

Note: These are personal notes made from Master Kumar's speech recording, translated from Telugu. Does not reflect Master's words in entirety. Please use for reference only. Not for publication.

Gurupurnima/Gurupuja Celebration @ Hyderabad - 2012

Nachiketa Upakhyanam (from Katha Upanishad) - Discourse 1

On the occasion of Guru Purnima, we should stabilise the presence of the Master in us and we should stabilise ourselves in a state of Buddhi and work in this world through our body, mind and senses and also work in the divine world simultaneously. This is the purpose of attending this group life.

It is the divine will that we should all transcend the mundane and experience the super-mundane and fulfill ourselves. That, mundane experience is the ultimate experience is an ignorant understanding. One, who feels so, does not have happiness and peace. He will be sad most of the time and never contended. He will not have a stable mind and will be occupied by anger, pride and jealousy.

For the purpose of upliftment, Guru Purnima is presented to us as an opportunity. Veda Vyasa was instructed by Lord Krishna to show the beings the right path and uplift the beings of this world during the Kali age. Veda Vyasa was born on the day of full moon of Visakha (Taurus). Though he was born on the full moon of Taurus, he presides over the full moon of Cancer to uplift the beings, as instructed by the Lord. That is why this full moon of Cancer became famous as Guru Purnima or Vyasa Purnima.

If Veda Vyasa had not given us all the wisdom that he gave, the people in Kali age would have no wisdom at all. He is the Master for everyone in Kali age. The source of all wisdom that is available all over the world now is the wisdom given by Veda Vyasa. There is no wisdom that is not given by Veda Vyasa. He codified the Vedas and Puranas. He wrote MahaBharata under the name "Jayam" and included the Bhagawad Gita in it. Later he wrote Bhagavatam as well.

The same wisdom was brought to light by Adi Sankaracharya. And later many other Masters gave the same wisdom at different times, at different places and in different ways.

The one source from whom all the beings emerged is called Narayana because Naras are the monads, which take birth as beings through the process of involution. So all the beings emerged from Narayana. As Narayana is eternal, the beings are also eternal.

The beings are given mind, senses and body, as a vehicle, to move in this world. There are not permanent but the beings are permanent. The being may either stay in body or get stuck in the body. This depends on his awareness of I AM. If the being remembers that he is an embodiment of divine, he is not stuck in the body, otherwise he is. If a person forgets his original identity, he gets stuck in his body, mind, senses, disease, etc.

So THAT from which all the beings emerge, Veda Vyasa called it Narayana in the Puranas. He called TAT in the Vedas. Name may be anything, but it is the one that cannot be comprehended because a part cannot comprehend the whole.

One who forgets THAT and thinks that everything is different leads a normal life with ups and downs. But the one who remembers that THAT I AM and sees everything as THAT, leads a life of splendour. Jesus said "I am a Son of God. You are too." So we are all sons of God. But we forget THAT and lose our way. All the Scripture speak of THAT. All the grand Masters speaks of THAT. Yoga is nothing but knowing THAT.

The following should be worshipped without fail:

Firstly, we should worship our parents. If you dis-regard your parent and go to some Master or Lord, he will not recognize you. You got your body through your mother and you got your awareness from your father. In worship, 1st and 2nd ranks are given to mother and father. Even if they are not good, you should worship them. You should recollect them even if they are alive or not.

Then you should worship your Master. Then worship the Master of your Master and Master of that Master. Then we must worship Kashyapa as we all came through him. Then we must worship the 7 sages. Then we must worship Narada, who helps us remember everything. Then we must we worship the 4 Kumaras. Finally we should worship the divine Mother.

The worship need not be in Sanskrit. Language is not important, devotion and intent are important. It will take just a minute to recollect all of them.

We should grow more inside than outside. It is not wrong to grow outside but that is not important. Growing inside is important. We can buy anything outside if we have money but we cannot buy anything inside. We can gain something inside only by practice. If you grow outside, it just increases your fear. The one who has lot of wealth is the most feared one.

If you grow inside, everything outside remains stable. If you are strong inside, no one can touch you outside. In accountancy we say "for every credit, there is a debit and for every debit, there is a credit." So if you resort to wrong ways and earn, you have to face the consequences of it.

In the present season, new crops sprout and some weeds sprout along with them. We should careful remove the weeds and let the crops grow. Just as the lands if cultivated by the farmer, this is body is to be cultivated by us and as a result we get many fruits. We can move in and out of the body at will. We can leave a body and enter another body at will. We can travel to different planes. We can achieve immortality and become THAT.

During this group life we will discuss the Katha Upanishad. It gives us the secret of death. It runs as a story between Yama, the Lord of death and Nachiketas, a boy who questioned Yama about death. All the discourses will run in sequel. So if you miss one of them, you cannot understand the latter ones. So do not miss any of the discourses.

We will know the secret of death as given by the Lord of death himself. This is also called Nachiketa Upakhyanam. Here the Master is Yama and the disciple is Nachiketas.

Nachiketas questions Yama "After death, some say the being does not exist, some say the being exists, what is the truth?" This is the primary question that Nachiketas asks Yama and Yama replies to him. The secret of death given here is also discussed in other Scriptures but not in detail as it is discussed in this Upanishad.

Just as we change our clothes everyday, we change our body every life. There are many types of bodies, physical, etheric and there are many degrees of etheric bodies and there can also be existence without any body. Sukha and Dattatreya are examples of those who can exist without any body. That is why they are said to be naked.

Krishna said "If I grant my presence to anyone, I will steal away everything from them and only I remain with them." It happens when one has deep devotion for Lord Krishna. Meera bai does not leave Krishna under any circumstances. She was given poison to drink, she was put to lot of torture by her family and society but she was always with Krishna and never worried about anything. It is not easy to attain the presence of Lord Krishna.

While discussing about death, we should remember 3 of them, Markandeya, Savitri and Nachiketas.

Markandeya can be seen by the one who transcends death. One who does ardent practice to reach a state of immortality, is graced by the presence of Markandeya.

As per Markandeya's astrological chart, it was predicted that he would die at the age of 16 but he would be a great being. He would have the ability to be above Maya (illusion). At the age of 5, Markandeya was told that he would live for only 11 more years. He was initiated into the Mrutyunjaya mantra, which would help in the transcendence of death and he starts practicing with it. Mrutyunjaya mantra, when chanted regularly with devotion, would give us complete fulfillment in life. Our life would be fruitful. Even the death would become a simple departure. It would be a death, knowingly.

So Markandeya practices Mrutyunjaya mantra ardently. 11 years passed by and the time of his death comes. Yama sends one of his followers to remove Markandeya from his body. They tried but failed and reported the same to Yama. So Yama thinks that this boy is someone special and he himself should go.

Yama goes and throws the rope of death on Markandeya twice but fails. When he tries for the third time, the rope of death burns away and Rudra appears in the form of fire and tells Yama "Don't you realize, he is my devotee and he cannot be killed. This is an exception to the law of creation and this exception applies to all my devotees, who practice Yama and transcend death from now on. My devotees will depart only when they wish to depart."

Here Yama implies the 5 outer regulations:

- 1) Speaking truth
- 2) Following harmlessness
- 3) Absence of possessive instinct
- 4) Absence of thieving instinct
- 5) Brahmacharya

And the 5 inner regulations:

- 1) Cleanliness of body
- 2) Cleanliness of thoughts and desires
- 3) Self study (Knowing I AM)
- 4) Seeing the Lord in all
- 5) Natural happiness

So any devotee of the Lord cannot be touched upon by death until he decides to depart. We should follow the path of Master CVV to be in that state. That should be the ultimate purpose of our lives.

When we are in the womb of our mother during the 7th, 8th and 9th months of pregnancy, we feel such pain that we pray to the Lord ardently that we should be in such a state again. We remember it for the first few months even after we come out but gradually we forget it when we start growing into the outer world. So a Master is required to help us recollect it.

A Master is one who has transcended death and leads others in the path and helps them to transcend death. He guides the ones who are ardent in their approach. One also required sraddha to move forward in this path. A Master is the one who tells us about the Absolute one, who is the source of all, and shows us the way to reach THAT.

Markandeya still exists on earth to help us. There are many such grand Masters who still remain on earth though they need not. Hanuman, Ganapati, Kurama Swamy, Kapila Maharshi still remain on earth to show us the path of light. So that is about Markandeya.

Next coming to Savitri Devi. Savitri goes after Yama to get back the life of her husband. If she could see and go after Yama, What does it mean? It means that she knows how to transcend death long before.

Satyavant, her husband, was destined to die at a young age. She marries him even after knowing that he would die within a year of their marriage. She was confident that she can save him from death. Also Satyavant lost all his kingdom and wealth and was living in a forest. Even then she marries him. The only thing he possessed was great qualities. After marriage, she used to pray to the divine mother daily. Satyavant used to go to the forest everyday and brings some firewood and something to eat.

On the day when Satyavant was to scheduled to die, she goes along with and suddenly Satyavan gets fierce headache and falls and the followers of Yama come to take him but seeing the energy vibrations coming from Savitri, they fear and go away.

So Yama himself had to come and take the life of Satyavant. He tells her that it is his duty to take the life of Satyavant and she should accept the law of creation. So Yama takes Satyavant and leaves. Savitri leaves her body as well and takes to her etheric body and goes after Yama. She voluntarily goes after the Lord of death. Yama was surprised and was pleased with her persistence and grants her 3 boons, except her husband's life. She asks Yama to present eyes for her father-in-law, who was blind and also to grant him his kingdom. Finally she asks Yama to grant her children.

Yama grants all the 3 boons and Savitri tells that he has give her husband back because she cannot have children without her husband and she won't marry again. So Yama was very pleased and gives her husband back as well. So Savitri and husband go back to their home and her father-in-law gets his eyes and kingdom back. So that is the story of Savitri devi.

Now we come to the story of Nachiketas. We will start the story of Nachiketas in the evening. It is a beautiful story. This is a preview to the story that we are going to discuss for the next 2 days beginning today evening.

Everyone should go through this preview before going to the story, to have proper understanding.

-Swasthi.