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Vijayawada Gurupujas - 2013

Rukmini Kalyanam - Discourse 2

Now we are in the month of Capricorn (lunar calendar) and today being a Sunday is a very auspicious time for being in divine presence. Actually Sunday morning is said to be the most auspicious time in the whole week. Creation is said to have started on a Sunday and we consider it to be the first day of the week.

To wake up early in the morning on Sunday is not possible to all and even to wake up everyday is not possible to all. Only entitled and lucky ones can do so. We all have gathered here early in the morning, conducted Ganapati Puja and then prayer and now we are trying to be in divine presence by reading a story of the Lord.

Performing Ganapati Puja is very fruitful. It hardly takes 10 to 12 minutes to perform Ganapati Puja. Ganapati gives us stability both physically and mentally. There was no stability even in creation until the Lord descended as Ganapati. Even WTT has become more stable only after we started doing Ganapati Puja at the beginning of all important events. We are able to be in this body due to the presence of Ganapati in our Muladhara (Base Centre). We are able to sit in this body and experience the outer world due to his presence. Even for us to experience the inner world, we need the grace of Ganapati. He grants an enlightened Buddhi and lifts us into higher planes. He gives an order in life. So doing Ganapati Puja atleast for 10 minutes daily is very important. The house in which Ganapati Puja is done daily, there will be great upliftment to that family.

Now coming to the story which we are discussing "Rukmini Kalyanam".

She was called Rukmini because she has a body of golden light. She is an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi. She is considered highest among all the 8 wives of Krishna and she is the only wife equivalent to Krishna in all aspects. She is now telling about Krishna. All the qualities of Krishna can never be described completely but we try to do it because it eliminates all the impurities in us and establishes purity in us. The impurities present in us in the form of Kali nature are disastrous and all such impurities are eliminated when we read or hear qualities of Krishna with ardent devotion.

The first quality of Krishna given here is "He is Omniscient". Krishna knows everything. There is nothing beyond his comprehension in the whole creation. He is Omniscient because he is Omnipresent. The principle of Krishna permeates the whole creation.

Krishna's Master was Sandeepani and Krishna brought back his Guru's son from death as an offering to his Master. Sandeepani actually did not want anything and he said "My Lord! Your learning from me is itself a great blessing to me and there is nothing more that I can ask." Sandeepani knew that Krishna is Lord of the Cosmos and he never considered himself to be a Master to Krishna but he felt that he was being graced by the Lord. Krishna, though knew everything, was always obedient towards his Master and wanted to offer something to his Master as a token of gratitude. Sandeepani does not ask for anything but the mother (Sandeepani's wife) asked Krishna to bring back her son who died many years back. To find the present status of a being that died years back, among the millions and millions of beings moving in the 14 planes of the cosmos and to bring him back to the physical

plane, in the same form, is almost impossible and no one but Krishna could do it. It is a display of his quality of Omniscient.

There are 7 major qualities of the Lord and Rukmini gives them now. The first is Omniscience and the 2nd is “He is the Lord of the Cosmos, the Lord of all”. He is present before creation, during creation and post creation.

He make Brahma understand that he is the Lord of creation and brings down the pride of Brahma by making a parallel creation which was much better than the creation of Brahma and makes Brahma realize that it is not he that was creating and there is something above him doing everything through him. Similarly Krishna also brings down the pride of Indra. Indra is the ruler and protector in creation but he was made to realize by Krishna who the real ruler and protector is.

The head of a family taking good care of his family members, wife and children, thinks that he is taking food care of his family members and protecting them but the fact is that the good deeds done by the family members in the past is what manifests as care and protection through him and the head of the family is a mere medium and he cannot take all the credit.

This should also be a realization to all of us that we are not the doers. Remember that nothing stops if you do not do your part. If you are part of some activity in this creation, you should feel that you are lucky enough to be a part of it. Creation does not stop if someone stops working. Also remember that someone better will come and do the work if you do not. Just do your part and do it considering it as a divine blessing.

He is the dictator of all. He can control anyone and anything as he likes. There were many incidents in which Krishna demonstrated this quality of his. Even in this story of Rukmini Kalyanam, we see this qualities of the Lord at display. Knowing that Krishna would come to take Rukmini, her brother, his friends all his allies and their armies gather there in a bid to stop Krishna. While they were all watching, Krishna comes there and just smiles to all of them and they remained still like statues. No one moved until he took Rukmini and started going back. While doing back, he just waves to all of them and only then they become conscious. So this incident proves the fact that the Lord is present in us as our awareness and hence he can control us as he likes.

When Pandavas were sent to the forest for 12 years, Krishna goes and visits them in the forest, where they were living in a small hut. They describe all the incidents that lead to this situation. Though he knew everything, he listens with all patience. Then Krishna says “For the unlawful things done to you by the Kauravas and others who were present in the court, I could have killed them in a minute but you made promises and took vows which have to be fulfilled.” This shows the importance of speech. We should be very alert while speaking. Pandavas spoke many things in their anger and as a result they had to stay in the forests for 12 years. Once it is uttered, it has to be fulfilled. That is why we have to be very cautious while speaking. Speech may result in great debts which have to be repaid at one time or the other.

Even Mahabharata war could have been averted had not Pandavas taken those vows. In the Mahabharata war, there was lot of killing and bloodshed but Krishna ensured that all that all the soldiers who participated and died in that war, left their physical without any pain. It was a great display of compassion by the Lord.

The Lord is the consumer of all. He displayed this quality in his Viswaroopam. Arjuna could see all the armies entering into Krishna before the beginning of Mahabharata War. Arjuna got the credit while Krishna did everything. He eats all the beings of creation in the form of time. We think that we eat but he is the one who eats. Firstly the will to eat and also the strength to eat, chew and digest come to us from the Lord. He eats the animals and plants in the form of human beings. He eats the plants in the form of animals and human beings. He eats all the minerals through plants. So consumption happens continuously, of the lower kingdom by the next higher

kingdom. Finally through everyone, the Lord is the ultimate consumer. It is also one of his qualities. He consumes everything what he creates through time.

The Lord not only creates but also permeates the whole creation. He is present in all the beings and things. We are also creators at our own level. We may create a house, a garden, etc. but can we permeate them? We cannot but the Lord permeates the whole creation. The creation exists only as long as the Lord permeates it. Once he recedes from it, the creation dissolves. This applies to each and every object in this creation. As long as the Lord exists in our body, the body exists and we can reside in it. Once the Lord recedes from the body, it falls and we have to depart from it. So the Lord is real owner of each and every object in the whole creation.

The Lord is present as the sound in creation. He is the basis for all the sounds in creation. We should try to hear him in any sound that comes to our ears. Can we hear the Lord through every sound? Prahalada could hear the Lord in every sound. All these are basic practices. We are interested more in higher practices but these are the basics. If we do so, what happens is we will develop a respect towards others and hear to what others speak with all alertness. We fail in these practices. We think of doing it when we discuss it during a discourse but immediately after the discourse we simply forget. That is why the Lord says “You keep seeing me but fail to see me. You keep hearing me but fail to hear me.”

All beings are mediums to the Lord. You should remember that you are interacting with the Lord all the times through all the beings around you. This is what the Lord told in Bhagawadgita. When this happens regularly, you will not be troubled by the body. When we all sit here and discuss some divine aspects, we forget all the pains and diseases in our body. When you are in divine presence, you stand above the bodily thoughts and the body does not affect you. When we have a thought that the body is ours, it keeps affecting us in many ways. If we see it as divine and surrender it to him, it is taken care of by the Lord and it does not affect you. A real devotee is never concerned about his body much. He just takes minimum care of the body providing it the basic needs.

The Lord will definitely save us if we surrender ourselves to him but the problem is his definition of saving is different from our definition of saving. We want our body, our wealth, our property, etc. to be saved but the Lord is more concerned about us. We are permanent, not our belongings. The Lord is concerned about us and not other things.

Vishnu gave a boon to Daksha that he would protect Daksha and uplift him whenever required. Later due to wrong doing, he brings anger to Shiva and when Shiva was about to kill him, Daksha prays to Vishnu to save him. Vishnu said “I promised that I would save you and not your life. I am concerned only about you and not your life or body.” So in that story the Lord propounds that he is concerned only about the being.

Krishna knew all the 64 arts completely. He never lived as a person knowing all the 64 arts. If we just know one art, that too not completely, we feel so great about it. We behave like some extra ordinary person. There are many who fall in the glamour of knowledge and get lost in it. There are many who think that they are in the path of Master CVV and behave in an unordinary manner. They are not original. We should be original irrespective of the practices that we do and the experiences that we have. So all these are perversions in our mind may come if we are doing something different from the larger public. They are very dangerous. All these perversions and impurities will be eliminated if you remain in recollection of the Lord.

There are four aspects in life – Dharma (eternal law), Artha (wealth), Kama (desire) and Moksha (liberation). Artha and Kama must be in accordance with Dharma. Only then they bestow us with happiness. Moksha is a liberated state where no attachment or bondage exists. One is in a liberated state if he remains as if he has nothing though he has everything. It means no object or thought binds him. If you sit with closed eyes for sometime and

observe all the thoughts that come to your mind, the thoughts which are dominant and come again and again are those binding you. This state is possible to only those who follow the dharma without fail.

When you live in complete faith of the Lord and lead a righteous life and attend to your duties and responsibilities, the Lord will take care of you completely. All the above four mentioned aspects are ensured. Wealth and power will gather around you to the extent you require and sometimes even more; you need to use them properly for the welfare of others. While all this happens, you should not deviate from your primary aspiration of attunement with divinity. People may come to you asking for advice and you should give them due advice with a sense of responsibility. More the name, power and wealth you have, even more is the responsibility. When you feel proud about it, you are bound to fall. So when you are with the Lord, you are bestowed with name, fame, wealth and fame. This is what happened in the life of Parikshit because he saw the Lord in all and even in the snake that came to kill him.

The form of the Lord as Krishna is said to be very auspicious. There cannot be another form more beautiful than his. It means that all the forms that you see are forms of the Lord and when you see the Lord in all forms, the whole creation appears beautiful and splendid to you. This thought should stabilize in you. Anything you see should be seen as the Lord. Without that no Yoga is possible. Just by visualizing his form within, you are absorbed into an absolute state. Your mind ceases.

The one who serves the feet of the Lord is the one who attains highest state. What does it mean? The feet of the Lord are nothing but the creation. Serving the creation is equal to serving the feet of the Lord. There are intelligences which serve the planetary plane, there are intelligences which serve at the level of solar plane and there are intelligences which serve at the cosmic level. All these intelligences will cooperate with you if you offer yourself completely for the welfare of the beings around you.

The symbolism of Lakshmi gives us that message. She is seen serving the feet of the Lord all the time and she was given the highest place in creation. So we should follow in the footsteps of the divine mother in serving the creation. It is a grand secret that Mother Lakshmi reveals to us. We can remain very close to the Lord by serving his feet i.e. the beings in creation.

When you practice to see the Lord in all, hear the Lord in all sounds and keep serving others, gradually your consciousness expands, your energies ascend and you lose interest in petty things and nothing binds you.

Rukmini tells Krishna through Agniyothana “I keep living in your thoughts all the time”. Generally we do not find a girl telling her feelings and love towards a boy that she loves. It is generally the boy that keeps going after the girl saying ‘I love you’ expecting reciprocation but it does not come so easily. It is so with feminine nature. But here Rukmini is revealing her feelings and love towards Krishna shedding her shyness. This is a very rare case.

We will continue in the next discourse.

-Swasthi.