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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 14th of February 2016, at Visakh.
(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We were discussing the story of Daksha. Daksha abuses Shiva but in subtle sense that turned out as a praise of Lord Shiva. Nandi was angered by that abuse and, curses Daksha and similar people who use Vedas only for commercial means. He said that such Brahmins who use Vedas only for earning money will remain beggars all their life and they keep looking for extracting money through some means. Bhrgu was not pleased by the curse of Nandi as he did not understand the real import of the curse and he too curses the devotees of Shiva. The curse does not affect either Nandi or Bhrgu as they were devotees and they gave curses only due to momentary illusion. The curses are still applicable to the people who are in extremities, that is those who follow the Vedas without any divine understanding and others who do not follow any regulations in life thinking that Divine alignment is only required and other regulations are unnecessary. So such categories of people are affected by these 2 curses.

As the Yagna has failed due to this series of events, Brahma and other devas perform another Yagna at Prayaga. This Prayaga refers to the place where the rivers that travel east meet. There is one such centre on earth in North India, where 3 sacred rivers meet. This centre is also present in each one of us. It is the Ajna centre where the 3 nadis of Sushumna, Ida and Pingala meet. That centre is one where one is advised to meditate. These nadis also meet at Visuddhi and Heart Centres. So these 2 centres are also significant from Yogic point of view. The Ajna centre is most important among the 3 centres because it is our source where we as souls have emerged from. So that is place we should retreat to as a part of Yoga practice. That results in complete purification of oneself from all existing impurities.

So we are advised to keep orienting to that centre through prana and consciousness. If this happens constantly, the impurities present in us keep flushing out. This centre is said to be the centre of Bhrgu or central sun centre. It is the centre in creation from which all the suns that we see around us have emerged from.

When one keeps meditating at that centre, the divine grants his darshan (sight of Lord) to us. He appears in a lighted form. That is how the devotees keep seeing the Lord by remaining at that centre in penance. Here, Brahma and other Rishis performed this Yagna at prayaga and could have

a darshan of the Lord in all his splendour. As a result, they were purified from the impurities that accumulated due to incomplete Yagna earlier.

So reaching the Ajna centre to be able to see the Lord in lighted form. Also complete purification happens only at that centre. Even while chanting Gayatri, one is advised to visualise a light in Ajna centre as that would result in gradual purification through descent of light into us.

All the Rishis mostly reside at this centre and that is why it is said that they live in Tapo Loka, which is the 6th plane of existence. They come down to lower planes only when some work has to happen through them. Otherwise they remain completely disoriented from the lower planes. They remain in the Ajna centre and keep orienting to the ultimate truth in the 7th plane or Sahasrara. We too should practice to remain in the Ajna centre. The approach to Ajna centre is from the heart centre. Master DK advises that before going to sleep, we should visualise that we have ascended upto the Ajna Centre and visualise a light there and then gradually go into sleep. So the time before sleep is very important for an aspirant. If you are not doing this, you are not effectively utilizing your sleep time as an aspirant. Not only before sleep, the same needs to be done during every prayer or meditation. This should happen constantly until this becomes a good habit.

Master EK here gives an instruction. Whenever the mind is disturbed when someone speaks something highly displeasing or abusing or criticizing you, one should orient towards the Lord so that the mind comes out of that disturbance quickly. There will definitely be incidents which keep disturbing our mind. Another point to be noted is one should not go into sleep with such a disturbed mind. Then the mind will be badly affected. That is why we are also given an instruction to read a Scripture before going into sleep so that the mind gets into a calm and then one can visualise ascending to Ajna and then go to sleep. That is the best way to sleep for an aspirant.

When we are overpowered by anger or pride, we may speak many unwanted things in that situation. Such affects result in darkness accumulating around us. The mind is also disturbed by such words which were spoken by us. So that disturbance goes off when one goes to Prayaga which is within oneself. People should not think that they should go to that place and take a bath in the rivers. That cannot be done always and doing that once in a while will not take away all our impurities. Instead if we constantly align to the Ajna Centre within, it results in complete purification. So Rishies going to Prayaga should be understood in this manner.

Once a person asked Ramakrishna Paramahansa, "It is said that one is purified of all sins when one bathes in a holy river like Ganges. Is that true?" Ramakrishna replied "Yes! It is true. The impurities within come out the moment you enter Ganges but they catch you immediately after you come out." The purification is not permanent because one has not naturally reached that state. When once practices this visualization at Ajna constantly, then complete purification happens.

So this rivalry between Daksha and Shiva continued for many years. Yagnas cannot be performed without the presence of Rudra but in his ego Daksha takes up a Yagna without the presence of Rudra. Daksha used to think that Rudra has emerged from Brahma and he too has emerged from Brahma. So he felt that both are of equal status. Also he being the one in charge of the objective world felt that he has higher status to Rudra.

Here one should realise that just because someone is born to someone, it does not mean that the son is lower in awareness to the father. It cannot be so. Just because the Kumaras and Rudra were born through Brahama, they are not lower in awareness to Brahma. In fact, they are higher in awareness to him. So Daksha's understanding is wrong here. We too should remember the same. Birth or age or discipleship cannot decide who is more aware than whom. A disciple may be more aware than his Master. A son may be more aware than his father.

The power of Rudra is very important for us to remain in control of things in creation. We lose control over things that have come from us because the power of Rudra is not present enough in us. Worship of Rudra is required to gain that will which can help us overcome our weaknesses. We think we should not do something but end up doing it because we are not in control of our mind, body and senses. However all these are in control of Rudra and by worshipping him, they come in our control. Rudra worship can grant us lot of will power to do anything and in a continuous manner. Even death has to wait when you are doing something important with the grace of Rudra. That is why we start the education of a child with the mantra "Om Namah Sivaya". Why cannot another mantra be given? This is because one should have will power in doing anything. Will is the primary requirement for any work to happen. That is granted by Rudra. And when Rudra's presence is stabilised when one is a child, then he can do grand things in life.

Even diseases can be overcome with the worship of Rudra. He gives us control over many things in creation because everything remains in his control. Only such ones can do lot of work in creation. Such ones do not fear death. In his absence, people fight for power. People have lot of attraction towards power and position. People do anything for power and position. Remember that real power and position are decided by what you do and not the other way. People cannot accept when their power is taken away by someone else. It can be seen even in trivial cases.

People also succumb to lot of comforts in the absence of Rudra's grace. There are some who cannot even sleep when there are no comforts that he expects. It is because they have become slaves to those sensual comforts. What is more comfortable than sleep itself? So why to look for other comforts to sleep. A yogi can even sleep on the ground without any discomfort.

In the absence of Rudra's grace, people are attached to many objective things. They keep going after them and try to accumulate them. That is not the purpose of life. In a world where Rudra's presence has diminished, things like killings, robbery and all kinds of illicit activities keep

happening. That is what we are mostly seeing in the world now. So this is what happens when people just live for themselves without any thought about others. This can change only if more and more people learn to live for others instead of living for themselves. All great ones have lived in such a manner. They have served the fellow beings by following the divine plan. They did not do just what they wanted to do. They did everything to please the Lord. They did not live for themselves. They lived as per the Divine plan.

Normally in organizations as well, they should be very few persons doing the planning while the others follow the plan without any decision of their own. If everyone in the organization starts deciding and doing on their own, the organization is sure to fall. It is good if you have one head and 10 hands. If there are 10 heads thinking differently and only 2 hands, you cannot do anything. So we are like the hands of the Lord. That is the secret to follow in this creation. We can either follow the Lord or follow the person who is able to follow the Lord. That is why all the Hierarchy of Masters have come to be. In a Hierarchy, every disciple follows just what the Master instructs him to do without questioning.

So Daksha planned to do a Yagna without the presence of Rudra and we should understand what would happen in the absence of Rudra. All the Rishis and other prajapatis attend the Yagna even though they knew that it is happening in the absence of Rudra. It is because that is their duty. They knew it was wrong but it was beyond their power to oppose Daksha. For example, the body, mind and senses keep working even in a person who leads a horrible life and commits many sins. Why do they do so? Why can't they stop cooperating with such a person? It is because that is their duty. They cannot act on their own. They just follow the law in creation. They leave the consequences of such actions to the law in creation.

Now who will ensure that such a Yagna does not happen. It is upto the father and mother, Rudra and Sati. So with their intervention, such a Yagna is destroyed and order is re-established in creation. With this, the ego of Daksha is destroyed. The same should each in each and every being.

We will continue with the story in the next class.

-Swasthi