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Mysore Gurupujas - 2012

Discourse 1 and Q&A Session

Hearty fraternal greetings to the brotherhood attending the Mysore Gurupujas.

We keep making efforts to pray to the Grand Masters and follow their teachings. By praying to the Lord, Devas, Rishis, Masters, we get good thoughts, a strong will to perform activities of goodwill. We do not get disturbing thoughts. To be even able to attend these Gurupujas we should have done some good deeds in the past. Past prayer gives us a strong will to do prayers in the present. To get the right thoughts, we should pray. It is not for asking for something that we pray. We should not ask for silly things in prayer. We should ask for a will that enable our upliftment and fulfillment. We do not ask for what we need and we ask for what we want.

Suppose you want to marry some girl but you do not know if that marriage would be fruitful or not. Suppose you want a job but you do not know if that job gives you happiness or not. Everything that we want, we do not know whether it would be good to us or not and we ask for it. If it happens it may lead to some disappointment.

(Master gave a small story of boy asking the Lord for something and later feeling sad about it)

So it is best that we live according to the divine will. Then your life will be a splendor. Your life will be divine. So our elders advised us to pray and observe the divine will manifest. If you do know what to ask and ask for something unwanted and when it happens, you feel sad. That is why it is said "Father! Thy will be done."

Suppose we want to stay in Mysore but we are transferred to some other place due to our profession. If you see it as divine will, you will feel happy otherwise you feel sad about it. So if you see everything as divine will, your life will be splendourous.

Suppose you are staying in Bellary and you feel everything is fine in your life. Then you may be transferred to Mysore. Initially you may face some difficulty but later you get used to it and feel happy about it. At that time, you may be transferred to Bangalore and when you feel everything is fine here, you may be transferred to some to some other place. So every time if you feel that the Lord knows which place is good for me, you feel happy and your life will be divine.

For every devotee, the Lord gives which is good for him. You may get some thoughts, just place them at the feet of the Lord and he will take care. If it is good for you, it will happen otherwise it will not happen. So your prayer should be oriented in such direction.

There are many children here. Their parents do not give them everything they ask for. Do they? No! It is because they get spoiled if everything they ask is given to them. Similarly it is with the Lord. He does not give it if it is not good for you even if you ask for it ardently.

Prayer gives you 2 benefits. You will gain lot of knowledge with less effort, with that knowledge your abilities multiply and if you submit your abilities for the welfare of society, the Lord in the beings is pleased and graces you with even more abilities and this process slowly leads you to fulfillment. This is the fundamental duty of every member who wants to be a part of WTT.

Do prayer regularly and attend to your duties without fail. Orientation to your duties also helps you live as per the divine will. One has many responsibilities; Responsibility to your parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, society, plants, animals and so on. That is the highlight of Ramayana. Rama never did anything because he liked it but because it was his responsibility. By attending to your responsibility all the time, you are happy always. If you look to do only what you like, you may not be happy all the time.

You may not like to wake up early in the morning but it is your duty to get up early. Energy descends from the sun in the form of light and it can be received only early in the morning. So if you want to receive that energy, you should get up early.

If you say "I work late in the night. So I cannot wake up early", the Sun is not bothered about you. If you are oriented to the light and energy of Sun, he will remove all the obstacles which stop you from waking up early in the morning. So orientation is important.

Like that, there are many other responsibilities. To be useful to others is a responsibility. We should not look to utilise others for our benefit. The more you are useful to others, the more your consciousness expands. Anything you give to others, it should be given as an offering. You should not give it neglected.

Praying the Lord, gaining knowledge and working for the welfare of others are the major activities of a member of WTT. Knowledge is knowledge of this creation, knowledge of evolution of human race, the story of formation of earth, the formation of human being, etc. This was given to us by our Rishis and Sages. The hierarchy in WTT begins with the Absolute one (Brahman). We study the stories of all the Grand Masters and Sages. All the human beings and animals descended from Kashyapa Prajapathi (Progenitor). So we should read the story of Kashyapa. It will lead to the expansion of our consciousness. If you relate to expanded units of consciousness, our consciousness is also expanded.

So prayer, reading the scriptures of knowledge and working for welfare of others should be our aspirations. All the world scriptures were given by the Rishis. By knowing the stories of Rishis, we can gain their presence and if we read the Scriptures with their presence, the Scriptures reveal themselves to us better.

Our lives should not be just a routine. Routine life is an obligation and responsibility. Apart from the routine life we should have these aspirations. Read a Scripture daily for atleast 10 min. In every work you do, look how you are of use to others. If you buy a cloth, it will be of use to many involved in the process of cloth making. If you buy vegetables, it will be of use to the farmer and seller. You should remember this when you do anything. You should see the welfare in every activity that you do.

Even in your profession or business, there is something that is useful to others. If you remember that, you tend to be orienting to offering to others. That more you offer, the more accumulates around you. Sun offers light to the solar system and he receives light from the higher planes. That is the secret of offering. If you keep offering, nature gives you more and more. This secret can be observed in creation.

One who works with this orientation of offering, expansion is guaranteed to such a one. If you just aspire for the Lord, nothing will happen. If you offer yourself, the Lord starts working through you. If you forget yourself in offering, he exists as you. If you forget yourself, he is there. If you are there, he is not there. There is only room for one. So the secret is that the Lord becomes you when you offer yourself. Offer yourself to the creation. The more you offer yourself to the creation; the Lord permeates you more and more.

If you just keep praying to the Lord "Please come unto me" and stand obstructing him, how can he come? So even meditation is an offering. "Open yourself and offer yourself. Let him enter into you and express through you." That is meditation.

So I gave you some primary aspects and now we will have a Q&A Session.

Q) What is knowledge & what is wisdom?

A) Knowledge when acted upon transforms itself into wisdom. Suppose we are told that "Bobbattu" (A kind of sweet) will be served to us today. Someone asks "What is Bobbattu"? The information about it is knowledge. Later when we are served the dish and we eat it, we get the related wisdom. Then our knowledge about it is different. One, who speaks about it after eating it, tells better about it than the one who speaks about it without eating it. Experiment of knowledge leads to experience and that experience settles in you as wisdom. Knowledge is raw material and wisdom is the finished product. All those who marry inform the youngsters "Do not get married" :) But will a young man stop? He will not. He will also marry and gain experience and later tell others "Do not marry". :D

It means many of them advice not to marry, only a few advice to marry. It is because marriages are a good experience only for few.

So when knowledge culminates into wisdom, there is no more knowledge but only experience.

Q) How to stay free from the will to do unnecessary things emerging in our mind?

A) Just stick to your duties. If you are engaged in your work, people hesitate to disturb you from your work. If you have no duty, remain silent or listen to some good music, study some good book or observe nature. One, who is not interested in his duties, gets useless thoughts and engages in useless things. One who is always engaged in his duties, he will not have time for useless activity.

Q) What is the reason to offer clothes to anyone?

A) Offering of Clothes gives us protection of devas. The Pitris protect us when you offer food. That is why we offer food and clothes at the end of any ritualistic activity.

Q) Who is Rishi?

A) One who can see inside and outside is a Rishi. Inside does not mean inside the body. 'Seeing inside' means seeing the 'subtle'. There are subtle planes apart from the gross planes that we can see. A Rishi can see both the subtle and gross planes.

Q) How to find welfare of others in our routine jobs?

A) When you are doing a job, it is meant for other beings. Any job we are doing, its ultimate purpose is to serve mineral, animal, plant or human being. We should observe in what way our work helps others and remember that during our work.

(A different topic)

When the divine fills his presence in you, you will know what will happen in future. You will also know your past. The purpose of knowing future is only to help others in their endeavors.

Q) What is the ultimate thing in life?

A) To know yourself. You should know that you are immortal and exist forever. You experience a state of bliss. You know that everyone is I AM. As consciousness expands, you can experience more and more happiness. We emerged from the divine and we should reach that state again. We should reach the source, Brahman. Then there is only existence. All the Grand Masters like Agasthya, Vasistha, etc. are in such a state. They know everything and they know that they are everything.

Q) How to do Yagna (Service) according to our nature?

A) Suppose your nature's likes something, you do it. It may be of some help to someone. But do not expect anything in return. You can do some help to someone you like but do not expect anything in return from them. In this way you can serve others in accordance to your nature.

Q) What is Dharma and Satya? (Law & Truth) How do we experience the truth by following dharma?

A) You can know it only by following the law. Dharma is not doing to others what you do not want others to do to you. It is the basic law. When you start with it, you know the whole doctrine of dharma slowly. The more you follow the dharma, the truth reveals itself to you.

Q) Master please explain the difference between bondage & attachment? There is so much of chaos because of attachment. How to overcome it?

A) Your continuous attachment results in bondage. Bondage is an advanced state of attachment. To come out of attachment, one has to recollect in himself what is permanent and what is not permanent. When you know what is eternal and what is temporary, with that recollection when you work, attachment does not come to you. Beings are eternal and you can relate to them but let not the relation cause mutual attachment. Then there is the problem of bondage. Normally when one does favours to others, he expects favours from others. When there is no expectation, there is no bondage. We meet many people but all cannot stay together. Like clouds in the sky we sometimes stay together and sometimes not.

Then we have a family and there is a common activity with them. We should relate to them only upto that common activity and at the same time remember that we will part with them at sometime. We were not together before birth and so it cannot be always so. We can experience happiness together remembering that we have to part in future. It is just like travelling in a train. We travel with different co-travelers in a train and at sometime we get down. During the period of travel, we can have a good chat.

So we should know what is permanent and which is not. We can develop attachment in case of permanent things. The Lord and beings are permanent. So we can have attachment with them. When attachment becomes advanced, it becomes bondage. Knowledge helps us to remain detached from the temporary.

We will stop for now and continue tomorrow. The questions were good.

-Swasthi