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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 04th of June 2017, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Hearty fraternal greetings to the brothers and the sisters. We are discussing the fourth canto of the Bhagavatam. Dhruva has been working for the last 30 million years on this planet. We think we have done lot of work if we worked for just 30 years. However, Dhruva has been working for 30 million years and will continue until this globe exists. We need to visualize how much penance he must have done and how he has been working for 30 million years. If we read the story of Maitreya, we know that his work has been happening for 5,000 years. By the time we complete the story of Dhruva in Bhagavatam, we need to develop fiery will because that is what Dhruva had to do such grand work. He had very fiery aspiration to see and experience the Lord.

Remember that the nature does not attract us. We get attracted to the nature. There is a cricket match between India and Pakistan and I was asked if there would be a holiday for the Bhagavatam class! That is how attracted to the nature. Nobody is forcing us to watch the cricket match or the cricket match is not calling us but we are attracted towards it. It is wrong to attribute the attraction to the nature. The Mother nature comes in eight layers. We get attracted to these eight layers. We get situations in our life that demonstrate this effect. The nature is very beautiful. You can just observe it without get attracted and indulged in it.

There is one sloka that we recite every week that has a good message in this regard. It says that there are many things that formed around us due to our existence and we are generally bonded by them. We have the body formed around us in many layers. We have the spouse, children, and all the relations around us. Then there is profession, property, social status, etc. We get stuck in all these. It is like getting lost in a dense forest. The only way to come out of this forest is to by going inward.

We need to visualize the light in our spinal column and in the head, and think that we are standing in that column, and then do the prayer. If we visualize the light in us -- it is just a visualization for now but it will gradually become a reality. If we sit in this light, then all the other things in the outer will not distract us.

Pariskhit knew that time has come for him to depart the body. He has the ability to stay in this body, but he knew that the time has come for him to depart. He had seven days. So, he entered into the one-pillared building and started contemplating. This one-pillared building is nothing but the column of light within. Suka entered this one-pillared building and started giving out the Bhagavatam. Guru or Master gives us the teaching when we are ready waiting in the column of light. If we are just roaming around in the market place, the guru will not come to do the teaching.

Bhagavatam was given out by Sukha to Parikshit in seven days. That is the reason we have a tradition to read the Bhagavatam continuously in seven days.

Dhurva entered within and experienced the Lord. He is explaining his experience of the Lord and we have been discussing the details given out by Dhruva. I am reiterating this to remind us that we need to enter within and visualize the Lord. If just listen to the Bhagavatam classes, you just get the habit of listening to the Bhagavatam. What is important is that you enter into your inner self. Then, you will not be stuck in other worldly details. We need to take our awareness into our inner being and then offer it to the Lord. Then you will have direct one-to-one interaction with the Lord. Potana had such connection with the Divine; that is why he was able to give out such level of detail in his Bhagavatam writings.

We will have short break after two classes, so I will try to give out the details of Dhurva's experience of the Lord in today's and next class. Dhruva had a vision of the Divine at the time of the dissolution of creation and he mentions of it. Markandeya had such an experience of the completion of the Yuga and the experience of the Divine principle during that time. We discussed about the story of Markandeya in one of the Gurupujas few years back. And we have a book (in Telugu) that came out giving this experience of Markandeya. Dhurva had similar experience of the completion of the Yuga and the experience of the Lord during that time. However, Dhurva's experience is different from Markandeya's experience. Each experience will be different, and it is not the same for everyone.

The Lord is complete all the times. No matter what is taken out from him, he is always complete. Sage Agastya is likewise complete. We need to become complete as well as we are potentially Divine. That is what the Lord wishes to us, completeness in all aspects. One who has become one with THAT or Brahman is said to have reached that state.

Dhruva further tells "O Lord! You are one presiding over all the intelligences in this creation." The Lord presides over them and works through them because they are working for the sake of others. Intelligences in creation have no personal work. This rule applies to us too. The Lord is active in us when we associated with the Lord and work for the benefit of others. Otherwise, the Lord remains dormant in us. The same happens with devas (intelligences). That is why we are given the stories of Indra, Sun, and others falling down from this association with the Lord. This happens when they think of themselves and not the benefit of others. Sages recognize quickly whenever they fall out of the association with the Lord, and they try to get back into the association with the Lord. Narada had one such instance where he was inquisitive about Hanuman's bhakti (devotion). This inquisitiveness about other's devotion led to Narada falling out of the association with the Lord for a short duration. The one who gets side-tracked, always falls out. There is a saying "Mind your own business." You should not partake in other's issues. The Lord presides whenever someone is working for the benefit of others.

Everyone has a duty assigned to oneself. You just need to focus on this duty, and not get side tracked. Krishna says you are assigned a particular duty when you take to birth. You just need to focus on this duty. You are given this body to fulfil yourselves and become complete. You can achieve this objective by focusing on your duty and not get side tracked. If you get into other's duties, your purpose is lost. This is where I stopped in the last class.

Dhruva tells that there are knowers who know see the Divine in the work they do and result they get and they have no expectation over the result. They even see the comforts and discomforts in life as Divine. There are even kings who performed their royal duties in Divine communion. While there are some who desire for petty things out of ignorance, not knowing that communion with the Lord is ultimate fulfilment.

Potana was told that if he comes to work for the king then he can be in wealth. However, Potana is with the Lord and has the wealth of the Lord. He is like an emperor in his own way because he is in communion with one who presides over the whole creation. The worldly wealth that the king can give is very tiny compared to the wealth of the Lord. The one who thinks that he does not need anything and is with the Lord, then the Lord takes care of them and works through them. There might be some devotees that may have some unfulfilled desires. The Lord tries to fulfil those desires out of his compassion for us. There are times when some desires can lead us to danger. If they are going to lead us to danger, then the Lord protects us by seeing that those desires are not fulfilled. This happens no matter how much effort we put in.

There was an incidence in 1974 when a new train from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam was inaugurated for the first time. There were some folks who wanted to get onto the first train journey. They missed the train so they took a car to catch the train at the next station. However, when they tried to go faster than the train, they got into an accident and died. The Lord tried to protect them by causing the delay and having them miss the train. However, they insisted on getting on the train and got into danger. When the Lord is protecting us then we get saved even if are roaming in the forest on our own. If the Lord is not protecting us, then we get into danger even in our garden behind our house. There are many, many stories that demonstrate this.

Lahiri Mahasaya had dreams where he saw lot of gold, diamonds and precious stones. He was into Kriya yoga and could not understand why he was dreaming so much of objective wealth. He used to work in the telephone department. He once got transferred to a place near the Himalayas. He was a yogi, so he did not question and went to that station to serve his duty. My father was like that as well -- he used to get transferred to another city every 2-3 months. My father used to say it is Rama's order for me to serve in this new place. Lahiri Mahasaya had to go a place for work reasons and there was a cave nearby. Once he entered the cave, he saw 10,000 times more gold, diamonds, and precious stones there, than he saw in his dream. Lahiri Mahasaya having seen so much got into a kind of disinterest with that wealth and did not feel like owning any of it. This is how the Lord fulfils the desires of his devotees and ensures that the devotee does not get into trouble because of their desire.

With that the stotra done by Dhruva is complete. I explained in detail every word of the Dhurva's stotram (praise) of the Lord for 5 to 6 classes. Please read this carefully or listen again to the audio recording when I am in Europe as we do not have Bhagavatam classes. By repetition, it sticks to us mentally and helps our aspiration grow.

The Lord is now speaking to Dhruva. The Lord says Dhruva that you are a very stable one with a constant and consistent vibration. The Lord tells Dhruva "I know what you intend to do". The Lord says "you will stand stable at the center and the all the planets, stars, and constellations, and zodiac will revolve around you. The stars of the Seven Seers and others will revolve around you." So the

Lord tells Dhruva that he would stand as the axial basis for the revolving globes in this creation. Dhruva did not ask this from the Lord but he had an idea of it during his penance. The Lord recognizes it and grants it as a boon to Dhruva. If you now look back and see Dhruva's praise, you will see that Dhruva gave subtle hints of this in his praise. If you have a strong desire of something, then offer it to the Lord. If it is beneficial to you, the Lord will fulfil it. Otherwise, the Lord will ensure that you gradually forget that desire. Dhruva has not asked this directly but has the desire inside him. The Lord is saying it is typically not possible, but since Dhruva was a highly stable one, the Lord fulfils his desire.

In correspondence to human form, we should understand this axial basis is nothing but the spinal column which stands as the basis for the rest of the body. All the organs stand and work based on this spinal column.

The Lord said that Dhruva will get that status after 26,000 years. What does that mean? This period of 26000 solar years is called the Great Year. This 26,000 years is the approximate time taken (it is 25920 years to be precise) by precessional movement of earth's axis around the ecliptic or zodiac, in anti-clockwise direction.

(One can refer to this link for the picture which describes precessional movement of earth.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axial_precession#/media/File:Earth_precession.svg)

So, the axial rotation takes 2,160 years to pass through each zodiac (72 years for each of the 360 degrees). Now it passing through the Aquarius sign and hence we have the Aquarian age.

So, the Lord tells that Dhruva has to wait for a great year to pass before he can attain the grand tatus and till then he had some other have some other work to fulfil. We will discuss what that other work is during the next class.

-Swasti