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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 03rd of June 2018, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

King Prudhu gets the blessings of the Lord and receives certain instructions from him. The Lord even grants a boon to Prudhu. For someone like Prudhu who is fulfilled in all aspects, there is nothing much to ask. He performed grand work to make this planet resourceful to all the beings. Most of the wealth that is now available on this planet is due to the work done by Prudhu. For such a one, there is nothing more to desire.

Earlier in the story, when the Lord appeared before Dhruva and granted a boon, Dhruva too did not ask for anything because for someone who has seen and experienced the Divine, there is nothing more to ask. In that case, the Lord himself granted a boon though Dhruva did not ask. The reply of Dhruva to the Lord is also very beautiful which we discussed in detail. One can go back and recollect what we have discussed as we keep forgetting. Forgetfulness is a big problem for us. There are some things that we don't forget but there are many things that we forget. We don't forget things in which we have deep interest. Forgetting shows that you lack enough interest in that subject. You do have some interest without which you wouldn't be even attending Bhagavatam classes but that interest should be enhanced with effort. I too keep trying to recollect from time to time during the class but you should also make an effort to recollect. Our interest is like a little spark of lighted coal. If enough air is not blown continuously, the spark is put off. With enough air, the spark spreads around. Likewise, as you make effort, your interest grows. As you know more and comprehend better, you will feel like knowing even more.

You should have time to spend alone to study and recollect. Early morning hours are best suitable for such a study because the world would be sleeping and no one would disturb you. Forgetting is natural. That is why recollection is important. Recollect until it sinks in you completely and you wouldn't forget anymore. Just like you don't forget to eat everyday, this should also become so. It is a constant learning process until it stabilizes.

We lose lot of time for preludes and recaps in every class but they are essential. What is use of finishing that book if whatever we discussed does not sink into us? So, remembering and recollecting remains our objective while we progress slowly.

So Prudhu replied to the Lord when the Lord tells Prudhu to ask for a boon. He said "Only who has attachment with the body will have desires." The more desires one has, the more one is attached to the body and remains possessive. The one who is more oriented towards the responsibilities that he has to carry out through the body will not be attached to the body. He will be ready to leave the body once all the responsibilities are fulfilled and there is nothing left to do with that form. Not only physical bodies, there can be ones attached to subtle or causal bodies as well. The ones who remain detached from all the 3 bodies are ones who lead a causeless life. They don't have any cause associated with their work. They keep working for the welfare of others causelessly. They don't expect anything in return, out of their work.

Prudhu further tells "even those enjoying the comforts in the world; is it not because of your grace? You grace even the most ignorant ones with some comfort. So, what is there to ask you? I do not even aspire for the heavenly comforts that I get out of whatever good work that has happened through me". After departing from the physical, one gets to experience the heavenly planes as long as the good work done by that person is remembered. Once the person is forgotten here, his experience of heaven ends. They have again come back to physical and again do good work to gain entry into heavenly planes. This is a cyclic path. Lord Krishna tells in Bhagwadgita there is an even better path which leads one to a state beyond all forms, even causal and subtle. That state can be reached by ones who continuously work for the welfare of others without expecting any returns. Just do if you think it would cause welfare for someone. Prudhu is aspiring for that state. That is why he is not asking for anything. He feels when one is relating to the Divine who is all permeating, what more is required. For such ones, any situation does not matter, whether comforting or not. It is because the experience of Divine is so comforting and so tasty that nothing else matters.

The Lord wants to give a boon because he wants to test if there are any unfulfilled aspects left out. In case of Dhruva we saw, he started his penance with a desire though he transcended it during the penance. However, the Lord still puts Dhruva to a life which will ensure that he is fulfilled before he reaches the Divine abode.

Here, Prudhu does not seek anything. He says that relation with Divine is the only that he aspires and nothing else. He knows that whatever he has done and whatever fame he has gained is all because of the Divine grace. We too should remember this. We are able to function through this body because there are many intelligences who are supporting us from within. They are doing their work within us unconditionally. They are subservient to the Divine. We too should learn from them and follow them by working for the welfare of people around us without any expectations. The Divine is pleased with such ones. He constantly graces such ones. The good qualities and abilities of such ones grow in leaps and bounds because of the Divine grace. Sometimes one can be even graced by much higher Divine energies to perform

even grander works. Once the work is complete, those energies recede. This happened in the case of Arjuna. He defeated some of the greatest warriors in the Mahabharat war but some years after the war he loses in the hands of very ordinary archers. That shows that he gained special powers before the Mahabharat war because he had to fulfil a greater plan. Once that was fulfilled, he lost those powers. They never belonged to him. They just supported him for certain duration and then left. So here we are told the qualities and abilities are bestowed upon us due to Divine grace. The Divine is like the electricity that functions through all the qualities and abilities that all of us have. Without the electricity, even the best of the electrical appliances doesn't work.

Prudhu tells that all the praises that were showered upon him belong to the Divine because all the qualities and abilities are bestowed by the Divine. We should remember that neither the qualities / abilities belong to us nor the praises that come along with them belong to us.

So, whenever someone praises you, you should reflect the praises towards the Divine. This is very important as we progress in the path. As the Divine grace grows, wonderful acts might start happening through you and lot of people might be praising you but you should not get deviated by those praises. You should continue relating to the Divine and remember that everything that is happening is Divine splendour. Relate to the Divine through every name and form. By trying to see the Divine in all, you are purified a lot.

Prudhu requests the Lord to grant him a state from which he could constantly relate to the Divine at all times. We too should aspire for the same. Try to orient to the Divine in all. Once this stabilises in you, nothing else matters. Everything else is taken care of. You might be doing any work but relate to the Divine through that work. Do not restrict your experience of Divine to a time and place. Remember that Divine is all permeating and relate to him at all times.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi