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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 06th of March 2016, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We were discussing about the Yagna performed by Daksha. Sati has asked permission from Shiva to attend that Yagna. Shiva advises Sati against going there as they were not invited. He cautions her that she would not be received well and she would be hurt badly. He also clarifies to her that he did not disrespect her father by not standing before him during an Yagna in the past. We discussed about the explanation given by Master EK.

Anytime we salute to anyone we should remember that salutation is not to the other person but to the Lord present in that being. So there is no question whether you should salute to anyone or not. However there is a way of saluting to others depending on the other person. If the other person is elder to you, then salutation should be with a physical gesture. If the other person is full of pride and much lower in awareness to you, it is better that you salute that person from within and not outside. If a knower salutes a person in pride, then the other gets spoiled further and he further goes into pride. So it is not good for that person.

In any case, we should remember that salutation is only to the Lord and when you say Namaskarams or salute through a physical gesture, we should remember the Lord. When you receive salutation from someone, you should remember that salutation goes to the Lord within you and not directed to you. If you think that the salutation is for you, then you are spoiled with that thought.

So Shiva did not salute to Daksha through an outer gesture only for the good of Daksha because if Shiva salutes to Daksha, Daksha would go further into pride. This is what Shiva clarifies to Sati.

As aspirants, we should learn to see the Lord in oneself and in everyone around. Every morning when we wake, we should first remember the Lord in us and salute to him and then request him to grace you so that you can see the Lord in all throughout the day. One keeps seeing many people and many things all through the day. We should practice to see the Lord in all of them. We recollect this aspect of practice in many Bhagavatam classes but what matters is practice. When you meet persons who are much higher in awareness to you, you should salute to them by

bowing to their feet. That salutation goes to the lotus feet of the Lord. Also bowing down and touching feet brings down ones pride and makes one remember that the Lord is the Master of all.

Shiva tells Sati "I remain in ever salutation to the all permeating Divine principle." That is a state of natural penance or natural samadhi. Shiva tells "As I remain ever in alignment with THAT principle, I and THAT become ONE. When your father abused me thinking that I did not salute to him, I did not react and just surrendered everything he said to the Divine principle." This is another instruction that we should note. When someone abuses you or criticizes you, you should remain silent and surrender everything that is said to the Lord. It requires a lot of practice to be able to do that when someone criticizes you. When someone criticizes, that criticism keeps coming back to our thoughts because of our self-pride. Any number of the times criticism comes in your thought, you should practice to submit it to the Lord. Then gradually your pride and bodily attachment goes away. Only then you can move into the path of Divinity. So remember to submit everything to the Lord whether someone praises you or criticises you. There are stories of many devotees who have completely surrendered themselves to the Lord and whatever happens in this world, they are not affected because they see it as Divine. Such devotees who remain in complete surrender to the Lord are referred to as 'Alwars'. There are many inspiring stories about Alwars which one can refer to.

We feel good when we read about these things or recollect them but the experience is best when you practice it on a daily basis. So practice is the most important aspect of the path.

Shiva tells Sati, "We are in a path where we try to be in Divine experience at all times. That is why you have married me against the wish of your father. Your father is not in the path we are. So he will not respect us if we go to his house. Why to go to such a place?"

So Shiva is telling us where to go and where not to go. As aspirants, we should prefer to visit places where there are other aspirants or where Masters are present. We should prefer to remain in activities relating to divine. Such activities help us expand our awareness further and purify us. We should not prefer to visit places where there are people who have no Divine aspiration, unless you have a responsibility to attend to.

Shiva tells Sati that one should transcend all bodily attachments to be able to realise the Divine principle. This is another important point. We should not be too much attached to physical things. We should not be attached too much to comforts, food or even water. If you do not eat for half a day, nothing will happen to you. We are disturbed even by the thought that we cannot eat for the day. That shows our attachment to food. If Divine is your priority, then body should not be your priority. Body should be given some importance for it to sustain and support us in our activities but caring the body should not become the priority in life.

Master EK explains "One should not hate people just because they are bad. However you should try to avoid them as far as possible." Lord Krishna tells in Bhagawadgita "There are only 2 categories of people in this world. The people who know and the people who do not know." So if someone does something wrong, it is because that person is unaware. So you should not hate someone for doing something wrong. Shiva is not telling Sati to avoid the function not because he hates Daksha but because he knows that Sati would be hurt unnecessarily. It is better to avoid.

Shiva tells further "If you go to a place where your relatives are present and you are badly disrespected there, you will get so sad and it is almost like dying." So Shiva does not tell Sati to either go or not. He just cautions her and lets her to decide. Krishna does the same to Arjuna. He gives him all the knowledge through Bhagawadgita and lets Arjuna to decide whether to participate in the war or not. Great ones never impose anything on anyone. They just advice when asked.

Krishna does not do anything and he makes Arjuna do everything by giving the knowledge required. Unless one does, one cannot gain the experience. A Master too operates in the same manner. He just aids the disciples and makes them learn. If the Master does everything when the disciple asks, the disciple will never learn and experience. The purpose of this creation is experience. Unless you do, there is no experience. If you orient to the Lord, the Lord just teaches from within and makes you do everything. He does not do anything when you pray to him. If he does everything, then what is the purpose of this creation and what happens to the freedom of beings? The Lord just graces you and protects you but he makes you learn in one way or the other. We should not have a wrong understand in this regard. Only when we make the effort, the Lord graces you and supports you in your effort. Without your effort, the Lord will not do anything.

Sati has strong urge to see her parents and sisters. Even after hearing all the words of Shiva, her urge did not go down. That is what mostly happens with us. Though we have a good advice from a knower, we end up doing what we like to do and not what is advised. Master does not interfere if the aspirant decides to follow what he likes. The Master knows that he will learn from experience.

There was a person who used to participate in our WTT activities when Master EK was present. He had a transport business which was running fine to take care of himself and his family. Once he went to Chennai along with his friends and after coming back, he came to meet Master EK. He said "Master! I got a good opportunity to produce a movie. I got in contact with a good director and other movie crew who are ready to make a movie. If I invest about 0.4 million rupees (this amount is in 1970s), I will be able to make good profit. I can also contribute more to our activities. Should I do it or not?" I was there beside Master EK at that time and he was very eager to do it. I felt that Master EK would ask him to go ahead with the idea. Master EK

immediately said "Do not think about contributing to our activities. You go ahead and do as you like. It will be good for you." Sometime later, I asked Master EK "Will it be really good for him?" Master EK said "It will definitely be good for him but I cannot say what will happen to the business."

Finally he lost all the money with the movie failing. He lost all interest in money and business and he settled in this path. What more good can happen to an aspirant? So there are incidents like that. The Lord can teach you in one way or the other. The most important thing is to remain linked with the Lord or Master through prayer or worship. Whatever else you do does not matter because the Lord can transform any situation to help you learn what is good to you. Whatever you do may be good or bad but you will definitely learn from it. So you move from ignorance to knowledge by the grace of the Lord.

So Sati had that strong urge to go and we will see what happened, in the next class.

-Swasthi