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Vijayawada Gurupujas - 2013

Rukmini Kalyanam - Discourse 3 (Before Evening Prayer)

The creation exists with Brahman (Absolute God-THAT) as the basis. One should not think Brahman to be present somewhere in outer space, inaccessible to anyone. Brahman is present in everyone and everything around us and we should see THAT in All that is. That is what Agnijyothana is doing. He sees THAT in all and now before him Krishna is present and he is seeing THAT in Krishna.

Rukmini stands among of the top most who can describe the principle of Krishna to a good extent. She is a reflection of Lord Krishna in all grace and beauty. She is one of the ardent devotees of Lord Krishna. That is why her story is given in Bhagavatam. By reading the stories of such devotees, devotion develops in us and Yoga happens automatically. You cannot do Yoga because it doing leads to egoism but when you are in alignment with the Divine principle, ego recedes and Yoga happens effortlessly. Bhagavatam shows you the way by which things happen and for things to happen, devotion is the basis. In all other dimensions, there is a chance for ego to dominate but in devotion, ego cannot dominate because you are with THAT. You can observe in the story of devotees that everything happened for them. A devotee, though moving in objective world and does not appear to be different, always recollects the Lord within and remains with HIM. To such a one, the body, senses, mind, objective knowledge do not cause any binding. The relation between Rukmini and Krishna is so very strong and inseparable and that is why she says that she cannot exist with Krishna.

Generally it the binding of the 3 qualities of nature that obstructs one from reaching the divine. It is said that one cannot overcome the 3 qualities on his own because he came through them and they do not belong to them. Krishna says in Bhagawadgita "All the beings emerged from the qualities of my nature." So will they listen you or the Lord? So one cannot overcome the ego and 3 qualities. Rukmini knows this fact and that is why she says "My Lord! You are the one who removes the ego of your devotees and uplifts them with your sheer unconditional grace. Please grant me the same." This unconditional surrender to the Lord is required. You cannot ask him for his grace telling about the good things that you have done. In that case, the ego dominates and devotion recedes. A devotee does many good things but remains as humble as if he has done nothing, before the Lord. No recommendations or certifications take you to the Lord. It is only by his grace that you can reach HIM.

Now coming to the next stanza. It is said that the Lord absolute has no form of his own and only in association with the nature, he takes to a form. That is why Krishna here is called “Sriyutakara”

Sri = Divine Nature/Mother, Akara = Form

That is why the forms of Lord Krishna or even Lord Rama contain female beauty and they are so very attractive for both men and women alike.

We will continue after prayer.

-Swasthi