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## **"Srimad Bhagavatam"**

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, at Visakh.**

*(for private circulation to WTT members)*

*Canto 4:*

After Dhruva's tapas, the Lord appears before Dhruva from within his Ajna. At that time, Dhruva was in Samadhi state and had no individual consciousness. So, there is no way that he could recognize that Lord in a form before him. The Lord himself brings Dhruva out of that Samadhi state. Then Dhruva sang in the praise of the Lord Vishnu. The Lord is responding to Dhruva now. We have discussed that Dhruva had a wish to preside over the galaxy of planetary systems and constellations. During penance, he later realized that there is no use to ask the Lord for anything and that the Lord gives what is needed. We discussed in last class that the Lord himself granted Dhruva his wish without Dhruva asking. The Lord told that Dhruva will realize his wish after 26,000 years and asked Dhruva to administer the kingdom as a king, until then. That is where we stopped in the last class.

The Lord tells Dhruva the span of the galaxy that he would be presiding in future. This description is tough to understand. We need to visualize it in our contemplation. But most of the times all the local surroundings will come to us in our contemplation. We need to visualize that we are sitting on top of the planet earth and are doing the contemplation. That is how we will be able to contemplate on what is said here. The first layer is the planets and moons. After that it is the sun, then the stars, after that it is the constellations, after that it is Seven Seers (the Great Bear). This kind of visualizations is given as one of the ways to meditate in Bhagavatam. We can see the Atlas to see which planets are located where, around us. We have the seven days and the order of the days in a week was decided based on certain order in the movement of planets around us. The Sun revolves as part of the twelve suns. After that, it is the stars. After that it is the Seven Seers. They are the source of many Suns. We think they are persons, but they are principles where many solar systems originate. So, though they can take forms as we do, do not think of them to be someone like us. Seven Seers should be understood as centres and originators for groups of Solar Systems. If we visualize like this, then we are lifted up. It is said, "The prayer lifts us up." That means prayer increases our comprehension if done in the right manner. Our awareness can expand very fast.

Here, Dhruva is granted to attain a status of presiding over all these layers right from the planets to the Seven Seers, with himself as the centre. He acts like a central axis to this whole galaxy of planets and stars. He also acts as the axial principle to each and every planet and star, including earth. The earth rotates around the axis. Everything rotates around the axis and Dhruva stands as the axial principle. The Lord said to Dhruva that he will grant his wish after 26,000 years. I also explained the significance of 26,000 years in the last class. The duration of 26,000 years is called a Great Year.

Dhruva was granted such a grand status in this creation. Dhruva visualized this grand sphere of planets and stars during his penance before he visualized Vishnu's feet. If Vishnu's feet is the highest station, the next station in the creation belongs to Dhruva.

Master EK gave lot of details here about the origin of the earth. He explained how Dhruva (Pole Star) was responsible for the formation of our planet. We discussed it to some extent in the previous classes.

Apart from the external pole star, there is also a pole star within us. The pole within us is the spinal column which spans from Sahasrara to Muladhara. Just like the axis of the planet, this column also doesn't move but everything gathers and changes around it. We have the zodiac signs in us, we have the 27 constellations in us. We need to associate with the Dhruva in us. The deeper we get within us, the more wisdom we will gain of all things around us. That is why "Dip Deep" is given to us. We need to get deep within us. If we remain outside, we just keep moving like the movement of the planets. If we get into the axis, it doesn't move. It is a stable state. We need to get into the seventh layer within us. From there, we get the direct path to the Sahasrara. We need to increase the time for contemplations. We can just sit somewhere comfortably and contemplate. If the posture is not comfortable to us, then we keep moving. We can think and know which position is most comfortable to us. There is no standard posture that applies to all. Each one has his own posture that is comfortable to him. We need to sit comfortably when we do not any work or duty and do the contemplation.

There are some other secrets in this story that we will discuss today.

The position of the Great Bear constellation with respect to the other stars can be used to determine the how many years back an event has occurred. Master EK wrote in the book "Man Sacrifice" that the Great Bear was in Magha Nakshatra (Regulas star) when Yudhistira was coronated as Emperor of this land. It corresponds to Sun Sign Leo. Presently the Great Bear is going to enter the sun sign of Aquarius. So, it moved 72 degrees year and according the time when Yudhistira ruled this land. One can refer to "Man Sacrifice" for more details. Even the years of different incidents mentioned in Puranas have been calculated by relating to earth's movement in relation to different constellations. So that ends Master EK's explanation. Now we go back to the story.

Vishnu tells Dhruva that until the time comes for the fulfilment of his boon, Dhruva would need to rule over the kingdom now being ruled by his father. Uttanapada is king of the earth which is in its initial stages of formation. With Dhruva's penance, the formation of earth almost gets to its completion.

Uttanapada means right angle. If you draw a line from the earth's axis to the equator, a right angle is formed. That line connects the center to circumference. Uttanapada is the principle that helps from going from the circumference to the center and also center to circumference using the right angle. This has correspondence to our human form. We are on the equator or the mundane world. We can go inside to the heart centre by crossing the 12 petals of the heart lotus. Uttanapada facilitates this movement by being at right angle to the axis and equator.

It is of this principle, forests got formed around the equator between the Tropic of cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. The sun also moves around this equator -- in a belt between Tropic of Cancer to Tropic of Capricorn. There is lot of life force in this belt. There is not much life force near the Arctic and Antarctic. Hardly any plants or animals live there. This formation of forests here is described as Uttanapada leaving to forests after coronating Dhruva as the King. The wisdom is given in keys like this. We should be very careful while trying to understand the meaning behind these keys.

Also, later in the story it is told that Uttama, the brother of Dhruva, goes into forest hunting and dies there. This statement is highly symbolic. The name Uttama means that one who is interested in ascent of consciousness.

Master EK gives a more detailed explanation here of Uttama's story. In its movement relative to earth, the Sun crosses the equator when he moves from south to north. This happens around March 21st. On that day, if you stand at a place on the equator, the day and night will be exactly equal in duration and hence that day is referred to as equinox.

You can do an experiment if you want. If you install a pole on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the shadow of the pole on this day falls on the equator. So, the shadow acts as an indicator for equator. For about 90 days, the Sun travels north and the shadow also moves in that direction. Then comes Summer Solstice after which the Sun starts travelling south and the duration of night increases. The Sun again cuts the equator around September 22<sup>nd</sup> which is another equinox in the year. All this movement happens at the rate of 1 degree per day. Then on December 21st, the Sun again starts moving northwards. We need to observe where the shadow is occurring on March 21st. Make a mark there. Make a mark again on December 21st. The sun moves between these two marks.

This movement of the Sun is what Uttama tries to hunt. And then during at a specific time when the Sun moves from Pieces into Aries, Uttama gets an opportunity to ascend into higher planes. So he was no more in the physical which is symbolically described as his death. This time of the year is celebrated as Vasanth Navarathri as per Vedic tradition and as Passover as per the Jewish tradition.

The solar consciousness within us also moves like this as well during the course of the year. An aspirant should try to trace this movement within oneself. There details are given as a story in Kalidasa's book "Abhijnaya Shakuntalam". But we cannot know all these things when we just read that story because we do not have the knowledge of symbolism, astrology and astronomy to be able to understand the underlying meaning in that story. We are lucky that Master EK explained the symbolism for us to understand.

It is told that Uttama is a hunter. He is not hunting deer or other animals. Hunter is given symbolically. Uttama is hunting the Solar consciousness over the course of the year. Due to that he gains an entry into the higher planes. So even Dhruva's brother was no ordinary being. Recollecting the principle of Uttama will enable us to ascent vertically.

Coming back to Lord Vishnu's instructions to Dhruva. He instructs Dhruva to continuously do Yagna. Yagna means looking after welfare of others. Purushamedha Yagna is sacrificing oneself for the welfare of others. Lord Vishnu is telling Dhruva that there is some additional work that need to

be done by Dhruva before he takes to the position granted to him. It is because of Dhruva the axis is formed and earth started rotating around the axis. After the axis is formed, the earth's rotation around this axis causes the seasons. Here some more detailed explanation is given here by Master EK which I will first read and then explain.

The Lord told Dhruva that his wish will be fulfilled in time but asked him to rule the kingdom till then. We discussed the status that was accorded to Dhruva. Master EK explains to us that an etheric line was established by the Lord when he appeared in the form of Varaha Avatar to bring out the earth matter from latent state. This line extends from the pole star along the earth's North pole and down to earth's south pole. Dhruva is now made the principle to preside over this line. He is responsible for the whirlpool of forces above the north pole and below the south pole which cause the earth's rotation around the axis. This rotation results in different seasons on earth. That is one dimension.

Then there is Swayambhuva Manu who enabled the formation of the equator for earth. We discussed about this Manu long time back. Manus rule the beings while Prajapatis are the progenitors and teachers. Dhruva's story is part of the story of creation. Priyamvata's story, which comes later, is the story of beings on this earth trying to fulfil themselves.

So here, Manu, being the ruling principle, enabling the formation of equator means that the way of lives and dharmas (natural laws) of the beings are directed based on how close or far away they are from the equator. How close are we to the equator? Are we below the equator or above the equator? We should have this awareness. The whole of India is above the equator. Visakhapatnam is 17 degrees north to the equator. Europe is 40 degrees north. As you go up in the latitude, the life force decreases and it gets colder. We are closer to equator here in Visakhapatnam. It is uncomfortable to wear lot of clothes here. The vegetables and fruits that grow here are different from the ones that grow in Europe. We cannot ask for certain vegetables in Europe. A priest in Himalayas wear lot of layers of clothing when he is doing the puja. Here in Visakhapatnam, the priest does not even wear shirts. If you go to English, hardly anyone goes out without an umbrella because it rains often in England. So based on how far one is from the equator, the way of lives, the eating habits, the dressing habits, etc. were decided and given as dharmas by Manu. Manu established the structures of life depending on which latitude we live. The ones who live closer to the equator eat more spicy food. The ones near poles do not eat much spicy food. It is all because of natural differences. All these rules and structures are established by the Manu. Do not expect everyone on the planet to follow the same rules and life styles. Never compare and do not imitate life styles without knowing if something is compatible to your body and place of living, or not.

In our scriptures, longitudes are called Varaha lines and Latitudes are called Manu lines. We typically do not have much association with longitudes. We associate much with latitudes because they determine the seasons. There is a season for each fruit and vegetable. We should eat fruit and vegetables only in respective seasons. Just because we have the technology, if we try to produce any fruit or vegetable in any season, we lose communion with nature.

Manu lines, latitude, are tied to the dharma or rules for living. There are creational laws. There are laws based on a specific nature of the person. We should do things as per our nature. Each one is good at doing certain things. We need to do the work that is aligned with our nature. Not all are

equal in awareness and personality. In the name of equality, if anyone starts doing anything disregarding his nature, both the person and the work one is doing are affected.

There are also laws based on the age. Each one should do things in accordance with his age. A 70-year-old should not go to the midnight movie or have a late dinner in a hotel. His health does not permit it. As the age advances, the stomach becomes delicate. Whatever you ate when you were young, you will not be able to eat the same way as age advances.

If one lives as per these natural laws, the latitudes and longitudes of this earth are imprinted within us as well. Then we can do planetary work as well. Otherwise, we will not be able to do even our own work. The longitudes determine when the sunrise happens. Sun rises early in Australia and happens later in Europe. According, we should sleep and wake up. We should follow the respective time zone. We cannot live in the same time zone all over the planet. So that is the law relating to longitudes. We need to get in tune with these laws related to the longitudes and latitudes. If we follow these laws, then the devas will be pleased and we will have regular seasonal rains.

The Lord Vishnu told all these to Dhurva. Already there is a plan of work and Dhruva was recruited into it. Dhruva saluted the feet of the Lord. Dhurva was in lot of comfort when he was in contemplation of the Lord. Now, he was asked to rule the kingdom and do lot of work. This is lot of work and Dhurva will not have the same comfort and experience of contemplation. How much work will it be rule the planet? It is not an ordinary thing. There are lot of people working to maintain this Radhamadhavam temple in this manner. Just imagine how much effort would be required to manage the whole planet.

Lord Vishnu told Dhurva to see the Lord in the work that he does, and not to stop the work just to see the Lord. Dhurva obliges this because the Lord told him to do so. Dhurva went home at this point. We will continue later.

Meanwhile, I will go to Europe for three weeks and then one week for Gurupuja. Please try to recollect this over the next four weeks. It is easy for us to forget. Don't go to movie just because I am away on a tour. You can go to movie on Saturday and continue to listen or read Bhagavatam on Sunday! Veda Vyasa told us to read Bhagavatam on Sunday evening because Sunday evening between 6 and 8 pm is the time presided by Jupiter.

We need to remember that the Lord is watching us all the time. He will know whether we committed to understand Bhagavtam and adopt its teachings in our live.

-Swasti