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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 18th of August 2019, at Radhamadhavam,
Visakhapatnam.**

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 4:

We are discussing the teachings of Rudra to the Prachetas in which he was telling what was told by the Creator Brahman to the Kumaras.

Brahma tells that the Divine is present in all as their strength and brilliance. We should see the Divine in everyone in that manner. Then we establish a good relationship with such people. Otherwise, we mostly try to find mistakes in others. If one looks in the direction of mistake finding, one can criticise almost anyone and everyone. What happens is that such quality keeps increasing in us and we criticise more. Even many great souls were highly criticised by people in this world. They do not have any problem with such criticism but the problem is for those who keep criticising. Our vision gets more and more blurred and the mind is always looking out for mistakes in everyone and everything. The consciousness keeps contracting instead of expanding. So, the way we view others affects one deeply than one can imagine. We should learn to keep looking at the positive and Divine qualities in others instead of criticising them. By criticising or viewing only the negative aspects in others, we keep losing happiness because happiness depends on expansion of one's consciousness. We should also try to learn positive and Divine qualities from others including animals. We can learn discipline from ants. We can learn will and commitment towards an act from mosquitoes. Mosquitoes make tremendous effort to bite us in spite of all our preventions. We can see the Divine in the strength of an elephant. In every being, one can find something positive if one has the right vision. You try to orient to the positive and special aspect in that being. In this way, one can experience the bliss and splendour of the Divine in all aspects and at all times. One can remain happy at all times in this manner. After all, every being looks for happiness and if there is a way to remain happy at all times, what more do you want. We go after certain things for the sake of happiness but if you have the right vision, then you gain happiness from everything.

This teaching is very significant with regard to Prachetas because they have to be witness to all the horrible things that human beings do via the sense organs. To be able to tolerate all that, one should have this vision to only relate to the positive side of things. You may still see the negative side but that is only for information but not to form opinions or criticize.

Brahma further tells that one should pray to the self-luminous one in all. Self-luminous things are more attractive to us because the light is present more in them. We are attracted to the sun and the moon because we receive light from them. We are attracted to gold more than clay

because of the glitter or light coming from it. We need to relate to the light in everything. Similarly, we can know the luminosity of a being by looking into one's eyes. So Brahma is telling that one can pray to the Divine through the light in all objects and beings.

Brahma tells that one can move closer to the Divine through activities of goodwill. Any act which is for the welfare of others is an act of goodwill. One can help others in different ways. Lord Krishna speaks of helping others in 12 different ways. It may be through physical deeds, it may be through mental deeds, it may be through teaching others and so on. The highest form of service is to help others reach the state of realisation of Brahman. That can be rendered by only those who have reached that state or made significant progress. They experience a higher degree of happiness and wish that others also experience the same. They do it just out of their compassion for the fellow beings. They expect nothing in return for the great help that they render.

In general, beings have the nature to help but they restrict that help to family and friends. Great ones see all the beings as one family and they have the same compassion towards each one of us. They never differentiate between people. They are ready to help anyone in the path as long as one is prepared and has enough aspiration for the Divine. Their work has a long-term effect and they are remembered for many years. They need not even remain in the physical. Their influence keeps expanding while they keep working in the higher planes. That is because they do not work for themselves. They do not have any personal agenda in their work. Everyone on this altar who we worship are such ones who keep working for the welfare of humanity with no expectations in return. That is what we need to learn from them and try to practice in our lives as well. The nature cooperates with those who help others. In the Mahabharat war, Arjuna could defeat warriors who were more powerful than him because he led his life as per dharma and he helped others throughout his life.

So, develop the mentality to help others in need in whatever way possible. It may be even watering the plants, feeding the animals and helping humans in any way. Do not think of what you will get in return by doing so. Having this orientation, if one worships the intelligences in creation, they will be pleased and cooperate with you because they too work for the welfare of other beings with no expectations. Your daily behaviour is very important in the kind of response that you get when you worship the Lord. The Lord gets closer to only those who look out for the welfare of others. Remember that one cannot go inside without doing any service in the outside world. You may aspire for lot of subtle aspects but that is not possible if you do not serve others.

Also remember that just doing acts of service in any manner is not sufficient. It also matters as to how you did them, what is the quality and how dedicated were you. If you do service to gain name and fame, then it will not matter. Service should be done wishing for the welfare of the person who the service is intended for. You should do it as sincerely as you will do something for your family member. Your thought, speech and action should be aligned towards that service. Also be cautious that you do not get into the pride of service which is a possibility when service is happening well. You should lose yourself in service so much that you forget that you are serving. That is how Master EK lead his life and many of us were fortunate to see how he did it. Service should happen as subtly and as secretly as possible. A mason builds the

temple in utter silence and darkness that even the neighbour does not know that it happened. Service builds a temple within you. So, what is the need for others to know it. You will be satisfied naturally by serving others.

Brahma tells that the whole creation begins and develops out of seeming nothingness or Akasa. All the 5 elements emerge from seeming nothingness. They keep merging back into space. Everything emerges from space and goes back into it. So there is both expansion and contraction in creation and they happen as per the law of alternation. The senses take us into the outer world. So, they are responsible for our externalization and now they are to be internalized. Externalization helps us experience the creation while the internalisation keeps us connected to the Divine and helps remember our true identity.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi