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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 28th of October 2018, at Radhamadhavam,
Visakhapatnam.**

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

Emperor Prudhu is speaking of the story relating to the Sanaka, Sandana, Sanat Kumara, and Sanat Sujata. These four Kumaras see everything in this Creation. The Kumaras exist in this Creation as the four states: Para, Pasyanti, Madhyama, Vaikhari. They also go by the names: Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna and Aniruddha. Everything in this Creation is given out as four steps. The physical aspect of the Creation is one Kumara. Another kumara is responsible for the subtle aspect that is the basis for the physical aspect. There is another kumara is the basis for that subtle aspect. There is another kumara that is the basis for that subtlest (super subtle) aspect. We can see everything in this Creation as four aspects. It is also represented by the four-armed cross.

A being comes into the womb of the mother. At that time, he does not have any form. Later, he forms a subtle body. After that, he forms a slightly less subtle body. And finally, he develops a physical body. Emperor Prudhu first sees the bodies of diamond light (causal forms) of the four Kumaras. The others around him do not see the causal bodies of the Kumaras. You will have to understand how evolved Emperor Prudhu was that he was able to see the causal bodies of the Kumaras. The ones who are in the soul plane, where no forms exist, can see the bodies in all the lower planes. The ones who are in the physical plane can only see the forms that are in the physical plane. The ones who are in the higher and subtle planes can see the ones in the lower upto the physical plane. You cannot see the ones who are in the higher planes than you are. You can only see the ones that are in the same plane or lower plane than you. Even in the physical plane, we do not everything because everyone creates their own world. Even in a family, each one has their world and they do not know the world of the other family members.

Can we see ourselves? The eye sees everything else but it cannot see itself. You can only realize yourself but you cannot see yourself. What are you? Are you your eyes? Are you your body? You can know everything, including the Lord. But you cannot know yourself. Bhaktaraj Maharaj used to say I know the Lord but I do not know who I am.

Emperor Prudhu could see the subtle bodies of the Kumaras because they gave their permission to Emperor Prudhu. It is not because Emperor Prudhu desired to see their subtle bodies. Master EK's commentary says that the reason Emperor Prudhu was able to see the subtle bodies of the Kumaras was because Emperor Prudhu was similarly evolved as the Kumaras. It is generally said that the great ones visit someone's place only to grace them. When you serve them, they will give their blessings to you. They only come to grant higher states to you. If you do not give respect to them and serve them when they visit you, you will not get the blessings. Even today if you go to some villages (in India), the villagers give tremendous respect to the knowers. Whenever Master EK used to go to some villages, everyone in that village used to get really clean early in the morning. The ladies in those villages used to roll out clean, new sarees on the floor so that Master EK does not step foot on the ground. They used to listen to his discourse with utmost respect and reverence. I saw something similar happening recently. I went to a village nearby and found that all the villagers there woke up at 3 am and took bath and became pure. They rolled out their clean, new sarees for me to walk on. They listened to my discourse with utmost reverence. I later saw that there were tremendous positive changes in that village within 3-4 years.

Know that there will be some problem or the other as long as you are in the body. Master EK wrote in a book that death is the solution to all problems! This statement stuck with me since then. Human being is the only being in this world that creates problems for himself. You will need to help others while you can. What is the use if you want to help others when you retire? You may not have enough strength to do anything at that time. What is the use of building a dam after all the water flowed out? Statements like this in Bhagavatam are alerts for us.

We typically think that our desires are our responsibilities. Once in a while some beings come to live among us and show us how to live. We need to take them as our role models and learn from them. They come to lead us to the higher states. They don't need publicity for themselves. It is like showing mirror to the Sun so he can look up himself! You should not ask your teacher how he is doing. Emperor Prudhu is teaching this to us. Great ones are in such a state that they are good at all times. If I you ask them how you are doing, it is as if you are insulting them.

Emperor Prudhu is asking the Kumaras, "Please explain how a householder can quickly attain higher states? The Lord will give his grace through you. Your arrival here is nothing other than the Lord himself arriving here. Whatever you speak is nothing other than the Lord speaking through you." Emperor Prudhu is not praising the Kumaras. Instead, he is seeing the Lord in them and responding to the Lord. He did not use many words to express this. He has such precision.

Sanat Kumara responded by saying, "Based on your words we can understand that you have the welfare of all the beings in your mind. Your actions have been beneficial to the beings in the

three planes. That is the reason we were pleased with you and came to you. We came to teach you about liberation.” These teachings of Sanath Kumara were given out by me and came in a book form consisting of the twenty-four teachings. Many found this book useful and it got translated into other languages as well. We will now discuss these teachings in Telugu.

The more we worship the Lord ardently, the more impurities will get removed in us, and the purer we will become. That is why it is said that purity in us will need to increase after the worship is complete. We have to worship with this in mind. Otherwise, there is no use of doing the worship routinely. Sri Krishna said that it is difficult to do meditation in Kali Yuga, and that worship is better. We can observe this ourselves. We feel better after chanting a hymn compared to how we feel after doing the meditation. If we sit in meditation, then we typically get thoughts about our problems. It means we are roaming around in our own impurities. It is said that it is better we do some mantra such as Rama mantra instead of meditation. If we get thoughts of our problems while we chant some mantra, we can attempt to refocus on the mantra. This is difficult to do if we just sit silently in meditation.

When we visit knowers, we should ask them questions that will be beneficial to all. Emperor Prudhu knows the answer to the question he asked but he still asked this question so the answer is beneficial to others.

Sanat Kumar responded directly saying, “You should engage your mind on the question ‘Who am I?’” Sanat Kumara did not waste any time and gave a very direct answer. He gave the final lesson as the first statement! Who can answer the question “Who am I?” You will need to give enough time to ask yourself this question. We typically think that we are doing many, many things and get into the ego, but the important thing is that during the wakeful hours you should be asking yourself the question, “Who am I?” Your name is given to you after you are born. Your form is not you. We have a very concrete opinion about ourselves. Men think that they are men, women think that they are women. A young boy thinks that he is a young boy. We are not all these. The form keeps changing through lives. Sometimes we are born a man sometimes as a woman. Your name is not permanent. You do not know your name in your previous life. We feel very happy to see our name getting recognized. But do you know your name in your previous birth? Do you know what your name is in your future birth? Adi Shankara said this, “Ask yourself who you are and where you came from, and where you will go next.” The more you are with this thought of asking yourself who you are, the less you are engaged with the problems around you.

Sanat Kumara is saying here that the more you spend time asking yourself about who you are, the more you will get purified and the more you will get into higher states. Sanat Kumara is continuing saying, “You should not have interest in that which does not belong to you.” Sanat Kumara is also saying that, “You should see everything as the Lord.”

Sanat Kumara gave out the essence of the entire path in just three sentences. Knowers know how to express precisely and in simple terms. Eastern scriptures do not speak of service as a separate activity. There is no evolution just by doing service. You will need to relate to the Lord in the others and then serve. Otherwise, there is no big benefit in terms of vertical progress, with just serving. This is one of the key teachings of Bhagavatam.

Master EK's commentary says that whatever you think is yours is not actually yours. It belongs to the Lord. There is nothing called "my knowledge". The more you get into the knowledge, the more you will realize that nothing is yours but everything belongs to the Lord.

Sanat Kumara is saying that those that follow these teachings sincerely will attain higher states. Sanat Kumara knows that we will not be able to understand this teaching so very directly so he gives further explanation.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasti