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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 22nd of April 2018, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Today being 22nd April, we consider it as an auspicious day because on this day in 1977, Master EK decided to reside in Radhamadhavam. He himself named this place Radhamadhavam after advising me to purchase it. He worked extensively from Radhamadhavam for 7 years and even departed from physical in Radhamadhavam only. Though he left the physical, he is ever present with us and his presence can always be felt in Radhamadhavam. So, this is a day to recollect him and to gain his presence. The activities which he performed here for many years continue to happen including the rituals, study of Scriptures and so on. By participating in these activities, one gains the presence and blessings of Master EK.

Now coming to the story of King Prudhu in Bhagavatam. We were discussing that the creator Brahma appeared before Prudhu to instruct him on certain aspects. He tells Prudhu that one should not try to stop the natural departure from the body once the life time is up. The body is given only to fulfil the purpose of life and to experience the creation. It is a temporary vehicle which we should leave at some point. It is against the natural dharma to try and stay in the same body forever. This is what Prudhu tried to do and Brahma says that it is against the dharma to do this. The being is eternal and this truth can be realised by following a certain path. So, one can follow that path and realise oneself to be immortal. That is the natural path to follow. That path is the path of Yoga. Through yoga, one can learn to depart from this body by will and also enter the body by will. If such a status can be attained, what is the point in trying to withhold the same body forever? So, one who aspires for immortality should follow the yogic path. Fulfilment, detachment, devotion and knowledge are all naturally present in the path of Yoga.

Here, we should also note that even though Prudhu was born with Divine energy and has done wonderful activity on the planet, he fell into a state of minor ignorance at this point. We should understand that however great the being can be, the physical body can make one fall into ignorance at times. We saw this happening with many devotees as well. So this happening is natural to anyone who takes a physical form.

Another point to remember is that most of us are born with past karma and that karma will lead us to different situations where we have to work and fulfil our duties and responsibilities. This is very important if one wishes to progress in the path of yoga. Without fulfilling your duties and responsibilities, you cannot aspire for something higher. We have obligations to fulfil towards our parents, spouse, children, friends, relatives, etc. and we should try and fulfil them to the best of our abilities. You cannot escape from them. If you try to escape now, they will come back as much bigger responsibilities in future. While attending to them, be dedicated and fulfil the work with the right intent. Do not despise the work that you have to do. It will only make things difficult. Be happy to fulfil all your duties and relate to the Divine while fulfilling them. Then all your duties are fulfilled without losing out on dharma and as a result karma is completely neutralized. While working, if you try to sway away from dharma or look out for non-righteous means, then karma is increased instead of getting neutralised. Almost everyone comes to this planet to neutralise their karma but most of them increase their karma by the time of departure from the body. So, they have to come back with much more karma and this goes on is a vicious cycle. The way to come out of this cycle is by sticking to dharma and doing only what is to be done and nothing more or less. Divine worship helps a lot when one aspires to come out of this cycle.

So, Brahma tells Prudhu, “you have done your work very well until now but at this point, you are acting ignorantly. Recollect the Divine and remember that your purpose has been fulfilled and it is time that you depart from the physical. There is no point in getting attached to this physical form. It is as per the natural law of creation that everyone should depart from the physical at some point of time. “

At the beginning of creation itself, certain rules were formed as to how one should act in this creation and if not, what will happen. These rules are just like the rules of a game. If you are playing the game, you have to stick to the rules. If you play foul, you will be penalized. If you are batting in a cricket match and get bowled out, you have to leave the field. You cannot say "I will continue batting". Your batting for the match is over and you can bat only in the next match. Such are the rules and the nature will enforce the rules irrespective of you knowing them or not. If you know the rules, you can play well. If are ignorant of the rules, then you cannot play well.

Lord Krishna gave certain principles about how one can play in this creation without getting penalized by the laws of nature. First among them is "Your only right in this creation is work. Only the work which is due from you." The 2nd one is "do not have any expectation about the results of the work you do." If your mind concentrates on the result, your work gets affected. The result which is due to you will come irrespective of your expectation. So why worry about it. The 3rd principle is "Do not do you work in a non-righteous or illegal way". Otherwise you keep creating more and more consequences. If you start accepting bribes in your job, it will lead

to lots of trouble and related consequences. If you rob your consumer while doing business, it will have consequences. You cannot loot your consumer in the name of profit. These are all dharmas that one has to follow while attending to one's duties. Then there are dharmas relating to family and friends. You should try to know them and follow them. There are dharmas relating to the body that are to be followed. You have utilize it properly, give it proper rest and feed it with suitable food. When you buy a machine, it comes with a manual which tells how it is to be operated. If you do not care for the manual and operate it as you like, then the machine will start mal-functioning. What happens if you pour diesel in a car which was designed to run on petrol? It will result in some damage. Similarly, you should eat what suits your body. If you eat anything and everything, the body will fall sick.

The problem is these dharmas are not taught in schools now days. The scriptures speak about them to certain extent and the rest we have learn through experience. If a dish causes sickness to your body every time after eating it 2 or 3 times, you should realize that it is not suitable to your body. If may be suitable to someone else but it does not mean it suits for everyone. There are certain aspects of the constitution of the human body which are unique to each one of us. Accordingly, we can eat certain food items and cannot eat some items. This can be learnt only through experience.

So, learn the dharmas in creation and try to follow them. Then you will know the purpose of your life and fulfil it before the life time in the body ends. Many people think that purpose in life is to earn money and try to do things based on money. It is never like that in creation. Your work and purpose are decided by your nature depending on your karma. Money can be earned with that work. However, it is secondary. Do not choose work by the money it offers you. It is an ignorant understanding.

And as said earlier, there are dharmas related to every work which should be followed. You cannot cheat your consumers in business. You cannot cheat your boss or co-employess in your profession. You cannot take bribes to do the work for which you are already receiving a salary. Cheating of another person will lead to drastic consequences. Generally, the consequences cannot be observed in many cases as they do not come immediately. The causality is rarely visible. Generally, people get into an illusion that there is nothing wrong is doing a small mistake because people around are also doing the same mistake. An employee might think there is nothing wrong in taking a bribe of small amount because there are people around him taking much larger bribes. Every wrong doing will have its own consequence irrespective of whether it is big or small. It is just a matter of time before the consequence unfolds.

Also remember that if you are following the path of hierarchy, the consequences of your mistakes appear much faster than they appear for others. It is because the Masters do not want you to get into a wrong habit. They will correct you immediately by bringing in some

consequence. They want to us to get out of such illusionary thinking as soon as possible. So, following the path of a Master makes you more responsible to know the dharmas and following them.

The law in this creation is that nothing belongs to you. Everyone is just a trustee to what is entrusted to oneself. The body does not belong to you. It is entrusted to you. Similarly, you do not own anything in this creation. To think that you lot things is nothing but ignorance. Everything belongs to the Divine and he allowed us to experience everything. Now days people try to own as much as possible. They don't want to share resources with others. It is against the natural law and one has to face consequences for such acts.

So, here, Brahma tells Prudhu that departing from the body is as per the dharma and he should not stop it from happening. Prudhu immediately realises his mistake and stops the rituals which he was doing to prevent departure from the body. At that time, Lord Narayana appears there along with Indra. Indra apologizes to Prudhu for having tries to stop the ritual multiple times.

Lord tells Prudhu that one should not develop attachment towards the body. The body should be well taken care of and it should be made to work. Be prepared to depart from the body at any time. This is very difficult. Very few can be so dispassionate towards the body. A yogi will be prepared to depart from the body whether his work is done or whenever he is asked to. Even a soldier is one who is prepared to die at point of time. Soldiers fight protecting the people of their country or kingdom very well knowing that they can die at any time. Such a preparedness is not usual. It is an extraordinary trait if one possesses it. That is why Soldiers who die in a battlefield are accorded the status of a yogi after departure.

Lord further tells Prudhu "You have done grand work on this planet but now you have caused trouble to the intelligences by not departing from the body. Why to fear death having known and followed the dharma for so long? It is good that you have realized your mistake now."

There is some explanation given by Master EK at this point which we will discuss in the next class.

-Swasthi