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## **"Srimad Bhagavatam"**

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 01<sup>st</sup> of October 2017, at Visakh.**

*(for private circulation to WTT members)*

### *Canto 4:*

In the last class, we discussed about Dhruva reaching the highest abode. It was a plane above the 3 worlds and which is the ultimate source of light for the creation. Here, it is also said that Dhruva's mother Suneeti also attained the highest abode mainly because of her sincere practice of worshipping her husband by seeing the Divine in him. There is an Indian tradition for the wife to see the Lord in the husband. It is a way of practice to progress quickly in the Spiritual path. It can be also be practiced by the husband by seeing the Divine in his wife. However, this is very difficult to practice especially when the spouse does not treat them well, which happened in the case of Suneeti.

Dhruva's mother, Suneeti, started seeing everything as Vasudeva's (i.e., Lord's) actions, and she stopped seeing the good and bad in events. This is one of the keys to the path of Bhagavata. This key is very difficult to adopt especially when one faces discrimination and discomforts in life. However, Suneeti had the aspiration to relate to the Divine even after going through bad situations. There is no qualification required to recollect the Lord except Divine aspiration. There is no minimum qualification for devotion. We can have a direct link to the Lord through devotion. Masters are present only to enable us get that direct link. They have no wish to stand in-between a devotee and the Lord, once the link is established. Dhruva got the initiation through Narada. However, there was no mention of initiation for Suneeti. She must have done lot of practice in the path of Vasudeva and attained a direct link to the Divine. If we see the story of Suneeti, she did not get into anger like Dhruva did. She relied on the path of Vasudeva.

Regarding Dhruva's story: there is no other story in Bhagavata where a five-year-old boy went into penance. This is generally possible to great Seers but Dhruva had amazing will to succeed in penance. We need to hold the right things. We typically hold onto the wrong things. Dhruva had lot of will power to do penance at five years of age. He became a disciple of the Lord and attained the presence of the Lord. What Dhruva did is nearly impossible for others.

There are few stories in Bhagavata regarding the path of Vasudeva. Path of Vasudeva leads to neutralization of all emotions in us. We need to see how often we get disturbed. If we are disturbed every day, then we are early in our practices. If we are getting disturbed once a week, then we are just getting started in our practice. If we are getting disturbed once between the solstice and equinox, then we are making good progress in our practice. If we are getting disturbed once every ten years, then we made very good progress in our practice.

Both Suniti and Dhruva are in the path of Vasudeva and are onto higher planes. There is a description here of the other planes they have seen. They saw the other planes due to the light in them. We need to understand this correctly. We need to increase the light in us so we can see the other planes. We are interested in seeing the Masters of Wisdom and other higher planes. You can only see the Masters and other planes only after you increase the light in you. This is similar to the situation where you are in a dark room but hold a flash light with you. Then you can see the dark room using the light you hold. It is like miners holding a flash light on the forehead. It is symbolic. In this case, the flash light is within the person. This is the reason why all the divine experiences happen during the night hours. At night, it is the light from within that enables a being to experience the higher planes. This is a big secret revealed to us here because we all aspire for subtle experiences but we do not know how they happen. Here we are told that it is possible only when the light in us increases. The planes are ever present around us. It is just that we are blind to them. It is like we being able to see the stars during night time and not during day time. Ramakrishna Paramahansa gives cites this analogy. The stars are visible in one state but not in another. Same is case with the higher planes, Masters of Wisdom and even the Lord. They become visible once you reach a particular state and until then they are invisible. Dhruva increased the light in him so that he can see the three planes called Bhu (Matter), Bhuvaha (Force), and Suvaha (Consciousness) completely. The light here is the light in the spinal column. It is like a tube light within us. It penetrates through all planes. So, if it emits light, we can see any of those planes.

Here, it is mentioned that 'kindness' is a requirement to get access to these planes. There are other required qualities but kindness is most significant among them. We need to have patience to get access to these planes. We lose patience very easily. We chant "Om Shanti Shanti Shanti" often but we don't have any peace and patience. We need to accept and forbear any kind of situation with patience. If one loses patience very easily, then it means one has hardly made any progress in the path. Then, we need to have a clean mind. If the mind is clean, then the speech and actions will be clean. Mind is most important as it affects the speech and actions. We can wear white clothes which are clean but it does not help if there is no cleanliness in the mind. Madam HPB says "A clean life, an open mind, a pure heart and an eager intellect" in the Golden stairs. Then only one can have "an unveiled spiritual perception". Madam Blavatsky could see beings from other planes because she gained such a perception.

When Master EK was in Radhamadhavam, a lady came to visit Master EK and stayed in Radhamadhavam. She went upstairs to the library at night to get some book. She saw a being in white glowing light there. Then next day she asked Master if someone came here at night. Master EK asked if she saw someone and she said yes. Then Master told her not to tell this to anyone. Very few people know about this incident. She was able to see that lighted being because she had pure mind. We need to do the practices mentioned to get a pure mind. Otherwise, we hardly have a subtle perception and remain in doubt whether higher planes and lighted beings exist or not. We all do prayers and some other practices but if the expected change is not happening, it means something is wrong in the way we are doing. Something is lacking if you develop no subtle perception even after decades of practice. You should be sad if the change is not happening. Just attending all the activities happening at WTT is not sufficient. That is not our objective. Our objective is both outer and inner transformation. If not, time passes away and time for leaving the body comes. For majority of people, there is darkness at the time of death. There are some people who see light at the time of death. We die every night when we sleep. We return into this body the

next morning when we wake up. Practice seeing the light in you before you go to sleep every night. With this practice, you survive even after death. Death becomes departure for such a one.

I haven't thought of discussing in this level of detail prior to sitting here. I did not get a chance to look at the topic prior to coming here today. It happens 9 out of 10 times due to my work schedule. I just convey what He (the Lord) conveys.

So here the qualities that one should have to expend into the higher planes or reach the Divine abode are given. We need to set goals so that we take up practicing these qualities. Perhaps you can take one item each year. You are going to fail but the practice is to do a self-review and correct. You need to do a self-review and criticize yourself, not criticize others. Do not worry that others are not changing, worry that you are not changing for the better. Only few qualities are mentioned here but there are many more. However, as you start practicing a few sincerely, the rest automatically come to you.

Time moves much faster in the higher planes. There is a scale up in terms of experience of time. When we are in troubles, time seems to be passing very slowly. When Saturn is transiting our sign, it feels like it is a long time. When Jupiter is transiting, it seems like time is passing quickly. When we are very happy, time passes very quickly. When we are gossiping, it feels like the time is passing by quickly. It is because the mind is very much interested in gossiping. When you are doing something which you feel to be hard and uncomfortable, time moves very slow and vice-versa. It is all due to the mind. Similarly, if you enter higher planes where there is lot more happiness compared to the lower planes, time moves very fast.

Yugas and Kalpas happen very quickly in the higher planes. Kali, Dwapara, Treta, Krita is one Maha Yuga. 72 such Maha Yugas is one Kalpa. It is said that such Kalpas happen very quickly like a minute in some of the higher planes. You need to realize the capability of the person that was able to write and describe this timescale in Bhagavata. The beings there do not flap their eye lids even for a very short time. In this higher plane, all the beings move around in lighted forms. They wish the well being of all the beings in the creation. They do not discriminate good or bad. They have compassion for everyone equally. Their light is present around us as the zodiacal cycle.

Finally, the benefits of reading the story of Dhruva are given here. I will just read through it. It is said that one who reads this story without any desires will gain expansion into the awareness of Divine and gain the presence of the Lord. Dhruva's story concluded like this and is now there is a small introduction to the next story. The next story is regarding Dhruva's son and then we get into the story of Prachetas. It is a very good story which talks about the intelligences that form our senses. Without the senses, we cannot relate to this world in anyway. Prachetas means the intelligences that were expressed. All our senses are working due to the presence of Prachetas intelligences in us. Prachetas were asked to be part of the yagna of Creation. Vidura will ask many questions about them and Lord Maitreya will answer. We will discuss when that part comes.

Dhruva's story concludes with this class. We will enter into the next story in the next class.

-Swasti

