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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 28th of February 2016, at Visakh.
(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We were discussing about Daksha Yagna. Last week we discussed the conversation of Sati and Shiva. Sati wanted to attend the Yagna as she wanted to meet all her relatives. Shiva cautions her and advises not to go because they were not invited to that function. He further cautions her that as she is going there out of her attachment to the form, any criticism from her father Daksha would hurt her a lot. Sati was born into a form like us and out of her penance she became the consort of Shiva but she has not completely realized the Divine principle and she still has some bodily attachments left.

Aspirants too wish to reach the Divine and they try to follow a Master and a path. But what is important for the aspirant is to have Divine alignment as his priority and all other activities should become secondary. If the path is not your priority, you go into activities where you have no responsibility and there is no proper purpose. We should restrict our activities to only responsibilities and attend only functions which are important. Not every social function needs to be attended. Then you lose a lot of time which can be used for practice. Also when you attend a function out of attachment, there might be incidents which hurt you when people in the function do not respond as you are expecting them to respond.

That was the situation here. Daksha was angry on Sati and Shiva because their marriage happened without his consent. So he will not receive them properly when he sees them. Shiva will not be hurt because he has no attachments to the form but Sati has not transcended to that state and she still has some attachments. As a result she will get hurt. That is why Shiva does not want her to attend that function.

Krishna or Rama never got hurt when someone abused them out of their anger or fear. It is because they had no attachments. Kamsa used to be disturbed just by hearing the name of Krishna. It is because of strong attachment towards the body. The attachment towards the body caused a lot of fear in him. Same with Ravana.

So only those who have strong self-esteem or attachment are hurt or disturbed when something does not happen as they expected. A realized one sees the Divine in everyone and has no

response to whatever way the other person acts. He is never disturbed in any situation because he is with the Divine in all. He surrenders himself to the Divine and accepts everything that comes to him. The Lord is obliged to protect and take care of such ones. The Lord is always concerned of those who have surrendered to him completely.

Here Shiva is trying to grant Sati the knowledge required for self-realization. But she was more inclined towards the Yagna being performed by her father Daksha. Daksha invited beings and devas of all planes except Shiva and Sati. So Shiva tells Sati that if she goes uninvited she will not be respected.

(Master is telling how people waste too much time in attending social functions where there is no duty and where one is not recognized.) There are many such functions that happen in this month (Month of Pisces), which is auspicious. People keep attending them just for some obligation or expecting some future return or just because the host is a powerful and wealthy person, etc. This month is a very good time for practices which help in purification of oneself but if too much time is lost in these functions, where is the time for practice? So one should be very choosy in attending social functions. Attend only those which deem your presence and not everything.

We have the story of Sibi, the emperor. I won't give the entire story now but the essence is that he sacrificed himself completely for the welfare of humanity and as a result he stands immortal. He keeps inspiring aspirants. Whenever people speak of sacrifice, the example of Sibi or Bali are quoted. Karna (a character in Mahabharata) too did a lot of offering but he had the problem of attachment towards the offering. He used to feel that he is offering. As a result, though his offering is great, it did not lead him to immortality. So even if you do good things with attachment or feeling of pride, it will not help you much. Karna learnt the art of archery under Parasurama and he was a highly obedient student but he lied to his teacher. As a result, the knowledge that he gained did not come to him during the Mahabharata war, when it was most needed. So having humility and following dharma is very important.

Coming back to the story, Shiva advised Sati not to attend the function. He knew that she would not be received with care and affection and there is no need to go to such a place. If there are attachments between relatives, it will result in a lot of mutual expectations. There are no expectations in people who are related by soul because there are no bodily attachments. Also there are obligations between relatives related by form. There may be monetary obligations or some other obligations. There are no such obligations among those related by soul.

The relation between Shiva and Sati is at the soul level. Their relation is not like normal marriage. We should not understand it to be so. Sati did penance to reach Shiva and then went into a state of Divine realisation. We, as aspirants, too should aspire for a similar relation with the

Lord. The relation between Sati and Daksha is at the form level. So there are expectations on both sides. If the expectations are not met, either of them can get hurt or angry.

There are people who are disturbed when they see good people. What does it mean? It means there are lot of impurities in such ones. Now days, we see people criticizing everyone and even people who did great acts. They criticize even without knowing anything about the other person. It shows the level of impurity present in the person who is criticizing.

When Paramahansa Yogananda boarded a flight to America, he sat in his allotted seat. There was a person beside him. Yogananda just smiled seeing that person just as an initial greeting. The other person was a businessman who is mostly busy. When Yogananda smiled, that person got irritated because Yogananda was wearing saffron coloured clothing. It is because he has naturally a problem or opinion within. Due to that strong bias, such ones get disturbed very easily for no reason.

Such ones comment on everyone. If someone wears lot of gold ornaments, there are many people who comment on seeing such a one. If anyone appears out of ordinary, people cannot but comment. Is it not unnecessary? Why do we have to judge or comment on anyone? If you are doing that regularly, it means there are lot of impurities within you.

Daksha is in such a state now. He cannot but criticize when he sees Shiva. Shiva is an embodiment of happiness but Daksha is disturbed at the sight of Shiva. It means he has some disease. When someone used to come to Master EK and say "No one likes me. Everyone keeps disturbing me. What should I do?" Master EK used to immediately give a Homeo medicine because that person is suffering from mental sickness. The problem is not with people around him but within him. So Daksha too was suffering from such a mental sickness at that time.

Here an instruction is given that such impurities within us can be eliminated by constant chanting of mantras like "Om Namah Shivaya". Such mantras are fiery in nature and if uttered with proper intent, they can burn away the impurities present within. One is filled with lot of pride cannot even do such a mantra. As a result, such ones suffer from lot of prejudice. They have strong attachments to people and things. The dislikes towards people and things are also strong. In fact, dislikes are stronger than likes. People remember those who they dislike more than who they like. Here, Daksha is lucky because he disliked Shiva and in that dislike he used to recollect Shiva more than anyone else. As a result, Shiva graces him and finally he becomes a devotee of Shiva.

So there is such an arrangement in creation that even who hate the Lord can reach the Divine because of his recollection of the Lord out of hatred. It is like an order in a disorder.

Shiva asks Sati "Do you think I have done wrong is not standing and greeting your father during the previous Yagna where we met?" We should remember that Brahma and Vishnu were also present there and they too did not stand when Daksha comes. But Daksha was angered only by Shiva and not the other 2. It is because of the natural dislike.

Shiva continues "That is not right. It is said that if a knower comes across a man full of pride, it is better to salute that person within and not outside." The inner salutation is to the Divine within. In fact, whosoever we salute in whatever manner, it is only to the Divine present in the other person. Even if an elderly person (a knower) blesses someone younger, he first salutes the Lord in the other person within, and then blesses through an outer gesture or word. So a knower will salute within, when he meets a person of pride. It is because the other person does not deserve a salutation with outer gesture. In fact, a gesture of salutation will spoil that person further by making him feel prouder. That is why Shiva does not salute when he sees Daksha though he still salutes him within.

There is some more explanation given by Master EK which we will read and detail in the next class.

-Swasthi