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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 14th of May 2017, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Dhruva receives the grand wisdom due to his communion with Divine during his penance and on seeing the Lord, he starts praising the Lord and his qualities. We discussed partly of what Dhruva said in the last class and we will continue now.

Dhruva tells that aspirants should remain in touch with those devotees who are in constant communion with the Divine in and around. Such devotees see and worship the Divine in anything and everything. Even by seeing such devotees, some of the impurities in us get neutralized. That is why it is said we should keep visiting such devotees from time to time wherever they are available. Their presence helps us gain aspiration to progress in the path. Their presence also helps us stand above the problems that we face in life. If we observe the lives of many devotees, they faced many problems in objectivity but they were not disturbed by them because they never cared about the problems. They were always with the Divine. Hence the problems come and go. Even solving the problem of a devotee becomes the duty of the Lord. We should keep reading the stories of such devotees. Just by reading, we can remain in Divine presence. Such are their stories. There might be good books containing lot of other knowledge relating to creation and all but, they might not grant you Divine presence unless you recollect Divine while reading them. It is different while reading the stories of devotees. Presence is automatically granted by reading their stories.

Dhruva is also telling us that we should not be worried of our problems; instead we should align with the Divine. Then the problems become nothing. They will keep coming and going while one remains an observer. Dhruva is also requesting the Lord that he be granted a state where he remains in constant Divine alignment.

When Lord Krishna came to Mathura for the first time, a flower seller sees him and experiences bliss so much that he makes a garland out of all the flowers he has and puts it on Lord Krishna. Krishna feels happy and asks that flower seller "What do you want?" Then that person replies "O Lord! Please allow me to remain in your presence at all times. Please allow me to remain in acquaintance with those who remain in your presence at all times." Such are the kind of requests that true devotees make. They are God mongers. They seek nothing but the Lord. When you go and speak to them, they speak of the Lord only. They can relate anything and everything to the Lord. Dhruva is also seeking such a state from the Lord.

We should understand this grand secret. If we are with the Lord and seeking Divine presence at all times, then you need not ask for anything else. Everything comes to you, as and when it is necessary. You need not even seek liberation. True devotees don't seek liberation. So, keep aside the thought "I want so and so." If you are able to leave that thought, then you have truly surrendered. Surrender and Divine alignment is the solution to all problems in creation. If you are with HIM, then you need not worry of anything else. We discuss this point many times but it needs to be recollected again and again until we truly attain that state. That is what this scripture does. It keeps stressing this point again and again from time to time.

Dhruva further tells "One who experiences your touch will forget about himself and his body." For most of the people in this world, they themselves are most important and only then anything else comes. Especially in present times, we rarely see people sacrificing their lives completely for the sake or welfare of someone else. People might do good things but still their life takes precedence over everything else when a choice has to be made. People keep taking care of their bodies and some spend lot of time in that. Now days, people are doing things to take special care of the body. At this juncture, we have to remember one thing. This body is given to us by the Lord. If we are fulfilling our duties properly, then the upkeep of the body is taken care of by the Lord himself through nature. This we can observe in the lives of great devotees. They did not take special care of their bodies. They even forget to eat many times due to Divine alignment. They sometimes even forget that they have a body. They just remember that everything belongs to Divine. And hence it is the responsibility of Divine to take care of them.

Devotees remain so much in Divine alignment that the nature keeps arranging everything for them and takes care of them. Lord Krishna tells in Bhagawadgita that "It is my responsibility to take care and work through those who remain in Divine alignment at all times." The Lord protects such ones at all times.

There is one incident which happened in the life of Madam HPB. She was in India at that time and in the city of Mumbai. She was on a street at that time and the independence movement in India was going on. Some people started rioting on that street. People were getting beaten up and property being destroyed. When Madam HPB was standing in the midst of all this, suddenly a big hand appears out of space picks her up and puts her in a place where she was completely out of trouble. That shows the kind of protection she had due to her devotion and surrender to the Divine plan.

So, we should leave thoughts like "I will take care of this body. I will become a devotee. I will attain liberation and so on." Instead just think you should remain with the Divine at all times. Do not worry of anything else. Everything will come to you and you just need to follow. I observed this aspect in the life of Master EK very closely. The same aspect I observed in the life of my father as well. They were always with the Divine and things kept happening through them. All their responsibilities and obligations in life too got fulfilled effortlessly.

Generally, in most of the cases, we ourselves stand as a hindrance to the work that is to happen through us. So, we need to stand aside and let the Lord take over. You be with HIM while he does everything through you. Let him take over you and your responsibilities.

Dhruva tells "O Lord! Through my worship and penance, I could realise your omnipresence and I understood the creation as your splendorous form." It means Dhruva reached a state where he could see the Divine in all.

We should again remember that Dhruva was a child and he knew nothing until he started following the teachings of Narada. Once he started following the teaching and started seeing the Divine in and around, all the knowledge in this creation started coming to him. He did not seek it. He sought Divine and as a result the knowledge sought him. Dhruva did not read any books to gain all this knowledge. Practice gives us lot of knowledge from within. We are given books to get inspiration to practice. Books cannot give you all the knowledge. Only practice can give you all the knowledge.

During his penance, Dhruva realised that the Divine energy stands as the basis of all the forms in this creation. As a result, he reaches a state of no rejection. There is nothing that is not Divine for Dhruva. We keep saying that all forms are Divine but that has to become true to us. It has to be realised. Dhruva has realised that through his penance.

We keep saying that there are 8 layers of 3 qualities and 5 elements that are around the Divine principle in any form and they prevent us from seeing the Divine principle in that form. Dhruva is telling that one need not try to see through the 8 layers. Instead if one sees the form that is visible as Divine itself and if this practice stabilises in you, then the 8 layers themselves open apart and let you see the Divine principle. When we go to a temple, we keep seeing lot of things happening and there might be lot of crowd in the queue which will make us feel uncomfortable. If you are a true aspirant, you should learn to see the Divine in everything happening in the temple from the point you enter into it. There might be some commercial activity happening in the temple which might disturb you. If you see the Divine in that activity as well, then you are not disturbed. That is when visiting a temple is really fruitful to you.

There are some more points which Dhruva speaks. We will discuss them in the next class. We discussed some aspects of practice in this class and we should try to follow them in life.

-Swasthi