We always want to live as comfortable as possible in this body but in fact as aging happens, the body does not give you more comfort. Gradually the senses and other organs become weak and may even stop functioning. So you never get comfort that way. Great ones never look for comfort through the body. They are not much worried of it. They remain in it as long as it is possible to work through it and once it is not much useless, they depart from it. They do not have any desire to save the body somehow hoping that it would give comfort someday in future. When Ramakrishna Paramahansa got throat cancer, he did not run after doctors to get it cured. He said to his disciples "my work through this body is complete. There is no necessary to continue in it further. This disease has come as a cause and reminder to me that I need to depart. So it will not get cured. I will depart shortly."

There was one person living in Israel who had 4 sons. He was a very intelligent and able person but his sons were nowhere in comparison to his ability. So he had to take care of them all along until he became very old. He had businesses to run and he was taking care of his sons in old age as well because he felt that his sons cannot take care of business. But the fact is that he is not able to leave the business because he is too attached to it. Even when he is on bed during his last days, he was worried that his sons are not taking care of his business properly. In this manner, he was never happy in his life because he was always worried of his business. There are such people who get stuck in certain activities and can never pass over that activity to future generations even when he is about to die.

So if you get attached to things, you can never be happy. You should leave your profession, business, family, body, at some point of time in life. You should be prepared to withdraw when time comes. That preparation should happen every night before you go to sleep. Withdraw from this world every night and visualise that you going into the Divine abode. You can give back all that was given to you, every night, including the body, senses and mind to the intelligences who preside over them. They will anyway come back to fresh the next morning.

So there are 2 ways of living. One way is to putting in lot of effort to lead a life of comfort and getting tired. Another way is to remain in Divine alignment and fulfilling your responsibility as it comes to you. The latter gives you comfort and happiness at all times. The former makes you feel that you will get comfort and happiness sometime in future which never really comes.

Some even try to fool others through one's intelligence to earn money in pursuit of comfort. That is even more horrible because the wrong things that you do will haunt you from within and there is no way that you get peace and happiness. You can fool the people around you but you cannot fool yourself. If you sin for the sake of getting out of some difficulty or earning money, that sin will haunt you for many lives in future. When you are in difficulty, we are advised to read the stories of righteous ones like Harishchandra, Dharmaraja, Rama, Nala etc. which tells us how they lead a life of righteousness even in most difficult times. Otherwise our mind gets unwanted

thoughts due to those difficulties which may drive us to doing something wrong. Whatever may be the difficulty, one should not leave Dharma. Dharma will take care of you in old age when the body is not able to support you anymore. That means there will be fellow beings who will be there to take care of you.

If you do not follow dharma, one will have to face lot of distress during old age. The body won't even support your movement. You need to eat but you do not feel hungry and you cannot eat. Diseases may lead to lot of pain and fear. You may not be able to talk even. As the time for death approaches, 2 soldiers from Yama loka appear before you and they appear very frightful. Then they start pulling you out of the body causing you lot of pain. Then you enter a body called Yatana Sareera in which you have to face the torments of hell. One then recollects all the bad deeds that he did in that life. It is like seeing a movie. One remembers them until one is born again coming out of mother's womb. When the soldiers pull you out of the body, it is very painful because you are stuck in the body for so many years. The stronger the attachments that you have, more painful is death.

This is the story of every ordinary person who does not know Dharma and does many sins to satisfy his desires in his life. All the pains that one undergoes in old age and death makes that being feel that he should do not repeat the same in his next life but the moment, he comes out of mother's womb, he forgets everything. So if this is not taught in childhood, one does everything that he did not want to do and ends up in the same stage as in previous life.

If one commits sins during one's life, he has to face the following pains after death depending on the sins that one committed. One feels never satiating hunger and thirst. One feels lot of heat as if travelling in a hot desert. All these torments are felt by the being in the Yatana Sareera. This is the kind of feeling of travelling in hot desert that one gets if he gave too many comforts to the body during one's life. You should not look for comfort where there is responsibility. There are people who cannot live if there is no air conditioning. That shows that you have become a slave to the needs of your body.

One feels that the soldiers of Yama who come to pick him up are beating him. One who does blatant sins of hurting others in pride, such a one feels that his whole body is burning. The time duration of that burning pain depends on how many people you caused distress to in your life. That is why non-violence is given as an important principle to follow in one's life.

If you hurt others through your actions or speech, you will have to face this pain after death. That is why Madam HPB says "Hold your tongue". The same was told by Buddha. Every act of hurting that you do is recorded on a daily basis and you have to face the consequences accordingly. Even if you hurt others in your thought, that is also recorded. If you feel jealous of someone or think that some person should not have a good life, then it is recorded. That is why

accountability in life is very important. You cannot think that you can do anything just because others are not watching.

In this manner, there are many kinds of punishment that one has to undergo after death depending on one's sins committed. We think that we can get away by hurting others but it is not true. Master EK tells us that all these punishments are to be faced without fail and the punishments described here are not given just to cause fear. You may not know them to be true with your limited vision but ones with insight can see such things happening. The Seers could see such things through their inner vision and they gave it in us through these Scriptures.

So everything that you do has a consequence. You have face punishments to your sins until those sins are neutralized to some extent. Then you are again ready to take to a new body.

If you commit a theft just to satiate your hunger or your family's hunger, the consequence is not much. But if you commit theft or rob others through your intelligences even though you have enough to eat, then the consequences are disastrous. That is what is happening now days. People have unlimited desires and do many wrong things to satisfy such desires.

Next we discuss the series of events that one has to go through in mother's womb and what one feels during that process. All this is called the transit house. Even after going through all these pains in the transit house, one forgets everything in the next life and if there is nobody to teach, one leads life in the same manner again. That is why it takes so many lives to evolve. Until one is graced by the Lord or Master, one undergoes cyclic series of lives without any fulfillment. That grace comes only when one has done some good deeds in the past or present.

We will continue in the next class. We are very close to completing the 3rd Canto. This Canto contains many secrets of wisdom and is complete by itself.

- Swasthi