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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 15th of July 2018, at Visakh.

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Lord Maitreya was telling the story of King Prudhu and his work to Vidura. We discussed the grand work done by Prudhu on this planet and how he tried to overcome the death from physical. Prudhu finally realises that every being lives eternally in this creation and he was blessed by the Lord. The Lord gives certain teachings to Prudhu and then Prudhu gives a message to the beings of the planet. That is where we stopped in the last class. We will discuss the message of Prudhu in detail in the next few classes.

Prudhu tells "One of the important qualities that a good person should possess is courage. Courage to spell out what he knows to be righteous." People fear to speak what is right. In certain situations, it is very important that one speaks out what is right. In the events leading to Mahabharat war, only Vidura spoke what is right and supported the Pandavas while many elders in the royal court did not speak and remained silent. Hence, they had to face death in the war while Vidura was saved from the war. Vidura spoke what he knew was right without any fear. He did not care whether others followed it or opposed him. Whenever he had a chance to speak, he spoke and stood for righteousness. Dhritarashtra, the elder brother of Vidura, always sought the counsel of Vidura and Vidura always told him what is right but Dhritarashtra could not follow the advice of Vidura because of strong attachment towards his sons. So, the quality that Prudhu spoke of can be clearly observed in Vidura's life. It is very difficult to be so courageous these days because people get offended easily and as a result many of us remain silent. It is also one of the causes why people live in lot of fear these days. One is because people find it difficult to lead a righteous life and another is people cannot speak what is right.

Prudhu tells "A good ruler should be able to identify the work which is most suitable to the people under him and ensure that they do that work." A Master in an Ashram also does the same. He assigns different duties to different disciples based on their nature. We, at a personal level, should take up activities which are suitable for our nature. We should not do things which are meant for others to do. We should not do things just because our neighbour or friend is doing it. So, among the things that you like to do, choose the ones which are useful to others. Also, you should develop better skills to do that work. Without capability and skills, if you do the work, the quality of the work is affected. If you get an instruction from a Master you have

faith in, then you should follow it without fail. It will uplift you a lot. Even if the work is not comfortable to you, you have to do it if it comes as an instruction from the Master because his vision is much deeper than ours and he will tell only what is good for us. If we are following the path of a Master, there will be certain general instructions that a Master gives to all his followers and we have to follow them if we wish to be in that path. By following those instructions sincerely, we get a connection with the Hierarchy of Masters that our Master is connected to. That Hierarchy finally leads us to the ONE Divine principle. The Master always watches over us and he remains with us as long as we follow his instructions sincerely. Each one of us should check for ourselves whether we are following the instructions or not. That determines whether we are in the path or not. So, while we rule over ourselves, the Master watches over us.

Here, Prudhu tells that he will watch over all the beings whether they doing things in the right manner or not. He also tells that he is just a medium and it is actually the Divine watching through him. The ruler is just a representative of the Divine. A ruler should remember that the Lord is the actual ruler. A ruler should align with the Divine so that he knows best as to how to rule.

Prudhu tells “If all the persons in a place or a country attend to their duties to the best of their abilities, then wealth will be generated. Wealth accumulation happens depending on the quality of work one does. It may be at an individual level or at a group level. Here, wealth does not just mean money and property. It also means good qualities and habits. It also means expansion of awareness. Is the work you do, resulting in expansion of your consciousness or not? Is the quality of work that you are doing improving on a regular basis? If you are a cook, the taste of your dishes should become better as you keep cooking. That indicates that you are expanding.

Prudhu tells “If a ruler forgets his duties, then he becomes a slave to power and money. Such rulers always try to do things which will ensure that he remains in power. He accumulates money from whatever he collects from the people. Under such a rule, the people also start behaving in a non-righteous manner. They stop following the law of the land. In such a case, all the misdeeds done by the people affect the ruler too.” Not only the people accumulate karma, the ruler also accumulates karma for the misdeeds of the people. It shows how significant is the responsibility of a ruler.

Prudhu tells “If you know dharma, follow it without fail irrespective of what others do or think.” So, each one of us should check for oneself and do what is right as per the law. Do not break the law because someone else is breaking it. Also do not follow the law out of fear of punishment. Follow it out of respect for the law.

Prudhu tells “If all of you in the kingdom, do the right things and follow the law, then not only you, even I will be uplifted.” This is the case even with a Master and a disciple. The acts of a disciple affect the growth of his Master into higher planes. The same is the case with father and his sons. So, we have a responsibility towards our Master and our parents. In present age of Kali, a true Master will not easily accept anyone as his disciple because it is risky for him if the disciple ends up doing wrong things. If you seek the upliftment of your Master and parents, then you should be working better than them.

After Prudhu tells all this, one of them who was listening to Prudhu tells “O King! You told us to do our work in the right manner by remembering the Lord. You are the Lord to us as we have seen none other.”

Prudhu was alarmed by hearing those words and he wanted to make sure that all the people know that there is a Hierarchy working behind him in the background. So, he clarifies to them in detail.

He replies “You are saying that I am the Lord and I am everything but your understanding is wrong. Was this globe not there before I came here? Were you not here along with me? Are there no other globes around this globe? Who created all of them? Lot of work happened in this creation before I came. There were many who participated in that creational activity. There is a Hierarchy which existed before me. The Lord is the ultimate in that Hierarchy. Do not think what you see only exists. There is a lot which cannot be seen by you.” Prudhu lists out the hierarchy through which he descended from the Lord. Prudhu tells “Everything is existing because of THAT Divine principle. We all are born and exist because of THAT.”

There is one school of thought which propagates that everything in this creation is happening because of karma (action) and there is nothing beyond karma. But the problem with such a theory is that “How can action start without a doer?” A doer needs to exist before action can begin. So, a creator is required for the doer to be born for the first time. One might be re-born based on the consequences created by his actions but the very first birth is purely because of the Divine. Once a being takes birth, it is his actions that determine his future. That is how the law of karma works. You can change your future karma only by changing your personality.

So, there is one theory that the Lord does everything and he determines our fate. And there is another theory that it is karma that does everything. Neither of them is complete. We took birth for the first time because of Divine and at that time we have no karma. All of us started with a clean record. As we started doing things, we started accumulating karma. If karma becomes strong, it determines our fate completely. If you are strong willed, you can always change the way karma works on you. We cannot escape karma or escape from our duties. We will have to attend to our duties and try to work out with karma until it is neutralized. There is no other way

to go. The best way to work out karma is to tune up to Divine. If we are aligned with the ONE who knows all, then we too know what is to be done and how it is to be done. We can also do without creating further consequences. The will, knowledge and strength to do any action comes from the Divine. We cannot do any work if one of these 3 is missing. Therefore, it is ignorant to think that we are doing everything. The Divine exists as the basis in each one of us in the form of consciousness and prana (life force). In sleep, we are unconscious and we cannot do anything. Without prana, we are disconnected with the body and we cannot do anything. So, these two keep us in this form and enable us to work.

Here Master EK tells that the ones who think that it is karma that is running this whole creation are ignorant. It is ignorance to think that there is no Ultimate one who is ruling over this creation. The point here is if one believes in Divine existence and aligns with THAT, the Divine energy starts working through such a one in a much better manner. Actions happen better through such a one. One cannot live in this world without doing anything because this creation is a field of action. Hence, it is better that you know what is to be done, how it is to be done, when it is to be done and then do it accordingly. Actually, there is no concept of holiday in this creation. Does the sun take holidays? Do the globes which rotate and revolve take holidays? Do the 5 elements take holidays? Does the awakening nature take holiday? Do we take holidays for eating food? If there is no holiday for all of these, why should we take holiday for work which is useful to others? Master Morya says “there is rest in action” which is a very subtle statement. One who works in the right manner can experience that.

So that is the message for today coming from Prudhu. We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi