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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 20th of September 2015, at Visakh.
(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Potana wrote Bhagavatam in Telugu as per the advice of Lord Rama and he dedicated the Scripture to Lord Rama. On a full moon day, Rama appeared before Potana and instructed him to write Bhagavatam. He had complete belief that Lord Rama himself is acting through him in manifesting this Scripture. As a result, Bhagavatam in Telugu has gained even more popularity compared to the Bhagavatam written in Sanskrit by Veda Vyasa. Potana begins and ends every Canto with some stanzas in praise of Lord Rama.

We began the 4th Canto last month but as there is a long break, we will begin again and go in detailed manner.

Potana begins the 4th Canto describing some of the qualities of Rama. Then he goes into the story of the ongoing conversation between Maitreya & Vidura and Sukha & Parikshit and Sutha & other Sages. So we have a 3 layered teaching happening. As discussed many times, we need to recollect them from time to time so that our awareness expands and we will be able to comprehend the secrets and subtle knowledge given in this Scripture. Bhagavatam shows the path of devotion. By devotion, the Lord and Masters are pleased and when they are pleased, they grace us and as a result the knowledge is revealed to us. The Lord is more pleased when his devotees are worshipped. If you worship Hanuman, Rama graces you. If you worship Rama, Hanuman graces you. That is how one can worship the Lord and his ardent devotees.

So we need to just recollect all the Sages right from Narada, Veda Vyasa, Maitreya, Sukha, Sutha, Potana and Master EK who gave Bhagavatam in simpler manner for us to understand.

Swayambhuva Manu had 3 daughters - Devahuti, Akuti and Prasuti. Till now we only discussed the story of Devahuti. Now we discuss the story of Akuti. We should understand that these stories happened concurrently though we discuss them one after the other because we cannot discuss the story of all 3 daughters of Swayambhuva at the same time. We began with the story of Devahuti because we have the descent of Lord happening as Kapila through her.

Though Bhagavatam is told to be the story of Krishna, we should understand that Krishna here is not just the physical form but it is Krishna Consciousness which descended from Brahman. So the whole story of creation is referred to as the story of Krishna because the whole creation is the play of that ONE consciousness which is also referred to as Krishna Consciousness. We also call it by other names but that does not mean that they are different. All forms are ONE in essence. We should remember ONE essence while relating to many forms. So do not think that Krishna consciousness is just the photo or idol we have in our house. If you get stuck in such forms, then you get into a religion. If you have the right awareness, we are not stuck in a form or name. Otherwise we are limited in our awareness.

So this daughter of Swayambhuva, Akuti, was married to a Prajapathi by name Ruchi. Ruchi means taste. He is the principle which makes the creation tasty for the beings to experience. All these marriages are to be seen as responsible acts for the creation to happen. We discussed the story of Kardama Prajapati in detail. Ruchi is also a Prajapati like him. Most of the Prajapatis are beings who are mostly inclined towards the Divine and remain in penance. They are asked to help in the beginning of the creation and birth of beings into creation and they do it considering it Divine will.

So to Akuti and Ruchi had a son and daughter who happen to be incarnations of Vishnu and Lakshmi. The son was called Yagna and the daughter is called Dakshina. The birth of this son Yagna is to be understood as the birth of the principle of Yagna in creation because the whole creation has to happen as a Yagna (action as an offering).

We are instructed to lead our life as an offering to the surrounding. We have the best examples as the lives of Rama and Krishna. They are role models for us as to how to lead life as a Yagna. They never lived for themselves at any point. That is the secret to be understood. The creation is happening with that secret as basis. The Lord did not make the creation for himself. We too should realize that we are not born for ourselves but to serve others and to live for others. The fundamental principle of life is to live for others. The earlier you realize this, the better. All great ones who we remember are those who lived for others. If everyone in the world knows this principle, there are no problems at all.

So this son of Ruchi, Yagna is to be understood as a cosmic principle of Yagna. He set the rules for the game of creation and the rule is "live for others and not for oneself". Grand Masters speak of "Cooperation" as a very important principle to be followed. It is the most important quality that an aspirant must have.

So this Yagna is born to Ruchi. How is that to be understood? Why can't Yagna be born to some other Prajapati? It is because the taste (Ruchi) to be experienced in creation is by offering oneself to others (Yagna). These things are not written in detail but if you have the inclination, you can gain this understanding.

The name of the daughter is Dakshina. If you lead your life as an offering, wealth is accumulated around you and that is again to be offered to the needy. That offering is called Dakshina in Sanskrit.

This Cosmic Principle of Yagna descends every year in the form of the "Person of the year". Every year he comes in a different form but finally he does Yagna only.

So as you keep living your life as an offering, wealth accumulates. Wealth is Lakshmi. That wealth is to be utilized properly. It is to be offered to only those who need it. There are rules as to who you can offer to and who you cannot. Some are not to be helped because they do not deserve it and they do not receive it properly. The more you utilize it properly, the more accumulates around you and you can offer even more. This offering should happen voluntarily and cannot be imposed. Some religions impose that offering should be done but imposed offering is not fruitful. As you keep offering in this manner, this principle of Yagna descends into you. For Master EK, leading life as an offering is a very important principle. He demonstrated it all his life. Your life will become very splendid if you lead a life of offering. So it is up to you whether you want a splendid life or not. There is no problem in creation and if you have a problem, it is due to you only. No one else is the cause for your problems.

One should earn by making an effort as per one's ability. Earning money using money is an influence of Kali. That is what happens in stock markets. People earn money through money without any real effort. You should do something which is helpful through the people around you and earn money through that activity. The best way to earn is through agriculture. It is considered highest among all occupations. The output wealth of agriculture is called Dhanya Lakshmi because it is form of wealth required for the beings to sustain. As Dhanya Lakshmi (wealth of food) is most important for sustenance, it is considered one of the best forms of wealth and hence agriculture is considered one of the best occupations.

We discussed the story of Varaha avatar of the Lord. His incarnation was necessary because Swayambhuva Manu asked for a place for the beings to stay. So Lord as Varaha brought out the matter from etheric waters after killing Hiranyaksha and then it gradually got condensed to form earth globe. The story being discussed now is that which happened after the formation of matter. The matter at that time was in the form of puddle, mixed with lot of water. Kardama Prajapati is said to have descended at that time. Kardama means puddle.

After the descent of Kapila, the land started slowly coming out of the oceans on earth. At the time of Kapila, there were very few beings on earth and almost the whole globe was covered by water. Then the land gradually started coming out and beings started descending. Agriculture activity also started as the beings descended. We have the story of King Prithu, which comes later, who makes the land fertile for crops to grow. The seeds for different crops were brought from different planetary principles. That story also comes later.

Swayambhuva had 2 sons apart from 3 daughters by names Priyavrata and Uttanapada. Priyavrata is the principle which causes the beings in creation to relate to each other. If there is no such principle, there will be no relations among the beings. In the age of Kali, the relations are diminishing because everyone is concerned of only oneself and one's career. If no one is relating to other, what is the use of this creation?

Uttanapada means the one who stands with his legs at right angles to each other. At that time only the equator, South Pole and North Pole are formed. A right angle is formed when we draw a line from the centre of earth sphere to the equator and a line from the centre to the South Pole. The energy principle which radiates through that vertical line from centre to pole is said to be Uttanapada. We get the stories of both Priyavrata and Uttanapada in detail in later cantos.

Uttanapada had a son by name Dhruva. All the three daughters and 2 sons of Swayambhuva descend onto earth taking human forms. Prajapatis too take to human forms on earth. Prajapatis also take to forms as different Suns in creations. The sons of Manu directly descended onto earth and took human forms.

The incarnation of Lord Vishnu, Yagna, grew in the house of Swayambhuva Manu whereas Dakshina, the incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi grew in the house of Ruchi. So Yagna grew as son of Swayambhuva while Dakshina grew as daughter of Ruchi. They marry later. As it was the beginning of creation, all couples had to descend from the same parents and their marriage was inevitable to continue the creation. So this subtle meaning should be understood as told earlier. Also all these beings did not have human forms at first. So the rules of human forms do not apply to them. That is another understanding.

Dakshina had the power to stay wherever she wanted to. We cannot tell where wealth stays. It may come and go miraculously. No one can hold onto wealth. Where offerings happen continuously, wealth stays there. So Dakshina and Yagna marry and they had 12 children.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi