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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 2 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (11 Jan, 2014)

The primary activity in the path of ascent is to transform oneself from human nature to divine nature. For this upliftment, we need the presence of a Master who makes us understand that he is none other than Brahman and also makes us realise that we are also forms of Brahman (THAT). All the grand sages and Masters who, now, we follow, were once upon a time were normal human beings like us. They walked the path and are now leading us in the path. In this manner the tradition of Guru-Sishya (Master-Disciple) keeps going on for times immemorial.

So, in one's life, to get into association with a Master is a very lucky and extraordinary moment for an aspirant. Once we are associated with a Master, we remain in his presence only when we follow his path, otherwise if we just use him for fulfilling our objective desires, he helps you to that extent but there will be no ascent happening. So it is upto oneself to decide in what way he wants to progress. If it is objective, it is limited to one life, if it is subjective; the association goes on for lives together.

So we are discussing the story of Hercules and yesterday Hercules successfully completed the 4th labour relating to cancer of catching the dove and bringing it to the temple. Hercules is a disciple who came into association with a Master and decided to follow the path of that Master. He is performing the tasks, one by one, handed over to him by his Master.

A disciple should stick to the task given by his Master without questioning. Each one gets a different task, in the Ashram of a Master, as per one's nature. We should not think that some task is lower to the other. Do not think of doing things which will give you recognition and avoid other tasks. In Gurupujas, we have different volunteers performing various tasks and we do not know who is doing what. Not all get recognition from us but each one who performs the duty given to him is definitely recognised by the Master. So Hercules, here, is following the tasks given by his Master without questioning.

The first task given to him was to catch the horse which is very ferocious. Then he was asked to tame the bull which relates to one's speech. Then he was asked to get the golden apples, which is a labour relating to working with the dualities and he works very hard to fulfill that task. Then he was asked to catch a beast/dove which relates to one's mind. Our mind can be a highly unstable beast which roams around aimlessly if it is not tamed properly. It can go from one place to other

in a flash. It keeps jumping here and there like a deer. It is not easy to catch hold of one's mind and the thoughts coming through it. Hercules could catch hold of it by hitting it with a bow and arrow.

The bow is the OM associated with respiration and arrow is the being himself. So Hercules catches the dove and brings it to the temple and just as he reported to the Master of the completed task, the dove flew away from the temple. This tells us that the mind would not stay in the heart always and it stays there only when you hold onto it. Once you leave it, it goes away. So in this manner, Hercules completes the 4th labour.

(Master is releasing some new books this year and giving brief details of the contents.)

- 1) OM Namō Narayanaya – New book
- 2) Mars – New book
- 3) Kapila & Kardama – New book
- 4) Etheric Body – New book
- 5) Sri Krishna Namamrutam - 2nd print
- 6) Sri Dattatreya - 2nd print
- 7) OM - 2nd print
- 8) Master CVV yogamu - 5th print

Now coming back to the story of Hercules. Initially, I thought we could complete all the labours in a year during Gurupujas but only we are going at the rate of 2 labours per year and I am letting it happen in that manner because each labour discussed here have a very deep subtle meaning and we cannot go ahead with discussing that meaning in detail. Understanding and practicing are more important than completing all the labours. This book was written by Master DK in a highly symbolic manner and later Madam Alice Bailey gave explanation to each of the myths. This book gives 12 labours relating to each of the 12 sun signs and we know how we can work with each sun sign to progress in the path of discipleship.

In that story, we are now entering the 5th sign of Leo. The story is that Hercules killed a lion here. We have a similar story in the life of Samson as well. In Indian stories too, we have the lion but we are told to tame it and win over instead of killing. There is no killing in Indian stories. We should win over the body and mind but not kill them. Be friendly with them and make them work for oneself. If you kill them, what is the use. In practice, there should be no violence. Even though it is told that it is killing of the lion, it should be understood as winning over the lion.

"The great presiding one sat within the council chamber of the Lord and there discussed the plan of God for all sons of men, who are the sons of God. The teacher stood at his right hand and listened to his words. And Hercules rested from his labours."

The Great Presiding one is the Lord and the Master/teacher stood beside the Lord. They were discussing the plan of God for transforming the sons of men into sons of God. In the meantime, Hercules was taking rest after successful completion of the 4th labour.

"And the great presiding one, within the council chamber of the Lord, watched the tired warrior rest and watched his thoughts.

The Lord was observing Hercules on what was he thinking and doing during his free time. What we do when we are free is our natural state. It best describes our nature whether it is beastly or human or divine. Different people have different thoughts when we they free. Most of the people talk politics, movies, friends, relatives, sports, etc. It is all useless talk. Some people go to malls, parks, beach, fast food centres to roam around. It is said "Idle man's mind is devils workshop". It will lead you to most useless activity. There is also unnecessary wastage of resources happening by this useless activity. Utilising free time in the right manner is important for an aspiring disciple. So the Lord/Master was observing Hercules on what he is doing his free time.

Do you get any divine thoughts during free time? It shows your inclination. Here, Hercules was trying to bring the mind to the heart again and again, during that free time. He is not like most of us. So we should learn from him. I told in many discourses what Master EK used to do during our travel in car. He used to appear to be with his eyes closed most of the time, as if sleeping. I asked him once "Would you go inside during our travel time when there is nothing else to do?" He replied "Yes!" So Hercules is doing the same here. Seeing that, his teacher decides that Hercules is ready for the 5th labour. Only the one who can easily align the mind with heart very easily with just 3 breaths and as one progress, it can happen with even one breath. It is the real rest that one can have. It is best way to spend free time for an aspirant. Just close your eyes and try going inside.

"Before the fifth great gate stood Hercules, armed to the teeth with all the gifts of war and warriors, and as he stood the watching gods marked his firm step, his eager eye, his ready hand. But deep within his heart was questioning."

One who has entered the heart is the one who gets ideas from within. He knows what is to be done by him. He does not require advice from outside. Until you reach the heart, it is better that you take the advice of an elder on what is to be done. Once you are there, you need not look for outside advice. Here Hercules felt that he has something to do.

He then asks himself "What do I here?" Each one of us should get this question. We should first think what is to be done and then do. With that question, Hercules gets an answer from within. It

is the Master Call which can be heard by the one who goes inside. You can go inside anywhere. It need not be only a temple or some special room in your home.

"A call has sounded forth. O Hercules, a call of deep distress. Your outer ears have not responded to that call, and yet the inner ear knows well the need, for it hath heard a voice, aye, many voices, telling you of need and urging you to venture forth."

So he heard a voice inside. It is the subtle hearing and not hearing by the outer ears. I said many times that one can develop subtle senses within, apart from the objective senses. Here Master tells Hercules that he was hearing the voice within and there is need from him.

"The people of Nemea seek your aid."

There is a place called Nemea in Greece. It is present in the South-East of that nation. What does south east do? It brings an alignment with between South and East. Where is south in us? It is in the heart. Where is East in us? It is in the Ajna centre. We cannot go there without passing through South East. So first we have to go in that direction before going East. This Nemea is that South East. One should be aware of the directions while travelling and in which direction are different places situated in our country.

"They are in deep distress. Word of your prowess has gone forth. They seek that you should kill the lion that devastates their land, taking its toll of men."

So the Master tells that there is a lion in Nemea which is causing distress to the people there and Hercules has to kill that lion to save the people. The people are crying. Lion represents violence and hence the name Simha. It causes Himsa (violence). It is not easy to tame a lion. The lion in us is our personality, I AM in us.

We have lot thoughts about ourself. We keep thinking great about ourself. We associate ourself with special identities. Can all that be killed? The distress here is the cry of the being who became a slave to his personality. It can be heard when you travel from heart to Ajna. We should lose that personality (I AM) and we should realise ourself as THAT I AM. This I AM becomes THAT I AM. It is overcoming one's personality. Personality/nature is developed over lives together and it does not leave you in a day. It requires immense practice to overcome one's nature. It does not happen automatically. Only time passes and you die without any progress. Remember that what all identities you hold are not in reality yours. We think ourself to be humans, males, females, etc. but that is all not us. It is our phantom. It is a low thought that one has of oneself. We think that this form is ours. But it came to us only in this life and it will go away after we depart. We need not be males or females in all lives. We need not be born at the same place in every life. The nation may change, the language may change, the profession may

change. If you observe what is permanent and what is temporary, you find that only you are permanent and everything else that builds up around you, falls. All relations are temporary. We should all remember this truth. Our professions/business are not permanent. Most of them are limited to one life and some are even less. We cannot all depart together. Will everyone come with you when you depart? You cannot depart with all your relatives and friends. So you should remember that all this is a play. The play is temporary. Everyone comes and goes. Everything comes and goes. For every beginning, there is an ending. When there is an entry, there is an exit. This truth should stabilise in us. Otherwise we hold onto many things, thoughts, concepts, etc.

The story here is coming out of that bondage to temporary aspects of life. Do not get stuck in small things. We need to get stuck in bigger things like uplifting oneself. We should transform our personality and make it work for oneself. The personality is our vehicle. It should go in the direction we ask it to go. It is a lion, the most powerful beast. It is the king of all animals. The powerful beast relating to each one of us is our behaviour. That beast should be tamed otherwise it becomes our greatest enemy. The enemy is within us and not outside. Prahala tells his father "Your enemy is within you. There are no enemies outside." You should question yourself of what all natures of personality we have. Do you have jealousy? Do you have anger? Do you have strong desire? Do you have pride and prejudice? All these questions should be asked within. You need not tell the answers outside. There should be a questioning one within you otherwise your nature will kill you. If you think you are wonderful, you are gone. Even if someone praises you, do not get elated by it. Do not be affected by it and then you can remain unaffected by criticism. You remain yourself.

The personality called the lower self should be transformed. It is our life programme and not just for these 3 days. We should win over our personality and our nature should become divine nature. We should keep working for the welfare of humanity at large. This transformation should happen continuously. If your nature does not become divine nature, you cause harm to others in one way or the other. To project oneself is a kind of harmfulness to others in the field of wisdom. Do you know this dimension? It is an offence to project oneself in the path of Masters. The soul permeates and you need not project. There is natural permeation once you reach a better state and that need not be projected. So this personality is devastating us for 1000s of years and we are made to face the pain of birth and death. This is because we are forgetting our identity.

Hercules says "Is that the savage sound I hear?" "Is it the roaring of a lion I hear, upon the evening air?" The teacher said "Go, seek the lion which ravages the land lying upon the further side of the fifth gate."

If you observe your nature, you understand that it makes a lot of noise. There are people who do great work and even their existence is not known to many. There are many Sages and Seers in

the world who keep working for the humanity and we do not know anything about them. They want that the Lord recognises them and not the people.

So here the teacher asks Hercules to take care of the lion. It is near the 5th gate. Hercules crossed 4 gates and he is to cross the 5th gate now. On this side of the gate, it is the lion and on the other side of the gate, it becomes Swan. Everyone likes the swan and it has many good qualities. So we transform from this lion nature to Swan nature. The lion's roar is Soham. If we want to cross it, it stops you. It keeps opening and closing. You should cross over during the interval between opening and closing. So Hercules was asked to cross the gate.

If you are on this side, personality causes distress. Once you cross over to the other side, it does not cause you any pain. The nature is very strong and it is the strongest beast to overcome. The way to crossover is given here and we will discuss that in the evening.

We need to transform the lion into a Swan. We should stop its violent act. What Hercules does, we will discuss in the evening. This labour relates to re-birth. It is to take birth again within oneself. We will discuss it in the evening.

-Swasthi