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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 07th of July 2019, at Radhamadhavam,
Visakhapatnam.**

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We are discussing about the story of Prachetas who were born to a King named Barhishmantha. They were 10 in number and they were asked to travel west by their father. They were highly committed to the work given to them and the Lord was pleased by them and decides to give his presence by them in form of Rudra. Travelling west is not an easy thing. It symbolizes getting into matter. That is what we do every morning after we wake up. We wake up in a subtle state of existence and consciousness, and then gradually get into matter. Matter is symbolized by West while the spirit is symbolized by east. Prachetas are spirit-oriented beings but they were entrusted a job which required them to travel into west, that is into matter. It is something that we do everyday but there is a difference between what Prachetas did and what we do. Prachetas are intelligences who are oriented towards the welfare of the creation, however human beings mostly live for themselves. So that is the difference though both the intelligences and humans descend from east to the west.

So it is upto us whether we travel west for our sake or for the sake of other beings. That is the difference between an ordinary being and a Rishi. Master EK is a Rishi who demonstrated leading a life in service to the fellow beings. That is what Prachetas did at the beginning of this creation. They are the ones presiding over the senses and organs of action in us and they help us to interact with the outer world. So without them, we cannot interact or live in this creation. As they serving us, we too should try to live for others instead of just living for our sake, though this is mostly forgotten these days. That is why we live in many problems.

So Prachetas travel west for the sake of the creational beings. They are lighted beings who take up a grand and very difficult work for our sake. Even we like to travel east yet they took up to travel west. Though we try, we fail because there is not enough commitment in our effort. Firstly we should try to live for the welfare of fellow beings. There are great beings who gave away their lives for the welfare of others. It is very nice to hear such stories but in practice, it is very difficult. If we just live for ourselves, we remain where we are. There are intelligences who keep working for even those who just live for themselves hoping that we would change some day.

So Rudra decides to grace these Prachetas being pleased by their commitment. He talks to them and gives certain instructions. This interaction indicates that the Lord is most pleased by those who take up work in the welfare of other beings. I am repeating this point many times because

this should be realised and stabilised in us. If not, we keep on taking lives and just live for ourselves and die and this cycle repeats. If we wake up every morning with an intent to serve others, then we wake up like Prachetas and they cooperate with us. That is the core aspect of this creation that all the intelligences in this creation are working for the welfare of others and everyone is expected to follow in their footsteps and serve others. So Yagna is the most important aspect of this creation. Even plants and animals are being of use to us. If we as humans are just living for ourselves, what is the use of living as humans? So living for the welfare of others is the most important thing to be followed by all aspirants.

Rudra was giving certain instructions to Prachetas and we were discussing them. First one is follow one's duty as per one's nature. If you forget your duty and follow your desire, then you become like a beggar. The Lord does not want his children to be beggars. No father wants his children to be beggars. So all children should be taught to know and attend to their duties. Taking care of the body is also one of the duties. We should also know how to take care of the body in terms of cleaning, food and rest. Then we should also know how to use the senses and organs of action. They should be used properly and only when there is a duty. Then coming to the mind and thoughts. They should also be oriented towards goodwill and welfare. They should be made Divine as far as possible. Many people fill the mind with lot of polluted things. Mind is like a mirror which shows what is shown to it. If you show the sky, it reflects the sky. If you show it a gutter, it reflects the gutter. If you show it the Divine, it reflects the Divine. All your daily activity should be regulated and introspected upon. You should question yourself "what am I to do? What have I done till now?"

One should also read teachings of grand masters so that we keep on the right track. Their teachings inspire us to remain in the path without getting diverted. Their teachings purify us.

So following ones duties is the first instruction. One should know what is to be done and such a one will know the purpose of his life. Without knowing the purpose, the life is wasted. If your life is oriented towards a purpose, then all the following lives become better and better. You move into higher planes of light.

Rudra further tells "One who reaches the higher planes of light will be graced by a stable Divine presence". That is possible when one is oriented towards the duty without expecting anything in return. Do not be oriented towards the result. Do if it is to be done. Such ones progress in the path of evolution.

Rudra tells Prachetas to follow the path of Bhagavata which is to see the Divine in all. The Divine is present in those who you like and those who do not like. So there is no meaning in differentiating between persons as the Divine is present in all. This differentiation is cause for many problems and issues in our life. When we think negatively of others, then it is reflected in us. If we throw arrows at others in the form of thoughts, speeches and actions, then they come back and hit us. Until we stop shooting, the ones reflecting back on us do not stop. The best way to stop shooting is to see the Divine in all. Our actions should intend the welfare of others, then the Lord is pleased. If not, the Lord will not respond. We think that the Lord is pleased if we just worship him. That is not sufficient. Worship should enable service. Only worship is not sufficient. So, there should be both worship and service. Then the Lord will be pleased. He

starts granting his presence to you through others. The Lord is more pleased by what you do than what you said. If you teach Scriptures for many years, the Lord is not pleased. If you follow what is said in those scriptures, then the Lord is pleased. Even a Master is pleased when his disciple works for the welfare of others. A Master is not interested in the ones who just go after them. We should question “what am I to do?” There are many welfare activities that can be taken up. It does not matter what activity you take up. It is just your intent that matters. It is what purifies you the best.

Rudra now tells a stotra given by the creator Brahma in praise of the Lord. We will discuss about that stotra in detail in the next class.

-Swasthi