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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 12th of July 2020, at Radhamadhavam,
Visakhapatnam.**

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 5:

This canto begins with the story of Priyavrata, one of the sons of Swayambhuva Manu. It starts with a question by Parikshit "How a person like Priyavrata who lives mostly in Divine alignment could carry out so many activities in the objective world?"

Though we are all Divine entities as souls, we are given this body made of 5 elements along with senses and mind to operate and experience this creation. Our consciousness descends into this 5-layered form and experiences the elemental creation. It is very normal for one in a form to forget one's true identity. However, Priyavrata did not forget like us. So, the question is how was it possible for him to remember his true identity and yet operate in this objective world. Generally, we see people who are more aligned to the Divine and have very little interest in the objective world and on the other hand, there are many who get stuck in the objective world and forget that they are Divine entities. To be able to do both without neglecting either of them is the path of Raja yoga.

Lord Krishna tells in Bhagawadgita, do not have interest in the results but do not neglect the work. You should have interest in the work that you do because you are in a world of action. This world is only to experience but there is nothing to gather because nothing exists permanently. So, it is ignorance to be interested in the result rather than experiencing the splendour of work itself. There are Raja yogis who functioned as kings and emperors of large kingdoms with a lot of responsibilities. They fulfilled all their responsibilities to the best of their abilities and yet remained in Divine alignment. They added a spiritual value to everything that they did. We should also try to do the same. It does not matter how simple the work is. It may be as simple as wearing clothes. By adding a spiritual dimension to it, you get better experience from the work. The work happens better and may even benefit many. The activities of great ones benefit a large number of people. Never think "when will this work be complete?". A knower never stops working until time culminates the work and he never thinks of when the work would be complete. All the suns and planets have been working relentlessly for millions of years and they never think "when can I stop rotating?" All the intelligences in this creation have been working for millions of years without asking any questions. We should also learn to fulfil our responsibilities in the same manner. We are given freedom by the Lord out of compassion but the freedom should not be mis-used to skip responsibility. A true yogi never leaves his responsibilities in the name of spiritualism and liberation. He will have no limitations.

So Priyavrata has a responsibility entrusted to him. The responsibility is to create liking in the minds of humans towards the creation. It is because of him that one experiences happiness in this creation. If people are not interested in this world, then they cannot live in it happily. So Priyavrata was asked to ensure this. He is a role model to us as to how one can fulfil all responsibilities and experience this creation without getting stuck in it. Priyavrata not only knew his responsibilities but also knew when they were to be performed. A knower waits for time and nature to bring the responsibilities to him and does not jump just into action because he knows.

Knowers don't try to be special. They remain normal and wait for the time to bring work to them. They don't try to be over-enthusiastic in doing things. When an aspirant asked Lord Maitreya "what is the specialty in your path?" He said "Not being special is our path". That means to be common among the common is the message coming from the World Teacher. Don't try to be special and don't try to gain name and fame by trying to be special.

So, coming to the story. Brahma, the creation along with his Swayambhuva Manu and grandson Priyavrata is said to have descended onto the planet. Brahma then tells Priyavrata about his responsibilities. Before Brahma speaks, there is some commentary given by Master EK here which we will discuss first.

Master EK says that the objective and subjective worlds are like the two sides of a coin. They are not separated from one another. There is a yogi by name "Tenali Ramakrishna" who served as an advisor in the court of Vijayanagara kingdom in the 15th century. He worshipped the Divine mother sincerely and one day when the mother appeared before him and asked "do you want a complete experience of the objective world or a complete experience of the subjective world?" He said "Oh Mother! You can grant anything. Why don't you grant me experience of both worlds!" So that is what a yogi does. Master EK did a detailed research on the life of Tenali Ramakrishna and submitted his Phd thesis on it. One can refer to it for more details about the life of Sri Tenali Ramakrishna. Master EK even discusses all the teachings of Tenali Ramakrishna in his thesis. So here Master EK is telling that many aspirants think that objective and subjective worlds are different or spiritual and material worlds are different. However, the Divine is all permeating. So why do you have to neglect one to experience the other. There is nothing to reject in any plane of this creation because everything is Divine. The one who relates to the Divine can experience all the planes of creation simultaneously. Learn to accept everything, learn to accept the diversity in this creation and learn to see the events happening in this creation as a movie, as a play of the Divine. There is no greater suspense thriller than what is happening in this creation. It is very difficult to understand why certain events happen and sometimes we might never know the reason. So just keep watching without getting too attached to the movie. Remember that there is a background for this whole movie who we call Divine.

We are to function in this creation in the same way as the creator does. Creator is always involved in yagna. Yagna means to work keeping the welfare of others in mind. Each one of us is a mini-creator. We should fulfil our responsibilities the same way the creator Brahma does. We have responsibilities towards family, friends, society, etc. We should not escape from them in the name of spiritualism. That is why the path followed by Buddha is not accepted by knowers. He himself knew later that he did not have to leave his family to attain the wisdom

that he attained. That is why he goes back to meet his wife later to apologize. His wife Yasodhara is no ordinary one. She too was a knower and she fulfilled the family responsibilities left by Gautama. Gautama accepted his mistake which is a trait of a great one. Great ones accept and even make known their mistakes so that others can learn from them. They don't try to cover their mistakes. When Gautama returns to the kingdom after enlightenment, Yasodhara tells her son, "The one who is coming is just not your father. He is a great one and enlightened soul. You need to remember that and invite him to the kingdom appropriately." So, the son invites Gautama Buddha respectfully, makes him sit on a special chair and felicitates him. At that time when Gautama Buddha looks at Yasodhara, he immediately realizes, "what wisdom I have gained by leaving everything, she has gained by remaining here and fulfilling all the responsibilities." She even had no ill feeling towards Buddha for having left her. She does not mention anything about the past events to him when they talk. This shows that one can remain common and yet walk the spiritual path. That is what Master EK also demonstrated in his life. He lived with us, he moved with us, he had a family life, he watched movies with us and went to picnics with us and so on. Apart from doing all this, he did one more thing which is to remain aligned to the Divine at all times. So he was seemingly ordinary though he was extra-ordinary. Instead of just telling us what is to be done, he demonstrated how it is to be done through his life. He inspired people to do instead of just listening to discourses. What is the use of discourses when the teachings are not applied in life? Teachers who only preach but do not demonstrate the teachings in action are not of much use to the society. People should be inspired to act and not just listen and gather knowledge. Master EK even used to cook for the group when required. He used to offer his help to any work that is being done by a member for the group.

Master EK further tells that body, mind and senses are given by the Lord to experience the creation and not to throw them away or put them to torture in the name of spiritual practices. The body, mind and senses were not created by you. They were entrusted to you. If they are to be dis-regarded why would they be entrusted to you in the first place. There are so many intelligences working to enable the body to function and how would they feel if you misused it or dis-regarded it. If you buy some product for your child and he/she throws it away or breaks it out of negligence, will you buy it again? The same applies to this form given to us. It is a great opportunity presented to us, not to throw it away or misuse it. So, learn how to use it and use it properly. You should learn to improve what is entrusted to you and not degrade it. Everyone who is given a body will have work to be done and one cannot escape from that work. Your responsibilities are to be fulfilled whether you like them or not. So better like them so that you get the right experience from them. One of the aspects of yoga is liking what is to be done and not trying to do what you like. It might be difficult to like some events which happen, so at least accept them because it cannot be undone just because you don't accept it. You will be at comfort by accepting it. One might get a disease which no one likes but one should learn to accept it. If you don't accept, it results in a conflict which further aggravates the disease. You can use medicine to cure it but acceptance is the first step. So, accept as it happens which solves half the problem.

Remember that you are part of a large creation and a big plan. You cannot plan something which conflicts with the existing bigger plan and expect it to happen. Just try to follow the existing plan. So instead of trying to do things which you like, learn to like and accept what is

happening. Then there will be no conflict in the mind. One is lucky if one likes one's responsibility.

The descent of Brahma along with other intelligences onto this planet described here is symbolic of the descent of the being with prana, senses and body. Narada, Swayambhuva Manu and Priyavrata are also present which is also symbolic. We will discuss this symbolism in detail in the next class.

Today's message is very important for us. Make note of it. "From desires to duties" is the message. "From likes to responsibilities" is the message. Finally, "Learn to accept and endure" is the message which is very relevant in present times.

-Swasthi