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Mysore Gurupujas - 2013

10th March, 2013 - Discourse 2

The principle of Shiva gives lot of happiness to us. We worship the Lord as principles of Narayana, Shiva, the Divine mother, Aditya and Ganapati. So in our tradition, we have the worship of the one divine principle in 5 ways. Each one has its own significance and none is higher to the other.

We have the vegetable brinjal which can be used to cook many types of dishes. It may be any dish but finally we are eating only the brinjal. If we don't have that understanding, we cannot experience the beauty of worshipping the Lord in various forms.

We keep taking about the different forms of the Lord but we should remember that the essence is one. This is to add splendour to the worship. If we worship the same form always, we may get bored. If we worship the Lord in different forms remembering the one essence, we get the taste of it and we get to know the splendour of it.

We have many types of dishes cooked in India. Each state in India has its own special dishes and people enjoy different tastes. Though all the dishes satiate the same hunger and though eating is for the sake of satiating hunger, when there is varying taste, it adds splendour and we have better experience and happiness.

A being always looks for happiness. Though we are happy, we keep looking for more. There is no limitation for experience of happiness. Unless one finds the ultimate happiness, all the beings keep looking for more and more happiness.

In the look for THAT happiness, today we will discuss about Shiva.

Shiva is also called Shankara. He can be with form and without form. Shiva has 64 forms which means that he descended as 64 forms (avatars). One light can come down as many forms. The essence remains the same in all though the forms are many. Some forms may be pleasant while some may not be. We prefer the pleasant one. The form of Shiva is that which bestows unlimited happiness. That is why he said to be dancing all the time. When man is absorbed into utmost happiness, he dances.

You study the life story of Chaitanya Maha Prabhu. He is a very knowledgeable person. He visited almost all the holy places in India. He won debates in all the kingdoms present all over India. No one could win over him in debates. Such a man of wisdom, becomes a great devotee

goes into meditation and experiences an absorbed state and used to dance in that state. He is the one who gave the mantra "Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare. Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare".

That dance cannot be compared to the art of dance that we know. It is a completely different state. Nataraju (one of the names of Shiva) is the principle who presides over all dances in creation.

On this grand festival of Shiva Ratri, Lord Shiva can grant you that utmost state of happiness if you can orient towards him completely. The dance done by Shiva became an art in creation later. He also presides over the ragas (specific groups of musical notes). For music, dance, Yoga and penance, Shiva is the presiding deity. He is first one in creation to do penance. His penance is very fiery and no one can go near him during his penance. He remains in an absolute state during his penance. We cannot tell whether he is or is not. He is always there but he appears to be. He is not in a state of localized consciousness. He has no ego (localized consciousness). He permeates the whole space and only takes to a localized form when and only required. Shiva is said to be the egoless one in creation. That is why he could put an end to Daksha, who has lot of ego.

Only an egoless one can win over a person with ego. This is what happened in the story between Vasistha and Viswamitra as well (The story is in Ramayana). An egoless one has no anxiety to win while the one with ego has lot of anxiety. Anxiety consumes all your energy.

All prayers that we do are finally aimed at attaining an egoless state. When you cease to exist, the Lord exists. When you exist, the Lord ceases to exist. It does not mean you and Lord are not compatible. It means that you and the Lord are ONE. So only you or HIM can be and not both. In an egoless state, you become HIM.

If you worship Shiva without any desire, he bestows you that egoless state.

There was one demon by name Tarakasura. He does great penance and gets a boon from Shiva that he cannot be killed by anyone except Shiva's son. He asked such a boon because he knew that Shiva has absolutely no desire and no one can bring him into a family life.

With that boon, he started occupying the creation with diabolic acts and most of the creation went into darkness. At that time, Shiva was in penance and none of the intelligences had any idea of how to bring him out of penance. While in penance, Shiva permeates the whole creation and he can be brought out only if someone only with utmost devotion can bring him into a localized state. Vishnu gives the intelligences an idea to approach Parvathi.

Mother Parvathi was born to attain Shiva. So the intelligences direct Parvathi to do penance for Shiva. Penance was the only way she could approach Shiva.

Even in Master CVV path, doing prayer is only way to approach Master CVV. Master CVV was always aligned with THAT by doing prayer. So he can be approached only by doing prayer and there is no other way.

Similarly Shiva in a state of penance and in alignment with THAT, can be approached only via penance. He cannot be attracted by anything else. There is one principle in creation which causes attraction in all beings. He is Manmadha. If we get one attractive thought, we will not sleep until that attraction is fulfilled. That attraction is due to the presence and work of this principle Manmadha. It is also the principle which causes male-female attraction. This principle can work only at the mental plane. Only when one is in the mind, this principle of Manmadha can work.

Shiva is way above the mental plane. In fact he is the one who presides over the mental plane. Not realizing it, the intelligences send Manmadha to attract Shiva and bring him out of penance. This was their initial action to bring Shiva out of penance. But there is no way that Manmadha can attract Shiva because he is not in the mind.

Parvathi completely surrenders herself to Shiva in her penance and only then she was recognized by Shiva. Same thing was done by Rukmini to attain Krishna.

The creation came into existence when the Lord offered himself as the content of creation. So the beings who come into the creation, when they want to attain the Lord, they should surrender themselves completely to the Lord.

During penance, Parvathi completely forgets everything. When such deep penance happens, there will be emergence of Ojas. It is like a sunrise within. The light grows in leaps and bounds within. So Parvathi goes into such a state and she even continues then. Slowly she moves into cosmic planes in that penance. She also crosses the 3 qualities. Finally she enters an absolute state. Now she was in a state equal to that of Shiva. Only then Shiva recognizes her and comes into a localized state, out of penance.

Such was the penance of Shiva and Parvathi. They did not hear a sound in that absolute state. It is said "the whole creation is based on sound and when you are beyond sound, it means you are beyond creation."

Parvathi was the final hope for intelligences. She also goes into that absolute state like Shiva. But as she knew the status in creation, she just does not remain in that state along with Shiva but brings awareness into him and finally Shiva comes to know of the status of creation.

So after coming out of penance, Shiva and Parvathi marry. Vishnu himself performs their marriage. After marriage, everyone is interested in children. Especially, the mother-in-law wants her daughter in law to give birth to child within a year of marriage. Here, Mother Parvathi was lucky that she had no mother-in-law and father-in-law :)

But she had the push from intelligences as they wanted a child of Shiva who could kill Tarakasura. That was their aim in bringing a marriage between Shiva and Parvathi.

The thing here is both Shiva and Parvathi were more oriented towards penance and they were more engaged in penance. If both wife and husband like watching movies very much, what will happen? They keep watching movies all the time. So here it is penance.

In the meantime, the creation was in dire consequences. There was unrest among the intelligences.

Shiva and Parvathi are equal in penance. So they remained in that state of penance and it took a long time for them to again recollect the status of creation. In that absolute and absorbing state, they are said to be dancing. When you are in an absorbed state, the consciousness in you keeps dancing due to utmost joy and bliss. It dances in tune to the sound and light show that happens within, when in that absorbed state. This happens due to the principle of Apsaras in creation.

So this penance goes on for many years and Parvathi recollects the status of creation. Finally she gives birth to Kumara (Subrahmanya) through Shiva, who kills Tarakasura and restores light in creation.

The progeny of Shiva are the best and most auspicious. Both Ganapati and Kumara are such. The family of Shiva stands as an example to all in the whole creation. Their family is complete. A family in which the head of the family is a renounced one, such a family would stand as one among the best. The family of Shiva is the best example in this case. A renounced one would have the best awareness of how to lead a family without getting stuck in it. He attends to all his duties and responsibilities to the best of his abilities and without getting stuck in anything.

Shiva is the one in whom the 2 contraries are synthesized into one. Shiva is Synthesis. That is why he is worshipped by both devas and diabolics equally.

We are always interested in division. We want to exclude more than to include.

Shiva is Guru while Vishnu is the ruler. He has equanimity towards all. Today is the day of descend of Shiva onto earth as an avatar. We will discuss more about Shiva in the evening.

-Swasthi.