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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 19th of July 2020, at Radhamadhavam,
Visakhapatnam.**

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 5:

Regular reading and listening to Bhagavatam has been recommended for Divine orientation. There are many who are orienting to these Bhagavatam discourses regularly with no limitations of place and time. Bhagavatam keeps reminding us that in this creation, everything is temporary and changes with time while the Divine is eternal and the essence of all. If one is aligned with the Divine, then one can stand beyond all the changes that keep happening without getting affected by them. Otherwise, there will be many ups and downs that one faces, there will be good times and bad times. For one in Divine alignment, there are no ups and downs. He just observes while events happen. Such a one understands that all changes in creation are natural and it is a cyclic process. So, remember that the Divine is all permeating and present in each one of us. Our very existence in this form is attributed to the Divine. Be it pulsation or respiration, everything is happening because of the Divine presence in us. The Divine in the heart center is the basis for everything that happens through us. So never think that the Divine is somewhere else, he is right within you. If you have the right vision, you can see the Divine in every form in this creation. This truth needs to be recollected again and again and be stabilised in us. Then our actions are also stabilised. We learn to overcome the obstacles that keep coming from time to time. This Bhagavatam class in this situation is an example. We are not allowed to gather in big numbers, yet we are still having Bhagavatam classes through virtual means. Discourses have been happening at Radhamadhavam regularly since 1992 and we have overcome many obstacles to ensure continuity. When a Divine activity or activity of goodwill that we do is blocked by an obstacle, we should try to overcome that without stopping the activity itself.

Now coming to the story, we are discussing the story of Priyavrata, the 2nd son of Swayambhuva Manu. He has been entrusted with a responsibility on this planet to ensure that the beings who descend have a liking towards the objective creation. He was asked to show a way how one can experience this world with happiness. Though Priyavrata was more interested in the subjectivity, he was asked to fulfil certain responsibilities in objectivity. We discussed that one should develop liking towards one's duties and responsibilities. We have to brush our teeth every morning. If we like to brush our teeth, then it gives us happiness. If we are disinterested, then we don't get any happiness, yet we have to brush our teeth. Learn to think "I like to do it" and not "I have to do it". It makes a lot of difference in the experience that we get out of that action. Liking our responsibilities gives us a lot of happiness. Taking care of this body is our responsibility. So like it and do it. In this manner, there are many duties and responsibilities that one has and one has to learn to like all of them. Then your life will be full of happiness. If you do not like your responsibilities and like to do

what is not your work, then your life will become upside down because no one can escape from one's responsibility. We are too small in this whole creation to change what our responsibilities are. So, learn to like and accept them.

And whatever we do, try to relate to the Divine via every action. This creation is like a big giant wheel. If you get on it alone, you might feel afraid at some point. If you are with someone who guides and supports you, then there is no issue. If we get on this giant wheel with the one who controls it, then what could be better.

So this is the teaching that is given to all the beings with Priyavrata as the medium. In this story, we are told that Brahma, the creator, came to meet Priyavrata to entrust him with a responsibility. Along with Brahma, many other intelligences and saints have descended to earth. Everyone who descended from Brahma have come along with him. There were few who were already on earth, they came along with Priyavrata. So, it was a big gathering where Brahma was expected to give a message.

Before we go to the message, Master EK explains the symbolism of this descent. The Divine in the all-permeating form of Pranava (OM) descends into every being and takes to the form of pulsation. This is described as descent of Brahma on a swan because Brahma is the will aspect of the Divine. Swan is symbolic of pulsation and respiration. So the descent happens from an unmanifest state to Pranava (OM), then to pulsation and finally to respiration. Respiration is the basis for both speech and action. We are asked to chant OM because it helps us trace back this path. And it also enables the descent of the Divine will. When we do not know what to do in a given situation, chanting OM helps us.

Brahma tells Priyavrata “Lord Narayana has a message for you which he has sent through me.” Brahma is a representative of the Divine. Same way as a Master. A true Master relates to the Divine and gives the message of the Divine as a teaching to the disciple. He does not speak what he likes. He gives only advice or suggestions but not orders. It is upto the disciple whether to follow it or not. So, the teachings of a Master are impersonal. Here, Brahma is also giving an impersonal teaching.

Brahma asks Priyavrata to listen with complete attention. Listening is a very important quality that one should cultivate. Listening is higher to seeing because listening relates to the space element while seeing relates to fire. Among all the 5 elements, space is the only one which has no movement. All the other elements move. If you listen with deep attention, then the nature of space manifests in you and creates a very stable state.

Brahma tells “We are all working as per the will of the Divine within each one of us.” By sticking to the Divine will, one does not get into problems. If one tries to follow one's own will, then one might get into problems. Personality influences the mind resulting in many thoughts and opinions. It creates a lot of noise and there will be many conflicting thoughts as well. We do not know what to do when there are conflicting thoughts and ideas. The will of the Divine which descends gets tainted by all these ideas unless one has poise as dominant quality. Due to dominant qualities of Rajas and Tamas, the will that we get and what we end up doing will be different. Ravana and

Kumbhakarma did great penance but when they were given boons, what they asked for depended on their dominant qualities of Rajas and Tamas.

Generally, we get ideas to start doing something good after listening to some good discourse. It is an idea coming from the Buddhic plane but when it descends to mental plane, it is affected by the blend of 3 qualities that one has. As a result, the resultant idea may get implemented in a skewed manner. We should use our discretion properly to ensure that the qualities and opinions do not affect the work that we have to do. The thoughts about comfort at work, how long should the work be done and so on should not arise. For one who works by relating to the Divine, these questions do not arise. They do just because it is to be done without any other conditions. They like what is to be done and do not have likes and dislikes of their own. True Masters look out for disciples who can work in this manner without asking questions. One who is linked to the Divine will know his responsibilities. No one needs to tell him what is to be done. The work done by such ones has a lot of longevity. It inspires many and expands globally. So learn to stick to responsibilities and keep aside your likes and dislikes. It also gives you freedom because likes and dislikes bind you.

Desires bind you. It may be a positive desire or negative desire. Even wanting liberation is a form of desire. You have to do what is to be done to reach a state of liberation instead of wanting it because if you want it, you will definitely not get it. Master CVV promised us immortality. For that you have to do what he instructed us to do. If you sit and keep thinking “I want immortality”, you won’t get it. You follow the instructions given by him and leave the rest to him.

Brahma tells “If you remember that everything is given by the Divine, then you won’t get attached to it.” Our existence, the form, the abilities and so on are given by the Divine. We should remember that. When I started giving discourses, I did not expect many people to listen, I did not expect these discourses would be broadcast live, I did not expect they would be translated to other languages and so on. Nothing was planned when we started but it all happened because of the Divine will. So, remember that everything is given by the Divine and everything happens as per the Divine will. We just observe and play our role sincerely. The experiences that we get are also Divine. That is why pure experiences have no reason. We cannot explain them.

Our birth, life and death are not as per our liking. So, they are all happening as per the Divine will. If we remember that, then there is no fear of death. So, remember that everything happens as per Divine will and keep doing whatever is to be done. Leave the rest to Divine. We have very little control of things. Nature controls a lot of things. Through this corona virus, we are seeing the power of nature. All the so-called powerful nations and people across the globe are being controlled by a single organism coming from nature. We can do nothing about things in the control of nature. We should not try to control what is in the control of nature. Instead, one can try to make proper use of resources given by nature without exploitation. Then nature itself cooperates with you. So learn to accept and adjust to the situations. Do not try to fight what you cannot. There are many natural laws which have to be accepted without any question.

In this manner, every line spoken by Brahma should be elaborated so that we understand the teaching properly. So we will continue in the next class with these teachings.

-Swasthi