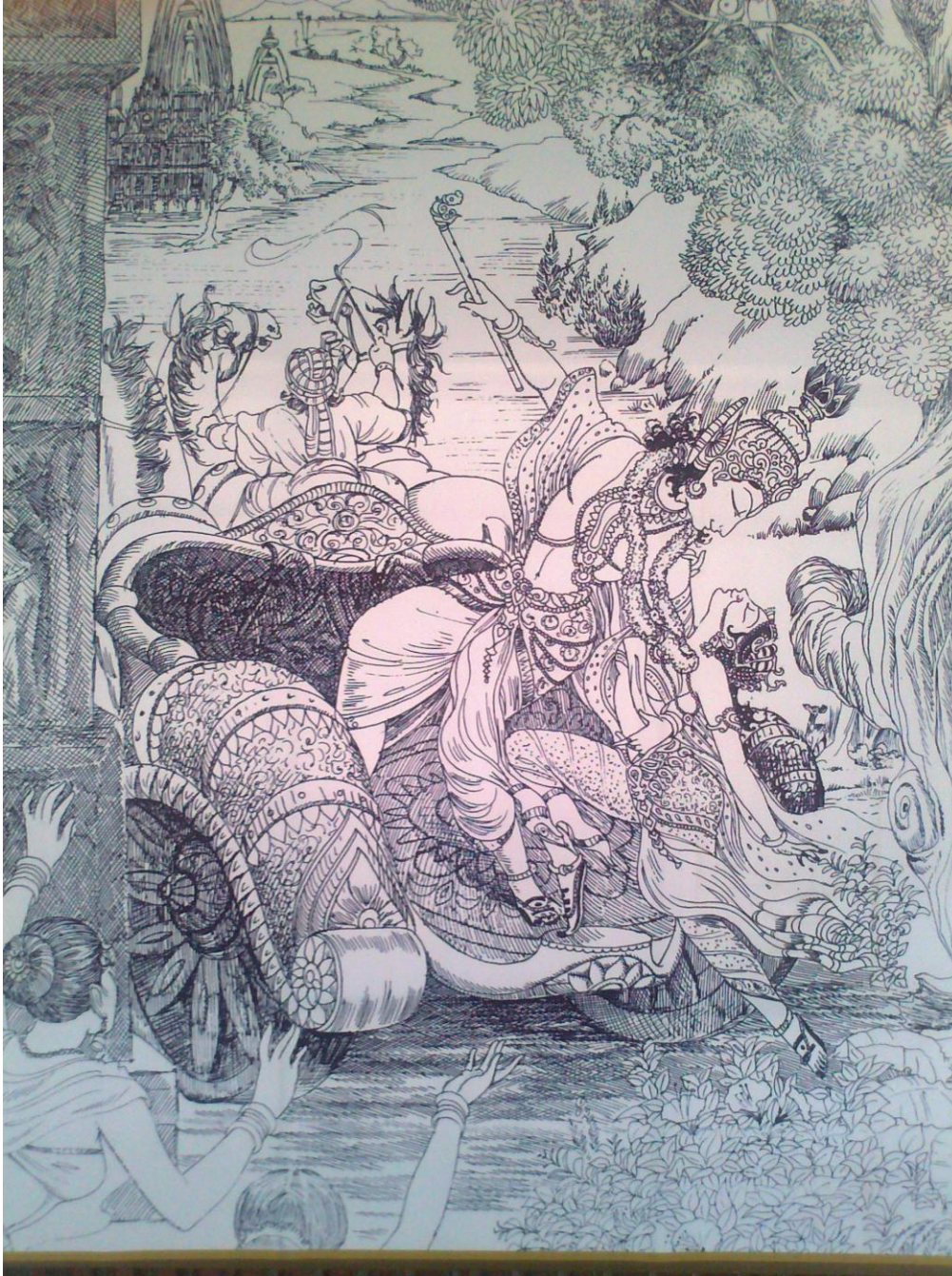


Note: These are personal notes made from Master Kumar's speech recording, translated from Telugu. Does not reflect Master's words in entirety. Please use for reference only. Not for publication.

Vijayawada Gurupujas - 2012

Rukmini Kalyanam - Discourse 1



In India, people were adoring the Brahman (THAT) from the past times and they considering that reaching the Brahman as the utmost thing.

In Vijayawada, we are having Master CVV Gurupujas. The story of the creation is nothing but the story of the Lord, the nature and the beings. One who lives in alignment with the Lord leads a happy life. He can enjoy the beauty of nature to the best. If he tries to enjoy nature forgetting God, he falls into troubles and becomes sad and slowly realizes that alignment with the Lord is important to lead a happy life enjoying the nature.

In the Bhagavatam, the story of Marriage of Rukmini (Rukmini Kalyanam) is given beautifully. The story is known to most of us but it also holds many secrets which are to be realized apart from knowing the normal story. It gives many practical secrets which can put into practice by devoted aspirants.

It is also very auspicious if you just read that story and experience it. Leading busy lives and being interested in worldly aspects, we are losing interest in reading and experiences such beautiful stories given in our Scriptures. Grand Masters with their subtle bodies travel most of the time in India because of their liking towards this country. They travel 100 times more in India than any other country. Even the people from west come to our country and experience sublime happiness here. Though we have not many comforts, our western brethren come here so frequently because they experience that happiness here. They experience our country more than we do. We miss that experience because we are too close to it.

Every year in Vijayawada Gurupujas, we have been discussing some topic from the Bhagavatam and this year we have the topic "Rukmini Kalyanam" for discussion. It is given in the last part of the 10th Canto of Bhagavatam. It is the story of marriage between Rukmini and Krishna. It is called "Rukmini Kalyanam" and not "Krishna Kalyanam" because it is a fulfillment for Rukmini and not Krishna with that marriage. An alignment between a devotee and the Lord is a fulfillment for the devotee and not for the Lord.

An aspirant will face many difficulties and disturbances in the path. Rukmini faces lot of opposition in marrying Krishna. Some people oppose the marriage while some people support her. Similarly an aspirant faces much opposition from within and also without. But one has to stand stable and also take some brave decisions if necessary to move forward in the path. A fearful one cannot move forward in the path. In the story of Rukmini Kalyanam, the main character is Rukmini. It gives how strong Rukmini aspired for Krishna and married him.

We will go through the story slowly. We should not decide to complete it in this Gurupuja itself. Let it take its own time. We will read it and experience slowly. Bhagavatam is not for completion but for experience.

Bhagavatam says that the Lord is present in everyone. There is the Lord, the being and the body. It is 3 in 1. The being in alignment with the Lord can experience this creation through the body and his nature.

We have a riddle of a tiger, a goat, heap of grass and a man. They have to cross a river on a boat but there is only room for 2 on the boat. The tiger and goat cannot stay together as the tiger will

eat the goat. The goat and grass cannot stay together as the goat will eat the grass. So the man has to take trips and carry the other 3 to the other side tactfully. Without the man, the 3 cannot cross the river. So the Lord comes and goes many times and takes us to the other side without us falling into trouble. Without the Lord, we fall into trouble.

If we forget the Lord, he goes into dormant state. He will be always there in us but for him to remain active we should pray to him and recognize him. We can reach the Lord only by staying in alignment with him and doing our work. Our nature is like a tail to us. It keeps wagging all the time. If you forget the lord, your tail will cause trouble to you.

So we should remember the Lord all the time and do your work. You can go to a park, to a movie, catch a train; you can do anything by staying in alignment with him. There is no problem if you be with him. God is neither male nor female. It is the basis of both.

So keep seeing THAT in everything and listen to THAT all the time. We refer to it as "He" for the sake of language. But THAT is not he. Vedas refer to him as THAT.

So in Rukmini Kalyanam many practical secrets are given and we realise them more and more as our awareness grows. So we can read it again and again and realise more and more. If we know it already, it is for recollection. If we do not know it, it is to know.

The Lord does everything for his devotee. We have many such stories of devotee. One such story is the story of Rukmini Kalyanam. I will read the first poem now.

The first poem describes the marriage of Balarama (elder brother of Krishna). Balarama married Revathi.

There is a Manu by name Raivatha who was once presiding over the humanity like Vaivaswatha Manu now. At that time we were much higher and stronger. Even our level of awareness was much higher at that time. That Manu once did a penance to Brahma and by the time he came out of Penance the Manvantara passed by.

He had a daughter by name Revathi who was very tall. But the men at that time were very short compared to her. So he prays to Brahma and asks him what is to be done. Brahma shows him Balarama who is very tall. He was the tallest man at that time. So Manu Raivatha gives his daughter in marriage to Balarama.

This is just a prelude just to say that Krishna married after Balarama. Revathi was much elder to Balarama. So if someone asks if a boy can marry a girl elder to him, this is the answer. You can marry. Age is not the factor but they should meet levels with one another. Their awareness, their qualities and their thoughts shows match. Sita was elder to Rama. Do you know? We follow some rules without thinking anything in the name of tradition.

Garuda, the Eagle God brings the elixir of life defeating Indra very easily. Krishna brought Rukmini defeating her brother and the other kings who tried to stop him as easily as Garuda defeated Indra.

Now the qualities of Rukmini are given. She was a pure lady. She is an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi. As Goddess Lakshmi was born in a lotus flower, it is said that the body of Rukmini has a beautiful fragrance like a Lotus flower. A lotus flower is used to indicate a completely awakened consciousness. It is also used to indicate beauty. The While Island is also called Swetha Padma Dweepam (Padma = Lotus). It indicates that the inhabitants of that island have a highly awakened consciousness.

- First of the qualities of Rukmini is Sham. It means to have peaceful, poised and stable mind.
- The 2nd quality is Damam. It is to be able to neutralize the Dynamism and Inertia qualities in others. In a Master's Ashram, even a deer and tiger live in harmony. It is due to the quality of Damam. Even Ravana goes into a state of poise when he sees Rama for the first time. Krishna also possesses that quality. Without Shamam there is no Damam.
- The 3rd quality is Itheeksha. It is the ability to wait. All these qualities are taught to us by Saturn. He teaches us lot of patience.
- The 4th quality is Sraddha. To be present in every activity and do it with interest. If you take some object from a place, you should place it back in the same place. It shows your Sraddha. Everything has to be restored in its original order. People without Sraddha are not entrusted big duties. One must have Sraddha in every small thing. Even while wearing a shirt, a shoe one must have Sraddha. If you do small things without any Sraddha, you cannot read any Scripture. You may be able to read them but you cannot understand anything. The Scriptures will reveal themselves to you only if you have Sraddha in doing every small thing. That is why Master EK used to say "Literacy is not education". Just because you read something does not mean that you know it.

So Rukmini had these 4 qualities of Shamam, Damam, Itheeksha and Sraddha.

Rukmini means one with a Golden body. She had a golden body by birth. That is why she had interest in higher aspects but not in worldly aspects. She was the only wife of Krishna who Krishna wanted to marry. Remaining all wanted to marry Krishna but Krishna wanted to marry Rukmini.

(Master is reading the next poem)

This is being explained by Sage Sukha to Parikshit as a part of Bhagavatam. So now Parikshit asks to give the story more in detail. How did Krishna defeat all the kings and take away Rukmini? This shows the interest and Sraddha of Parikshit. A known person will tell anything in brief. Only if the listener asks for more detail, the knower will give it in detail. A knower speaks according to the interest of the listener. He will not tell everything that he knows. The stories in

Bhagavatam are so touching and inspiring that a devoted listener wants to listen more and more. All the Sciences and Stories given in the Scriptures are attractive only when one has devotion. First the one who reads them and explains them should have devotion and the listener receives it according to his devotion. So Parikshit asks Sage Sukha to give the story in more detail.

We will continue tomorrow. We will discuss both the story and also the practical secrets given and experience it.

-Swasthi