

Note: These are personal notes made from Master KPK's Bhagavatam speech recording, translated from Telugu and do not reflect Master's words in entirety. Please use them for reference only. Not for publication.

"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 04th of September 2016, at Visakh.
(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

On being purified and uplifted by the grace of Lord Shiva, Daksha was speaking in praise of Lord Shiva. He tells that Shiva and Vishnu keep regulating the ones who act like Brahmins but are not really Brahmins. Master EK gave an explanation of who can be called Brahmins. One cannot be a Brahmin by birth. One can become a Brahmin only by his nature and actions. There is a high chance that a Brahmin can be born to a Brahmin but that is not a guarantee. So, one cannot claim to be a Brahmin because he is born to be a Brahmin. Brahmin is one who lives with knowledge as primary aspect in life. His objective in life would be to use his knowledge for the welfare of others and he keeps inculcating the needed knowledge to others. He never cares for objective wealth in life. He does not accumulate anything in life. Only such a one can be called a Brahmin. Prajapatis are considered naturally Brahmins but Daksha did not live like a Brahmin. So he had to be punished and made to realize his mistake. That is what Lord Shiva said and Daksha thanks him for that.

Generally what happens is if one is given lot of power, pride takes over unless one is highly cultured. Daksha did not have the required culture and humility, and once he turned out to be most powerful Prajapati in the objective world, he started acting out of pride. He started acting as per his desires and likes. So his personality had to be changed. With the grace of Lord Shiva, that happened.

There are some qualities of Brahmins given here. When a Brahmin is speaking, the knowledge spread through them and the awareness of people around expands. By seeing their face, one can remain in a state of calmness. It is not an aspect of objective beauty. The face radiates light and happiness in the surroundings. We can observe this feature in the pictures of great ones like Ramana Maharshi and Shirdi Sai Baba. It is because of active Divine presence in them. When Brahmins speak, it gives happiness and enlightenment to others. A lot more details of qualities and responsibilities of Brahmins and other classes of people is given in the 6th Canto of Bhagavatam. Hopefully we will discuss them in detail when we reach there.

Daksha says that beings with Brahmin nature were created to enable the spread of wisdom and spirit of service among others. Ones with such nature are protected by the Lord because they live for the sake of others. The others are regulated and punished as and when required. Daksha was born to be a Brahmin and was highly knowledgeable and capable but pride alone was sufficient to bring him down. So he had to be punished and uplifted.

Another quality of Brahmins is given here. Whenever they have no work in objectivity, they go inside and up to the Ajna and keep meditating on the Lord. There are many states once you go inside. One who has reached the highest state within is called a Brahmarshi (Brahma + Rishi = One who remains in alignment with Brahman). If one always remains in the objectivity, such a one can never be called a Brahmin. Krishna said that he likes the one who remains in objectivity only to attend to his duties and remains inside rest of the time. A Brahmin continues to experience the Divine at all times, inside and outside as well. Every experience in the creation can be related to Divine. The sweet odour of a flower can be experienced to be Divine. The taste of a fruit can be experienced to be Divine. In Bhagawadgita, Lord Krishna gives some examples of how Divinity is present in various aspects of the creation. In a good actor, the Lord is present as his quality of acting. In a good singer, the Lord is present as his quality of singing. In this manner, we can keep seeing Divinity in the creation. A knower or Brahmin keeps seeing the Divine qualities in this manner and such a one is protected by the Lord. The Lord protects such a one because that person does not think or speak about himself. We have the example of Master EK who performed grand acts but never spoke about himself. Whenever we asked, "Master! Please tell about yourself." He used to simply reply, "What is there to tell about me?" He lived like a Brahmin.

Here, it is said that the Lord created Brahmins first. What does that mean? When a being enters the womb of a mother and the body starts forming, the first thing that is formed is the head. Head is a representation of knowledge and Brahmin stands for knowledge. So that is the meaning intended when it is said that Brahmins are born first in the creation. Everyone who has a head can become a Brahmin. So everyone has a chance to become a Brahmin provided he gains the right knowledge and lives by it.

Daksha further tells, "In my ignorance, I abused you a lot." We generally see in the stories that diabolics curse Vishnu but never Shiva. Here Daksha abuses Shiva a lot and he is grateful that he was still graced by the Lord. Daksha said "What can I do to return your favour?" There is nothing that one can do to the Lord. How can anyone help the ONE who is the basis of your existence? Master EK gives an explanation here. The only thing we can do to return favour to the Lord is by leading a life in service of others. There is nothing more that one can do to please the Lord.

If you hurt other beings in one way or the other, then it comes back to you and you have to face the consequences of such actions. That is how the law of karma works. In fact, we generally face karma only as samples of what we have done in the past. If we react to such situations in the right manner, then we are relieved of that type of karma. So accepting karma is very important to come out of it. Even great ones like Ramana Maharshi and Ramakrishna Paramahansa had to face karma due to their past actions. They accepted it without complaining. If you try to escape karma, it comes back to you in future. Do not keep thinking of why you had to face some bad situations in life. Just accept them and let them pass by. If such thoughts still come to you, one is advised to recollect the name of the Lord at such times. Then one can overcome unnecessary thoughts.

So living a life of service is the only thing that we can do to please the Lord. There is nothing more that the Lord requires from us. Daksha promises that he would live in such a manner from then on. He also tells that he would pardon the ones who hurt him in future because he was saved as the Lord has forgiven him. Forgiveness is a very important quality. To forget is not possible but we can forgive. We can see this quality a lot in the life of Dharmaraja. He could forgive the greatest of sins committed towards him and his family members. Lord Krishna himself praises this quality of Dharmaraja. We cannot live like him but atleast we can take some inspiration from him. When Jesus was put on the cross and tortured a lot, he says "My Father! The ones who did this to me are ignorant. Please forgive them." We cannot even imagine saying that in such a situation.

So Daksha promises to Lord Shiva that he would try to practice the quality of forgiveness. We too should follow Daksha in this aspect.

There is the problem of continuity here. We feel like doing many good things in life but cannot follow them continuously. We may feel of waking early in the morning but fail to do so. The quality of inertia in us keeps stopping us. It does not allow continuity of purpose. We need to realise the existence of inertia in us. That is the first step to overcome it. The next step is worship of Vishnu. Why Vishnu? Vishnu is symbolic of poised quality here. We need poise for the Rajas (hyperactivity) and Tamas (inertia) in us to be balanced. When there is dominant Rajas, we overdo things or do unnecessary things. With dominant Tamas, we lack in doing things. Both are not required. There needs to be a balance in our actions. A dish should not either over-cooked or under-cooked. Right amount of cooking gives it the right taste. That is why poise is very important.

The name Vishnu was not given randomly by the Seers. They did years and years of contemplation before giving out something to follow or practice. Even while doing Ganapati puja, the first mantra that we utter has the name of Vishnu in it because we need poise while doing a ritual as well. All these are aspects of very subtle sciences. One can appreciate them

only when one understands all the details. This is possible only when one goes inside. For now, we have to accept and practice. Gradually we gain the related knowledge. It is also advised that we recollect the name of Lord as Vishnu every morning when we wake up so that we start our day in poise.

There are many other rules related to poise, right from food intake. Certain food items lead you to poised nature while others can lead you to Rajas or Tamas. So we should ensure that our food and actions lead us to poise.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi