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Vijayawada Gurupujas - 2012

Rukmini Kalyanam - Discourse 3

We know that the Lord comes down in 4 states of Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradjudhna and Aniruddha. Krishna is the personification of the all permeating God coming down to earth in a human form. Being born as a human being, the Lord has to perform all the responsibilities that a human being has. Rama and Krishna did so. Procreation is one of the responsibilities of every human being and for the purpose one has to marry. So time has come for Krishna to marry.

In Rama's case, Sage Viswamithra showed Rama the girl who he has to marry. But in Krishna's story it is all by himself. No one needs to advise him and no one needs to help him as he knows everything and can do anything.

When time for glow will appear bride. At the same is marry her gets a should marry. thought that time to marry and at glow appears in Rukmini. The should not be Astrologer. It can the boy or girl When time comes boy or the girl that he should should be taken as marriage.

It was similar in When she sees time, she that she should



marriage comes, a in the face of the time, the boy who thought that he Krishna gets a has come for him the same time a the face of time for marriage asked from an be best decided by who is to marry. for marriage, the gets the thought marry and that the basis for

the case of Sita. Rama for the first immediately felt marry him. This

tells us that we should give more importance to impulses than to astrological charts. Impulses that come to you depend on what is already there on your astrological chart. So by impulse rather than astrology because the person who sees your chart may not see everything right but your impulse that comes from within never goes wrong.

Krishna also comes to know of Rukmini's beauty, qualities, nature through his thoughts from within. So they wanted to marry each other. This attraction occurred even without them seeing one another. That is the power of impulse.

Rukmini's father Bhisma was a great person and wanted to give his daughter in marriage to one who is equal to her. But Rukmini's brother, Rukmi decides that she should marry Sisupala (Krishna's cousin). Many knowers and scholars came and told the king Bhisma that it would be good if he gives his daughter in marriage to Krishna.

Rukmi had lot of pride and was very powerful and would not listen to anyone. He would not even listen to his father. He develops lot of enmity towards Krishna. There was no reason for his enmity because Krishna and Rukmi never met. He has enmity only because Sisupala, who was his close friend, tells him lot of false reports against Krishna.

Sisupala is actually Krishna's cousin who was born with lot of deformations. He had 2 heads, 4 hands, ugly face and 4 legs and anyone who saw him was horrified. Some Rishis told his parents that he would get a beautiful body when someone touches him but he would die in that person's hands later.

One day Krishna (who was the nephew of Sisupala's mother) comes to their home and when they place the child in his hands, Sisupala gets a very beautiful body. Sisupala's mother feels very happy but at the same time she feels sad as according to the prediction Sisupala would die in the hands of Krishna. She asks Krishna "Would you kill my son as prediction is so?" Krishna replied "I have no thought to kill him. I will pardon him for any number of his mistakes but if he commits 100 mistakes on a single day, I will not spare him." Later on one day Sisupala, commits 100 mistakes and Krishna kills him. This has to happen because he is actually an ardent devotee of Vishnu but is born as his enemy because of a curse. That is another story.

So Sisupala had enmity with Krishna by birth due to the curse and he keeps slandering against Krishna to Rukmi. So Rukmi whose mind was highly influenced by Sisupala develops enmity towards Krishna.

There is a secret instruction for us here. If we just keep working with our mind without consulting our Buddhi, we develop all false ideas and tread the wrong path. Mind just takes everything that it receives from outside through the senses but does not discriminate. Buddhi is the one that helps you discriminate what is right and what is wrong. So one's mind should be under the supervision of Buddhi for proper functioning.

Rukmini calls a Brahmin by name Agnijyothana who was highly knowledgeable. She sends him to Krishna to tell him that her brother Rukmi is opposing her idea to marry him.

Here Rukmini is Buddhi. Buddhi knows that the pride of a person causes hindrances to its functioning. One who lives in Buddhi best knows that he has an ego which causes hindrances to him and prays to the Lord to remove the hindrances that stop him from reaching the Lord.

The person is helpless as he cannot overcome his ego. Here Rukmini cannot oppose her brother on her own as he is more powerful. So she requests the lord to come and take her.

We cannot align with the God on our own. We need the help of a Master in our effort to reach God. Here that Master is Agnijyothana who passes the message of Rukmini to Krishna and helps her to reach the Lord.

She tells him "Sir, my brother has lot of pride and he will not even listen to my father. I want to marry Krishna. I know that he protects and saves the ones who are devoted to him. So please tell him that this is the situation." She also tells him some of her thoughts and feelings that she has towards Krishna.

Agnijyothana goes to the palace of Krishna and meets Krishna. Seeing Krishna seated on the golden throne, the Brahmin blesses Krishna "May your marriage happen soon." Krishna smiles as he knows that he was sent by Rukmini.

Krishna seats the Brahmin on a cushioned chair, felicitates him and offers him food. That is Krishna. Krishna respected every elderly person in the same manner though he is the Lord of all. Here elderly person means a knower. He is happy at all the times and in all situations. Here Brahmin means one who is alignment with Brahman (THAT) all the time. He never feels that he has something and does not have something because everything is there in THAT.

Then Krishna asks the Brahmin "Where did you come from? Who sent you? Tell me what help can I be of to the kingdom where you live." Krishna knows that the Brahmin did not come for some personal favour, so he asks if the kingdom or land where that Brahmin lives needs some help.

Brahmin replies "My Lord, the Vidharbha region is ruled by Bhismaka and he has a daughter by name Rukmini. She wants to marry and asked me convey you the same. The Brahmin then gives the message of Rukmini to Krishna.

Rukmin's message: "My Lord, I cannot live without seeing you. I forget everything just by recollecting your name." Rukmini gives an account of her experiences and her devotion towards Krishna. "I have great liking towards you. My Chittam is stabilized with your presence. I swear. There is nothing more beautiful than you as I see." See how beautifully she describes her

experiences within her due to the presence of Krishna. We can also gain the presence of Krishna and visualize him by reciting these poems which describe Rukmini's experiences.

"I know that there are many women who want to marry you. You stole the hearts of everyone. You are the omnipotent one. You sacrificed all the kingdoms you won but you are the king of people. You have all the divine virtues. You are like a lion among all the animals. There is no surprise in me getting attracted to you." Krishna is an ideal model of a man that any girl would like to marry. Krishna attracted men and women alike.

"I am your property. Sisupala does not know me. He is aspiring for me due to his ignorance and lust. He is of no match to me. He doesn't know about you and your valour."

Meeting levels is very important for marriage. Attraction depends on awareness levels, energy levels and qualities. A boy with low awareness should not aspire to marry a girl with high awareness and vice-versa. It is ignorance. There is attraction from both sides only when both the boy and girl are of equal level.

Rukmini prays that "If at all I respected and served my elders in my past lives, if I prayed to the lord ardently in my past lives, if I performed sacrifices in my past lives, Krishna would defeat all the kings and armies who are working against my will and will take me and marry me."

It is not that only women should have attraction for the Lord. Even men can have attraction towards the Lord and aspire for him. This prayer that Rukmini did here can be done by each one of us. So Rukmini gives a message to Krishna to come and defeat all the armies and take her.

In Rukmini Kalyanam, the primary aspect is devotion. There is lot more in the story which we will continue in the next year's Gurupujas. We should also pray to the Lord to take us unto him just like Rukmini did. The story, principles and practices are all given together in Bhagavatam to give us the best experience. That is the beauty of it.

We have a new year coming up. Hope it will be better than this year as the name (Nandana) suggests, Increase your prayer and spend more time in the presence of divine. All the grand Masters are working towards our betterment in the coming year. We can also contribute the welfare through our prayer. May the Lord and the Masters bless us all and may we move forward in the path and contribute to the welfare of all.

-Swasthi