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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 20th of May 2018, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Lord Narayana was teaching certain aspects of dharmas relating to the human form, to King Prudhu. We have been discussing these aspects for the past few classes in lot of detail. Prudhu comprehends the teaching and starts preparing himself for departure from the physical form. Before that, Lord tells that one of the Kumaras would visit those who lead their life in accordance with dharma and as a service to fellow beings. Prudhu lead such a life. We too can try to follow Prudhu and gain the blessings of the Kumaras. Not only Kumaras, any Grand Master might visit you if he is pleased with your work and way of life. The Lord or the Master is not pleased when you just worship him and do nothing for the fellow beings. Work takes precedence over worship. But remember that worship aids your work and makes your life more splendidous. So, let worship and work as per dharma go hand in hand. That way, your ability keeps growing, and you can do more and more work in service of the fellow beings.

You should treat all your fellow beings with the same dharma. You should look to everyone in the same manner without any biases. Rama and Yudhistira are great examples for us who stuck to dharma at all times irrespective of the situation they were in. When all the 4 brothers of Yudhistira go unconsciousness and were almost in the dead state due to the magical spell of a Yaksha, and when the Yaksha grants Yudhistira a boon, having pleased with the answers of Yudhistira, Yudhistira asked for Nakula to be brought back to life. His reasoning was among his 4 brothers, 2 of them were born to his step mother while 2 of them were brothers through his own mother. His step mother asked Yudhistira to take the responsibility of her sons as well. So Yudhistira thought that he was there for his mother and so it is his first responsibility to ensure that he protects atleast one of sons of his step mother. He could have asked for Arjuna's or Bheema's lives because they can win his the upcoming Mahabharat war but Yudhistira stuck to the dharma instead of thinking about winning the war. That pleased that Yaksha very much and he gives back the lives of all the brothers of Yudhistira.

Though many think that Arjuna is the hero in Mahabharat, it is actually Yudhistira who was the hero in background. Only those who know dharma can understand why Yudhistira stands out. If one wants to understand the nuances of dharma, one should read in detail the life and actions of

Yudhistira and Rama. Even in life threatening situations, they did not leave dharma. That is why the intelligences in creation were obliged to protect them and help them in different situations.

Even Prudhu performed his work as per dharma and to the best of his abilities. His work is so grand that even today we are enjoying the fruits of his work. The planet with all its resources could not have been possible without the work of Prudhu. That is why in his honour, we call this planet as "Prudhivi".

Generally, Kumaras or Grand Masters meet the disciples in the heart centre. Sometimes they can be so pleased that they can even appear before them in a physical form. That is what happened with King Prudhu. Lord Sanath Kumara comes to the house of Prudhu in a form. Something similar happened in the life of Master EK. Master Devapi walked into the house of Master EK through a wall and stood before him in a physical form. It even happened in life of Madam Bailey. Masters of Wisdom walked through walls and appeared to her. It is no ordinary happening. Such things happen to very few selected ones. Master EK, here, wrote in Bhagavatam that Grand Masters even these days can appear before disciples if they want. He wrote it so because it was his personal experience. Master EK was so alert at all times that Grand Masters could contact him at any time. Master EK even watched movies along with his Master. Not everyone is prepared to see a Grand Master. Ordinary people can go blind when a Grand Master appears before him. That is why they do not appear before us until and unless we are well prepared to see them. We have the example of C.W.Leadbeater who is associated with the theosophical society. He was very eager to see a Grand Master in his life. At one time, Master Devapi shows a finger of his feet and Leadbeater experiences momentary blindness with the light that emanated from that finger and he immediately hears a voice, you are not able to see a finger, imagine what would happen if I appeared before you in my complete form.

Now, Lord Sanath Kumara is highest among the beings on this planet. Imagine such a one coming to someone's house. That signifies the grand work of Prudhu.

There are some more teachings of Lord Narayana to Prudhu which we will discuss now. Lord tells that he is most pleased with the one who treats everyone equally. In Ramayana, we can observe that Hanuman treats Lakshmana on par with Rama. One cannot be indifferent with Lakshmana and gain the blessings of Rama. The Lord is more pleased when a disciple is treated on par with him. Lakshmana sacrificed most of his life in service of Rama. If such a one is not treated on par with Rama, Rama would not be pleased.

Let us take our case. Suppose we invite friends or some relatives to our house and they come in their car with a driver. If we offer food to our friends or relatives but do not offer food to the driver, the Lord would not be pleased. Even when we are travelling with a driver, we should ensure that whenever we eat, the driver also eats.

So, the Lord tells that you might have done lot of worship and penance but if you do not treat people around you equally, then he will not be pleased. Once Master EK and myself went to the beach. We bought something to eat and were about to eat when a dog came near us. Master EK immediately said "we should feed something to it". We could not feed what we were eating because it is a spicy item which a dog cannot eat. So, then I went and bought some biscuits. Master EK fed those to the dog first and then he started eating. Master EK then told me "While you are eating, if someone hungry comes near you, offer food to them first and then you eat." It might be a human being or an animal. If you have a servant at your house, you should ensure that a part of what you cook for yourself is offered to that servant. Without this attitude, any amount of worship or meditation is useless. If you cannot see the Divine in beings around you, how can you expect the Lord to appear before you.

Lord further tells Prudhu, "I am very much pleased by your work and way of living. I wish to grant you a boon. Ask for what you want?" Then Prudhu first prostrates before the Lord. Then he goes to hug Indra. This is indicative of a friendly relation between the King of earth and the King of Celestials. Prudhu feels so happy with the turn of events that he could not think of asking a boon immediately. Tears were rolling out of eyes in that ultimate experience of happiness. He could not speak anything for sometime.

Finally, Prudhu replies " O Lord! Now I do not have any desire left to continue in the form. What will I have to ask you at this point? In fact, this life of mine is nothing but your boon. Without your blessing, there is nothing that I could have done. "

Prudhu speaks in this manner with lot of devotion. There are some more stanzas describing Prudhu's words. We will discuss them in detail in the next class.

-Swasthi