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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 17th of January 2016, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We were discussing the stories of Prajapatis and their progeny. We are trying to understand how they are principally present in us and how they aid us in our activity. We discussed about 11 Prajapatis till now.

Now we are discussing the story of Daksha. We discussed how each of the Prajapatis have their natures described as their consorts. Prajapati Mareechi is said to be present as our aura around our head. Atri is said to be one above 3 qualities and his consort is Anasuya (one with no jealousy or malice). So the one with no jealousy or malice at all can reach a state above the 3 qualities. Prajapati Angeerasa is said to be present in our throat centre and his consort is Sraddha. Only a person with Sraddha (dedication & interest) in doing any work will gain the right knowledge. Jupiter is said to be born as his son. Then Prajapati Vasistha is said to be present in our heart centre who presents us with stabilising quality. His wife is Urja who can give us comfort in all planes. Then Pulasthya is present in our Manipuraka. He represents our thought quality. Agasthya is said to have born to him. Even Ravana, Kumbhakarna and Vibhishana were born to him. We discussed all the meanings in detail in the previous classes.

Then Prajapati Pulaha is said to have a consort by name Gati. Gati means direction. Pulaha presents us with direction in any work that we do. So by his grace, we gain the right direction in anything that we do. Then Ruchi Prajapati is the one who gives us the experience and his consort is Akuti. He had a son and daughter by names Yagna and Dakshina.

By recollecting all the names and their meanings from time to time, we can remain in their presence and gain their grace. They are all present in us and keep supporting us in the body. Seven of these Prajapatis are also referred to as the 7 Seers. Nine of them are referred to as the Nava Brahmas. So recollecting them, we realise the significance of their presence in us.

Before going to Daksha Prajapati, I just wanted to briefly recollect the previous Prajapatis. This should become a constant practice for an aspirant. It greatly helps in delinking from objectivity. Not only Prajapatis, the same should be followed for all the creational principles which we discussed during the story of creation. This helps us to remember that we are not the sole cause

for everything that happens through us. We realize how small we are, as individuals in the scheme of creation.

Generally what happens during the prayer is that we remain in our objective thoughts though our eyes are closed and it is very difficult to come out of those thoughts. It because before prayer, we remained in all kinds of objective thoughts and it is very tough to delink from them immediately. Recollection of this creational principles helps us to delink from objective thoughts and it is easy to relate to the Divine within. So the recollection of these principles before prayer is a good practice to pick up.

Now coming to the story of Daksha who is a highly capable one. Due to high capability, he is stuck in his ego and most of us have descended through him and as a result, we too suffer from individualized thought. Those who suffer from this ego are the mortal beings who die. Every being has to realise his true identity and come out of this ego to become immortal. Then we become part of a story which is permanent. Then we get to participate in Divine activities.

We discuss how Daksha rejects the Divine and how he suffers due to his ego. We will also discuss how he realised his mistake and becomes a great devotee of the Lord. He has done lot of work in the creation and starting feeling that he is the doer. He was the one who was responsible for the formation of 27 constellations. The stars and constellations were formed by a higher activity but he gave names to all of them and Sati, Lakshmi and Bhurghu cooperated with him in this work. During the work, he felt that, as he was doing everything, his name should also appear as one of the names of the constellations but the others did not agree. He believed that Vasistha was the most knowledgeable among the Seers and sought his advice. Vasistha directs Daksha to consult Shiva. He did not want to consult Shiva. He asks Vishnu but Vishnu too directs Daksha to consult Shiva. Then as he did not know how to invoke Shiva as he never worshipped Shiva, he takes the help of Vasistha. When Vasistha invokes Shiva, Shiva appears and Daksha was baffled by the beauty and brilliance of Lord Shiva. He did not expect Shiva to be so attractive. Then Daksha starts conversing with Shiva. He tells "I was told that you are highly knowledgeable. I was told that you have third eye which has a grand vision but where is it? I do not see it." Shiva replies "The eye does not appear outside. It is an inner aspect. It is an eye of vision." So Daksha consults Shiva on naming aspect. Shiva commends the work of Daksha and tells "Your name would come in the first month of the year and it would become popular."

Daksha was surprised because he already named the first month as Mesha (which means Ram (an animal name) and expressed it to Shiva. Shiva then tells "In future, you would have the head of a Ram and you would be worshipped in that form." Shiva tells so and leaves.

Daksha created lot of rules which have to work in the creation. He makes everything as per those rules and expects all the beings to follow them. All those rules were formulated as per the Vedic

tradition. Those rules are for the beings in the body only. Those rules do not apply for those who are not bound by bodies. So most of the dharmas in creation were developed by Daksha. That is why he is considered highly capable. The first month of the year Mesha or Chaitra (aries) represents capability and people who have strong quality of that sun sign are highly capable. All the work of Daksha mostly relates to involutionary aspects and on how to play the game in this field of action.

One who is in this field should follow the rules of the game. When the game is over, the rules no more apply. The rule in this Bhagavatam Class is that only I speak and you all hear. You should not be speaking during the discourse. Once the discourse is over, you can speak as you like. So there are rules for every game which are to be followed while you are in the game.

Most of the rules are relating to how to be a part of the game and play the game. All such rules came through Daksha but he did not develop any regulations as to how one can reach the Divine. This path was developed by his daughter Sati who was a fiery aspirant. In the creation of Daksha, there is no place for those who aspire to reach the Divine. He just wants everyone to play the game, follow the rules and experience the game. He does not accept those who want to wish to withdraw or liberate oneself from the game. That is what Shiva grants and that is what Sati, the daughter of Daksha is looking for.

So coming to the detailed story. Long time ago, a grand ritual was being performed in creation and all the devas, Prajapatis, Brahma and Shiva were present in that ritual. Daksha too came there. Everyone greets Dakshna except Brahma and Shiva. They need not greet him because Brahma is the father of Daksha and Shiva is the Lord. Dakshna gets angry that Shiva did not greet him.

Then he stands up and starts giving a speech to everyone present there. He says "Do not feel that I am saying this but I have to say this. Look at this behaviour of Shiva. By his presence, you are losing your presence. He doesn't do any work in the creation. My daughter is very innocent but married this fellow. I did not say anything then but atleast should he not respect me as I am his father-in-law. He did not greet me when I came here. He does not follow the regular rituals to be performed in creation. He does not have any cleanliness. He lives in the crematory. His presence is inauspicious." In this manner, Daksha abuses Shiva and finally curses him that he will have no right to receive the offerings of a fire ritual.

Now Master EK gives explanation for this. Though Daksha abused Shiva but indirectly he spoke about the all permeating nature of Shiva. So though he abused Shiva through his perspective, he actually praised the all permeating nature and qualities of Shiva. When he cursed that he cannot receive the offerings of fire ritual, it actually meant that Shiva is present in all that is being

offered and he needs nothing. He is the source of everything and why does he need something which we offer. Actually what all we offer, have come through him.

The other members present in the ritual did not agree with Daksha's words. As a result, Daksha gets angry and leaves the place. Nandi, the vehicle of Shiva comes to know about the words spoken by Daksha and he gets angry. Here we have an instruction. We should not get angry when someone abuses or criticises the Lord or a Master whom we like. He will have to face his consequences anyway. So we should remember this. If we get angry and respond, then we would be creating consequences for ourselves.

Here Nandi gets angry. He feels that the Daksha has forgotten his identity in his pride. Though he has done lot of work, he has forgotten that he not the real doer. There are many people who are highly capable but they may not have any belief in the Divine principle. So Daksha is such a one. Capability is very important for anything to happen. Even for Divine realisation, capability is required. If you are just a good person and have some divine belief but you are not capable, then very little work happens through you. Capability is what matters for work to happen in creation. The Lord chooses the capable ones to make work happen. Also if you are not capable enough but when you ardently worship the Divine, the Lord will help in building the capability. So finally capability matters. If you are not worshipping the Divine but doing lot of good work with your capability, it is fine but there is chance that you might fall into pride. Divine worship prevents your fall into pride and also aids in expanding the work happening through you.

Nandi is a close devotee of Shiva and is immortal. He says "Daksha is living in a mortal body and in his ignorance, he is forgetting the Lord. He is not realizing that the Lord is the basis of his existence. He thinks that following all the rules in creation is everything and there is nothing more." We see scholars who know lot of rules, rituals, etc. but they do not follow the Yogic path. Same is the case with Daksha here. In his anger, Nandi too curses Daksha.

Master EK now gives some explanation here. A true devotee does not look at the shortcomings or misdeeds of the other person. He just sees the Divine in that person. So that is a test to check whether we are a devotee or not. A devotee only sees the good quality in every person. Then he moves closer to the Lord. If you are looking at the bad qualities in others, then the Lord remains dormant to you. Another thing to remember that whatever good things that you do, when you feel proud about them, then the fruit of such good deeds is lost. If you just remember the Lord and perform good deeds, then the pride in you fades away gradually. You can check for yourself whether you are feeling pride for the good work that you do or not. When you meet another person, you should greet first and not expect the other person to greet you first. If you are expecting the other person to greet you, then you are in pride.

When you teach a student for many years, you cannot expect the student to be with you and follow your advice forever. Then you are in pride and due to that pride you feel sad and think that your student has betrayed you. There are teachers who feel sad when his disciple keeps the picture of some other Master in his house. All these are cases of pride and self-respect. These can be done away with only when you keep relating to the Divine in others and in everything that you do.

So the story of Daksha can be very much correlated with our story. We can compare our story to his. He is like a model to us. We should learn from his story. Here Nandi too forgets the Lord momentarily and in that instance he goes on to curse Daksha. We will continue with the story in the next class.

-Swasthi