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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 23rd of October 2016, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

On the completion of Daksha Yagna, the Cosmic Person appears before everyone present there in the form of Narayana. His form is described to be very beautiful. Everyone present there started praising the Lord in their own way. We were discussing what each of them said of the Divine principle. Each one spoke based on their awareness of the Divine principle. No awareness is complete but every understanding gives the awareness of a part of the complete.

We should remember that stotras in praise of the Lord are uttered to get into Divine alignment and experience the Divine forgetting oneself. We are generally in objective thoughts and chanting stotras helps us come out of such objective thoughts and experience the all permeating principle. Such an experience gives us ultimate happiness. There is happiness at different levels starting from physical to sensual to mental to intellectual to blissful to self realization to realization of Brahman. Each degree of happiness is 100 times greater the previous degree of happiness.

We should learn to experience the situation in which we are. We generally do not like the existing condition and expect something else. Suppose it is winter season and it is very cold, we do not like it and start expecting summer. When summer comes, we do not like the sweat and start expecting winter. In rainy season, we do not like if rains fall continuously. So we hardly experience the season when it is existing. Same is the case with the people. We mostly do not realise the value of a person when he/she is there. If they go away from us, we start thinking about them. What is the use of thinking about something when it is presently not there? You do not get what you want and you lose the experience of what you have then. Nature wants to present to us with different experiences from time to time. If we do not experience the situation, we lose that experience. People are generally not satisfied with the wealth they have. They want to earn more and in that effort, one fails to experience the wealth that he has. If you cannot experience what you have now, what is the use of accumulating more and more?

There is no point in accumulating forever because wealth will not come with you after you depart from the body. You did not bring anything when you entered the body and you cannot take anything when you leave. Same applies to the relations that you get into in this life. The

relations exist no more, once you are out of this body. Everything came to you just for your experience and fulfilment. The point is not accumulating or owning things. If we remember this, then we are not stuck in anything. We should remember that we have certain responsibilities towards everyone who gathers around us.

We should remember that everything around us changes from time to time. Nothing remains permanent. A lot of changes happen even within our body. People around us change from time to time. Only thing which is permanent is you. You as a soul are eternal and same with other beings. Nothing that we see around in objectivity is eternal.

How do we respond to a situation which causes us trouble, is a test for our association with Divine? We might think that we perform prayers and rituals regularly and have good association with the Lord. But the real test is when we face a problem in our life. When a problem comes, are you stuck in the problem or do you relate to the Lord? A devotee relates to the Lord when a problem comes and is not affected by the problem. He is not troubled by that problem. He just witnesses the problem as it comes and goes.

When Rama was told to go into exile into the forest, everyone in the kingdom was disturbed but Rama was not disturbed. The situation did not affect him though the problem directly affected him and not others. He was to be coronated the king on that day but he went into the forest. When his brother asked him, "What is this?" Rama replies "It is Divine. See the Divine in this situation." That shows the kind of stable mind that Rama had.

Here, it is instructed that one can attain such a stable mind by constantly recollecting stories of Divine and remaining in Divine alignment as much time as possible. By reading Scriptures, our taste towards the Divine grows gradually. As the taste grows, we start spending more and more time relating to the Divine in different ways.

Another test for checking how closely one is associated with the Divine is, the kind of thoughts that we get during our free time. If one is able to recollect the Divine when doing nothing, then it means that one has transcended the objectivity to certain extent. If we keep getting all other thoughts, then it means that we are still to make a lot of progress.

Once, a family came to meet Master EK. They had a lot of inherited wealth but slowly that wealth turned out to cause a lot of problems to them. The wealth was there even in earlier generations of their family but they never had problems because constant worship of Sri Yantra happened in their house. That worship was not continued in the present generation. They asked Master EK for advice. Master EK said "You are not in a position to follow the strict tradition that your forefathers have followed. I suggest you to chant Vishnu Sahasranama daily and your problems will reduce gradually." They even could not do that because the problems were stopping them.

from even following that simple advice. Master EK said "If you cannot do even that, then nobody can help you."

That is why daily worship of Divine is very important. If we do not do that regularly and get into troubles, worshipping the Lord then will be very difficult because the problems will cause hindrance even in your worship. If you worship regularly, then you can worship and remain with the Divine, even when you facing problems in your life.

So we are discussing the words spoken by certain Sages. They said that they could transcend the mental plane and entered the Buddhi place through Divine worship. They lost interest in objectivity once Divine alignment stabilized in them. For them, Divine is primary and everything else is secondary. Objective comforts do not matter to them at all. They remain in the comfort of Divine alignment at all times. That state is so attractive. They are protected by the Divine at all times. So we too should strive for such a state.

We should realise that problems come and go and there is no point in trying to solve them. If one problem is solved, something else crops up. Here a permanent solution is given which is Divine alignment. If you are with the Lord, no problem can touch you. It just comes and goes while you remain a witness.

Now Prasuti, the wife of Daksha speaks. She said "Even if one has a very good body but no head, it is of no use." One can live without other parts but not without head. Here, having a head which is not properly functioning is equivalent to not having a head. So head is a very important part for the functioning of rest of the body. Here Prasuti compares Divine alignment to the head of a body. She says that Divine alignment causes fulfilment in experience in everything that we do. So, living a life in close association with the Divine, leads us to fulfilment. That is why, every morning, when we wake up, we should request the Lord to stay with us throughout the day while we perform different activities. Arjuna asked Krishna to become his charioteer. Only because of that, Arjuna could win the war. Otherwise, Arjuna would definitely lose. We too should request the Lord to lead us in our lives. We should remember that he is with us and presides over us at all times. That is why, there was the tradition of putting a crown or turban or some kind of cap on the head. It is to remind us of the Lord presiding over us at all times. Even now some religions still follow this tradition. What is important is remembering that the Lord is with us. He is not there to fulfil our desires. He is there to lead us in the right path. He will make us do the right things. Then you will start seeing the whole creation to be splendid. Then you will fear at no time because you know that you are always protected. It is natural armour that one can have. So Prasuthi has given us a very important practice. It is just about recollecting the Lord at all times.

We conduct Group livings in a very splendorous manner. Many of us participate in different activities on all the days of Group Living. It is fulfilling to you only when you remain with the Divine throughout the group living. Otherwise it is like any other social gathering.

Our existence and awareness is because of the Divine. How can we forget him? He will not catch hold of us because he has given us freedom. He will hold onto you only if you hold onto him. He will remain dormant in you if you forget him and he becomes active if you remember him all the time.

Then there were rulers of different planes of creation who spoke. We will discuss about that in the next class.

We will not have Bhagavatam classes for 2 weeks as we have Diwali next Sunday and then Gurupujas in Rajamundry. So we will again have class on 13th Nov. Until then, we will try to recollect what has been discussed as told by some of the participants of the Yagna. We might not remember everything but recollection and practice helps us to remain in Divine alignment.

-Swasthi