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"Srimad Bhagavatam"

**Discourse by Master KPK on Sunday, the 15th of November 2020, at Radhamadhavam,
Visakhapatnam.**

(for private circulation to WTT members)

Canto 5:

We are discussing the story of Agnidhrudu who married and had 9 sons. Later his wife, who is an Apsara, ascended to higher planes. Later his first son (Nabhi) got married and to beget children, the couple worships the Lord who appears before them in the form of the Cosmic Person. Nabhi starts praising the Lord and we were discussing how he praised the Lord. We also discussed Master EK's explanation of Nabhi's praise of the Lord.

In this praise, it is told that every form in this creation is the form of Divine. We should learn to see the Divine in all which is an instruction that is repeated in Bhagavatam. Among the forms in creation, human form is considered to be the grandest and so it is even more significant to see the Divine in human forms. Also the human form is an image of the form of the Cosmic Person. All the intelligences that are present in this creation are also present in this form and no other. That is why taking birth in a human form is considered to be the highest form of birth. In a way, every human is a mini-God but the problem is we do not know how to live and forget our true identity. We need to worship the Divine to again recollect our true identity. When we worship the Divine sincerely, what happens is the Divine sends one of his representatives (a Master of Wisdom, an ardent devotee) to take care of us. Through them, we get to know the path to self realisation and we can walk that path to realise Divinity.

Since human is considered a mini-god, it is said "Serving fellow humans is equivalent to serving the Divine." Master EK says that one should take this statement to their heart and really work on it instead of doing something casually. We should constantly strive and orient to serving the needs of fellow beings. If you have the orientation, what you need to do comes to you and you need to attend it with all sincerity.

Nabhi further says to the Lord "O Lord! Great devotees praise you with different stotras which we try to learn and repeat to purify ourselves." Chanting a stotra of the Lord results in purification of the lower centers in our body. Nabhi also says that the Lord is pleased even when we offer him the simplest of things. For the Divine, the devotion is what matters the most. Anything that is offered with devotion is accepted pleasingly by the Divine. There is no use if you offer many things without any devotion. Even when we take food, we can do it by thinking that we are offering to the Divine and intelligences within us. Even offering food to an animal can be considered as an offering to the Divine when done with the right thought.

Nabhi further says “O Lord! You keep gracing us by granting us many things of comfort both in the mundane and super-mundane worlds”. We should remember that anything that we get should be taken as a present from the Divine. Sometimes you may not like what comes to you but you should learn to accept it as a Divine gift. It may be a disease which is chronic in nature. So if you accept it, then it maintains without aggravating and it will not disturb you. You can be happy even if you have BP, diabetes, etc. as long as you accept them to be a part of your system and learn to live with them. Overall, we should understand what one should get or not get at a given point of time is best known to the Divine. So learn to accept everything that comes to you as a present of the Divine. Have faith in the Divine that he knows best and everything that happens is for your own good in the long run. That is what Nabhi tells here. He did not ask anything from the Divine rather had complete faith that what is given to him by the Divine is for his own good. That is we should do as well. With our little knowledge, we should not ask things as we do not know what exactly is best for us.

Nabhi further says “It is ignorant to think that you have graced us now because we have worshipped you.” This is an important point to note. Transactions with the Divine are not commercial. The grace of the Divine has no cause. Sometimes it may appear that the Divine did not grace you even after you worshipped him a lot. Sometimes grace might come just like that. So it is all magical and not logical. We cannot associate any reasons for the grace of the Divine as we hardly know anything. There are no eligibilities for the grace of the Divine. It is purely because of compassion of the Divine that one is graced. If someone asks me “why did you face such a great difficulty?”, the answer is “why not?” Even the greatest of devotees had their own share of difficulties and we are nothing before them. So do not try to associate causes to Divine grace. Accept everything that comes or happens to be the grace of the Divine and move forward. We have very little control of things within us and even around us. So learn to accept them. Starting from birth to death, we have little control over things. So having faith in the Divine is the only thing that we can do.

Finally Nabhi asks the Lord to grant him good progeny. He also asks for forgiveness from the Lord for having asked him to descend or appear before him. Why did he do so? It is because the Divine is all permeating. If we are inviting the Divine to descend or appear before us, it is ignorance and it means that we have ignored the fact that the Divine is already present everywhere. That is why Nabhi asks for forgiveness.

The Lord was very pleased by the praise of Nabhi and grants him a son who is named Rishabha. Rishabha is the 1st Buddha on this planet from whom the tradition of Buddhism began. This is a peculiar avatar of Lord Vishnu. We will discuss about him in the future classes.

Today the teachings coming through the praise of Nabhi are very important for aspirants. Try to recollect and follow them as far as possible. We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi