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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 31st of January 2016, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We were discussing the story of Daksha Prajapati. How he abused Lord Shiva in his anger was discussed. He did not realize the source of the existence. He felt that the rules he created for the beings in creation to lead a happy life were everything and his pride did not allow him to realise the ultimate doer in the creation. His abuse of Shiva led to the anger of Nandi, the vehicle of Shiva and Nandi curses Daksha. Here 3 stanzas of how one can relate to the Divine principle were given. We discussed that in detail in the last class.

There are people who perform Yagna expecting certain desires to be fulfilled. In this creation, the devas too have certain dharmas. When a certain Tantra is performed with the stipulated Yantra and Mantra, in the right manner, the devas are bound to give certain fruits to the one who has performed them. There are some people who even now follow such Tantras. They are not realised ones and they do not understand the Divine principle. That is one category of people and there is another category of people who follow Vedic practices with an objective to realise the Divine. So the people who follow Vedic Scriptures are of 2 categories.

The first category of people generally advise people on what Yagna or ritual is to be done to fulfill an objective desire and they earn money through such a consultancy. They never try to advise the people on how to walk a path to Divinity. That kind of living is incomplete because experiencing the objectivity is not the only purpose of human life. One should also know to experience the subjectivity and uplift oneself. Here Nandi speaks of scholars who know the Vedic Scriptures but utilise them only for objective means. Daksha is such a one.

People get attracted to eat something when a good smell comes through that dish. If that dish is tasty, he wants to eat it. However the purpose of eating is neither smell nor taste. It is for the nourishment of the body. If one forgets the purpose and eats too much just because its tasty, it results in illness. So taste is just for the sake of better experience of food but that is not the purpose of eating. Presently taste has taken the priority in eating and nourishment of the body has become secondary.

The same thing has happened with Vedic Scriptures too. The Vedic Scriptures speak of the truth, the Divine principle and they also speak of how to experience the objectivity. The latter is just like the taste and the former is the ultimate objective of Vedas. The Vedas sought to give us an experience of the Divine principle through some regulations. What happened is we are left with too many regulations and forgot the Divine principle. This has resulted in too many unwanted regulations. The regulations are for a higher purpose. Now, the purpose is lost and regulations remained. People follow them with lot of tension and they look down upon those who do not follow them. It has resulted in too many ups and downs in the society as well. All these are like the illnesses resulting in following the regulations or doing rituals just because they are to be done and forgetting the real purpose. Some blind following of regulations have also resulted in superstitions.

There are many priests who keep conducting many rituals, yagnas, vratas, etc. but they do not experience the Divine while doing everything. As a result, they all are rendered useless. Only the taste remained and the nourishment is lost.

The sacred knowledge of the Scriptures is being used only for fulfilling objective desires. It is not that they are not to be used. They can be used for the bodily fulfilments as well but the primary objective is Divine alignment. Those who know the Scriptures should know this purpose and should act a bridge in telling the others who do not know the Scriptures.

Here Nandi not only curses Daksha but also curses the scholars who know the Vedic Scriptures but just utilise them for objective purposes. His curse is that such ones will remain beggars until they realise the true purpose. Even now there are Brahmans who keep begging for alms to make a living. Begging also means that they try to earn money by exploiting people's desires and suggesting them to perform certain rituals. We see lot of Vedic Scholars who exploit in such a manner in present times. It is not wrong to beg in that manner but it should be associated with Divine alignment so that you gradually move forward in the path. If you are eating to live, ensure that the ultimate purpose of your life is being fulfilled in the process.

So Nandi curses in this manner. This curse of Nandi angers Bhrugu. He is one of the Prajapatis whose story we discussed in the past. Bhrugu is a great devotee and he always remains in Divine alignment but in this situation, he could not properly understand the curse of Nandi and gets angry. Nandi did not curse the scholars who practice the knowledge they attained in the right manner but he only cursed those who use that knowledge in an improper manner.

Bhrugu did not realise that and in his anger, he curses Nandi. This tells us that arrogance can overpower any person and in that arrogance one may resort to any kind of act. Bhrugu says "What did Nandi achieve by highlighting the malpractices being followed by Brahmans

(scholars)?" In this anger, Bhrugu curses not only Nandi but all devotees of Shiva. He says "All devotees of Shiva shall become revolutionary in nature and cause agitations."

The devotees of Shiva, referred here, are the ones who remain in alignment with Shiva at all times and they do not follow any regulations given in the Scriptures. At the same time, they do not do any acts which are against dharma. So they not follow the Scriptures but they stick to dharma. Just because they do not follow the Scriptures practices, that does not mean they are against it. If someone does not do Master CVV prayer, does it mean he is against it?

Master EK gives explanation here. Though Nandi and Bhrugu curse others in their anger, due to the grace of the Lord, as they are devotees, they realise their mistake later. They also face certain consequences due to the words they spoke in anger.

Bhrugu questions Nandi "Just because you are devotee of Shiva, do you think that you are right in opposing the Vedas?" Actually Nandi was not against the Vedas. He was only against those who used Vedas for wrong purposes. Here Bhrugu is not in a position to understand that because he is angry. What happens is, when people speak in anger, they do not speak with right understanding. They do not hear properly what the other person is saying. They lose their discriminative ability in that fit of anger.

So in this manner Nandi and Bhrugu hurl curses at each other but finally they were saved from those curses again due to the grace of the Lord. The curses still apply to certain people who know the Scripture but use it for malpractices and also those who do not follow the basic regulations in life. Certain regulations are required to be followed to lead a clean and pure life which is essential to experience the Divine. If you lead an unclean and impure life with no regulations and think that aligning with the Divine is sufficient, it becomes difficult to remain in Divine alignment with no cleanliness in life. So too many regulations is not good and also not following any regulation is also not good. We should choose a neutral path where certain basic regulations are followed and at the same time we constantly strive for Divine alignment.

For example, we have a rule that we should take bath in the morning, after we wake up. It is essential because it cleanses the body and also vitalizes the organs of the body. It gives you strength even if you are tired before the bath. If you think "Should I bath so early? Should I bath everyday?" Then there is dominating Tamas (inertia) in you. So such rules and regulations are very important but they are not everything. This should be properly understood. We should not end up at either of the extremes. Similarly chanting of stotras is also important for inner cleansing. What you do after the cleansing is also important. After the body, mind and senses are cleaned, you are now ready to get into Divine alignment. Using flowers during worship has a purpose. It attracts devas into your surroundings. They become active in the ambience where you

are doing worship. They can aid in your worship. So following certain rules and regulations is very much required to get into Divine alignment.

The curses apply to those who go into extremes. That is how the story goes. We will continue in the next class. We have Gurupujas in Vijayawada next week. So we do not have Bhagavatam class.

What happens after this is Shiva and Vishnu leave the place. Also the other Rishis leave. Brahma conducts another Yagna for 1000 years in a place called Prayaga to neutralise the consequences of this Yagna ending in an improper manner. This story ends in that manner. I did not want to end the discourse with curses so I conclude with this point.

-Swasthi