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Vijayawada Gurupujas - 2012

Rukmini Kalyanam - Discourse 2

Hearty fraternal greetings to the brotherhood who are participating in this Gurupujas. In this season, there will be a wind that is responsible for the falling of leaves off the trees. This season is a good time for us to leave off unnecessary aspects of our nature. We cannot leave off anything just by thinking that we should leave it. It is possible only living in alignment with the Lord that unnecessary things fall off.

Nature provides us with different opportunities in each season to move forward in the path and if we cultivate our body in tune with nature, we will have a good crop just like a farmer making a good crop out of a fertile land. Here the body is our required and ingredients crop are in our body. We just need to properly and surely happen. We utilize them ascent would

Initially we to God to help problems and life. This turns in such a we want to It is actually reaching us and him. We can him. The Sun through his cannot reach should have



may be praying us with our to lead a happy prayer slowly direction that reach the God. the God not us reaching never reach can reach us rays but we him. So we love towards

God. We should think of him all the time. When we love someone, that person will always be there in our thoughts. Devotees are ones who have such love for God and is their only thought. They do not have much interest in anything other than God. The stories of Rukmini, Prahalada, Ambarisha and so on are such.

Even in the name of Yoga, what all we do, the ultimate purpose of all that is alignment between the Lord and the being. So we started a story of one such devotee "Rukmini". Yesterday we discussed the marriage of Balarama and qualities of Rukmini in the first 2 poems.

In the story of Rukmini, the lord comes to her defeating many kings and takes her. This tells us that we cannot overcome all the hindrances and reach God. If we have devotion for God, the God will take away all the hindrances and reach us.

The brothers of Rukmini did not want her to marry Krishna and decide to give her in marriage to Sisupala against the will of Rukmini.

In sublime sense, these brothers and their armies are nothing but our opposing natures that cause hindrances in the path and impede us from doing practices regularly. They are much stronger than us as they formed during many of our past lives. We weave a strong web around us and get stuck in it. Our profession, our house, our properties, etc. are all hindrances to us. We arranged them for our comfort and get stuck in them. Similarly there are many opposing thoughts coming from our nature. The first thought which opposes us is to sleep for more time. So all these factors cause hindrances to us. It is very difficult and almost impossible for us to overcome them. It is very easy for the Lord to remove them and reach us.

When one gets a thought to reach the divine for the first time, everything seems to be a hindrance because we arranged everything earlier for our comfort and now all that becomes a hindrance to us. What can we do? The only thing we can do is pray. Pray to the Lord "My Lord, I am the cause for my hindrances. I developed them due to my ignorance. I am too weak to reach you. Please remove all my hindrances, come to me and hug me."

If you pray like that regularly, he will come down unto you and lift you up. If he is with you, you can even cross an ocean with ease.

As told yesterday, Parikshit asks Sage Sukha to give the story more in detail.

You are lucky if you have an ear which shows utmost interest in listening to the stories of the lord and his devotees. Hearing is considered the highest among all the sensations. One who has subtle hearing capability can recognize the coming of a person near him just by hearing. There is no need to see. So hearing is more important than seeing. Seeing corresponds to fire while hearing corresponds to sky/ether. One with a good hearing capability has a very good learning

capability. Parikshit is one who has such an ear. A Master is very pleased to have such a keen listener as his disciple.

If you keep hearing the stories of the Lord more and more, the negative qualities in you get neutralized. That is why in the past we used to have discourses on Ramayana, Bhagavatam, Bhagawadgita, Puranas, etc. in the temples. Now we have them all available in our homes with the advancement of technology. Are you utilizing the available opportunities to hear or read the stories of the Lord? That shows your devotion and interest towards the Lord. Especially the time before you sleep should be utilized for this purpose. That is most important. If you close your day properly, the next day will begin properly.

So have a light dinner and read some stories of the Lord and sleep with a short prayer. If you do that at night and wake up next morning, your face will be glowing with brilliance.

The sounds which come by playing musical instruments like veena, mridangam and like instruments, remove all the negative energies in the atmosphere and only the positive energies remain. Hearing or reading the stories of the Lord will produce a similar effect.

You can visualize that the Lord enters into you with every inhalation and you moving up with the Lord into the Sahasrana (head centre) with every exhalation. If Yoga happens, you are lifted up with every pulsation. The inhalation and exhalation is considered the movement of Garuda, The Eagle God in us. Garuda is the vehicle of the Lord.

Yesterday I told you that Rukmini was the incarnation of Goddess lakshmi and she has a golden body by birth. She was born in the land called Vidharbha (now a part of Maharashtra state) and was the daughter of Bhismaka. Bhismaka had 5 sons and Rukmini was his 6th child.

The 6th one here suggests that the one above the 5 senses. The 5 senses together form the mind. The mind works through the senses. It has no separate existence. The Buddhi which is above this mind is the 6th one.

Rukmi is the name of his first son. His nature is pure by birth but he had bad influences on him. One's mind depends on the people he moves with. Mind is just like a mirror. It just reflects what it is shown. So you should move around people who help you to have a stable and peaceful mind. We are very much influenced by our acquaintances. Rukmi is mostly in his mind while Rukmini is mostly in Buddhi. So their states are different. Rukmini was interested only in the Lord while Rukmi was more interested in other worldly things.

Brilliance in Rukmini increased day by day. By the age of 16, Rukmini was complete in all the aspects and seeing her, her relatives, especially her father were very anxious as they have to bring an able husband to her who is equal to her in all aspects. They knew that they should bring her a husband who was more able and more brilliant than her. A woman will not be so happy if

her husband is not more able than her. Even a man won't be so happy if his wife is more able than him. He has to follow in her footsteps and loses respect in the society.

She had all the qualities that a woman should possess. She had liking for flowers and cooking. Flowers are indications of feminine nature. Rukmini used to grow flower gardens, used to pluck those flowers and make beautiful garlands out of them. All these acts result in expansion of your consciousness because you move very close to nature.

Now days we are very busy in our lives. We have no time to move close to nature. We do not have time to enjoy nature. We are busy in manufacturing, multiplication and money making. Our only aim in life is earn more and more money. Anything that we do is to earn money. It is a pity state that we in. Children are always busy in studying subjects all the time.

So Rukmini used to spend most of the time with nature. She used to teach words to parrots. She taught peacocks and swans how to walk. So she was enjoying a life of splendor in tune with nature.

Next we have poems which tell us the changes that come about in her due to her life in tune with nature. Also how she grew close to Krishna. All this is in the next poems. We will go slowly as this is a marriage story and not some action story. We should read it and experience it.

-Swasthi