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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 4 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (12 Jan, 2014)

We are into the 4th discourse of the Gurupujas. Hercules followed the advices of his Master and completed the first 5 labours. Today's teaching is about the 6th labour relating to Sign Virgo. Virgo stands for purity and reflective nature. Clear sky and ripple less pure water are compared with Virgo sign. It has no colour of its own and it reflects what falls on it.

Generally people are blend of the 3 qualities and they hear and act according to that combination. They are lot of misunderstandings and the behaviour is based on those misunderstandings. They cannot see the reality. They see only what they want to see but not what exactly is there. We build up some concept and stick to it. We see someone doing some act and try to attribute some cause to it without knowing the real cause. We form many opinions on everything and it is like a disease. Most of the times, the opinion is negative. Understanding is difficult but misunderstanding is very easy because the qualities in us work in such a manner. If someone comes late to a meet, we attribute some cause to that late coming based on the opinion we have on that person. It is the inability to understand which leads to lot of wrong opinions and we think them to be true. If someone we know moves around us but does not greet us, we think that the other person has lot of pride and hence he did not greet. We do not try understanding that he is in a hurry due to some other reason. That is how the opinions are formed and people speak of them and some even write down books based on their opinions. Later when we know that it is a mistake, we try to cover it up. It is better to accept the mistake than to cover up. People cannot accept their mistake and try to make up things just to cover up their previous mistake. Such a one is said to have lost his virginity. There is no purity in such a one.

There are many who gave their opinions on Krishna but none could understand him. When Sage Sutha was asked to told about Krishna, he replied "What is there to tell about Krishna? He is like a sky. We cannot comprehend him completely. Just because you asked, I will try to tell what I could comprehend but do not think it to be the complete picture. No one can see the sky in complete."

So "never judge others" is one of the most important instructions in the path of discipleship. Judge yourself and clean yourself but not others. We have entered this path to purify ourselves but not others. That is not in your hands. We form opinions on everyone including Masters and the Lord. We know very little or nothing but we question their actions. We can seek clarification but just do not keep questioning. We do not want to know the real reason but we just question

with intent to criticize. Many are stuck in their personality which is formed by the 8 fold nature. When we keep our personality pure, the nature reveals itself. Keep learning and be a student forever. When you know something, know that you knew something today but still there is more to learn.

Hercules, in the last labour, entered the inner cave of the heart and he comes out. His Master even cautions him to keep going inside, otherwise the personality may come back.

In the 6th labour, Hercules was asked to go to a land which is completely filled with women and he was to bring an ornament put around the waist (girdle), belonging to the queen. When Hercules knew that there were no men in that kingdom, he immediately formed an opinion on that kingdom. He thought that they do not like men and he would be properly received, though he knew nothing about them.

The queen knew that a disciple by name Hercules was coming to their kingdom to take her girdle. She asked her councilors on what is to be done. Her councilors tell "You know more than us. What can we advise you? We do not know as much as we know. We even do not know that Hercules is coming and only you knew about his coming. So you only decide what is to be done. Also the girdle belongs to you and it should be your decision." The queen tells "The person who is coming is a special person and a disciple to a grand Master. We do have to respect him and do the needful."

Meantime, Hercules formed lot of opinions of that queen and her kingdom and was preparing to go there. He thought that they would not like him because he is a man. Also they would not give him the queen's girdle and he has to fight with them and win the girdle. Will anyone give their golden girdle if you say "My Master wants me to bring your girdle"? So he goes with all his opinions.

Generally the intellect of a person becomes a hindrance if it is not associated with virtues. That is why we say "let virtue be the strength of my intelligence." Virgo mind is very dangerous if it is too intellectual. That is why Master DK says "those born in Virgo sign, if they do not attain virginity, life would be very problematic for them. Their intellect causes problems to them." So is the Gemini mind. It forms too many opinions without knowing it. 7th Ray Master gave a statement "too much understanding leads to misunderstanding." We may want to understand very well but that want itself leads to misunderstanding. It is because too much analysis to understand blocks you from seeing the inner truth, it is the intellect blocking the truth.

So Hercules goes to the kingdom and starts a conversation. During the conversation, he suddenly snaps the girdle off the queen and runs away. The whole gathering of women was stunned as they thought that he was a great being. Hercules goes back to his Master and shows the girdle.

Master stares at the disciple like if he is an insect. Not succeeding in the labour is important but the manner in which it was done matters. How did you achieve the act? Was it done in a peaceful manner or violent manner?

The Master tells "you did a great sin. You need to repent and neutralize this sin." This is the gross story now going to the subtle story.

Each being is surrounded by the 9 fold nature including the root nature and then the Absolute Lord as the 10th one. The old 8 folds are 3 qualities and 5 elements. Some of the places are poised in nature which other places are Rajasic (hyperactive) and Tamasic (inertial) in nature. To be able to experience the poised nature of a place, you should also be of similar nature. Most of the poised places on earth are not poised in the gross layers and they cover the inner poised layers. What layer you see depends on which layer you are in. If you see a river like Ganges, at the outlook it appears to contain lot of impurities just below that impure layer, flowing water contains highly pure and pious energies. Similarly also the being is impure only outside but inside, each one is pious and an image of the Lord. So only that layer of impurity is to be removed. In others, we generally see the outside layer and think everything is impure.

This nature has to be understood by a disciple. It is present outside us and also inside us. We are interested in something and disinterested in something due to the combination of the 3 qualities present in us. We should know in what things we should be more interested and in what thing we should be less interested, otherwise end up doing wrong things or right things in the wrong manner. One cannot neglect nature. Otherwise our awareness becomes blurred and we lose discrimination. Neglecting nature, you cannot reach the Lord. Without rectifying the nature within us, we can never reach the divine. Rajas and Tamas should be neutralized and we should stabilize oneself in poise.

When you come to Gurupujas, we know that extent of Tamas (inertia) present in us because we have to wake up very early and do lot of activity. It is like training to us. If there is dominant inertia in you, you get irritated by this work early in the morning. That is why a Master gives more work to the disciple who has dominant Tamas within. For one who has dominant, Rajas, he is asked to sit for more time in prayer and his activity is reduced because one with Rajas participates in unnecessary activity. That is how a Master handles persons with different natures differently.

Here Hercules has dominant Rajas and he did perform valorous acts but this act is different from the acts which he performed earlier like taming the house, bull and lion. The same does not apply to a lady. You cannot handle a lady in the same manner as an animal. Similarly with nature. You should know how to relate to earth, to water, etc. You cannot walk as you like. You should walk softly. Your steps should not hurt the earth. Similarly you cannot waste water. It should be

handled carefully. The water that comes to your home travels long distances before reaching you. You should recognize that. You cannot just waste it. Even the rainfall at a place is based on the behaviour of the people of that land. We have no rain or untimely rain because of ignorant behavior of the people. Apart from this nature outside, there is also nature inside. There is matter inside. Is it heavy or light? If it is heavy, it suggests dominant Tamas. If there are strong emotions in a person, it means the water inside has become impure. If the thoughts are not proper, it means that fire inside is not pure. If the inhalation and exhalation are not streamlined, it means the air inside is not pure. All this impurities come because we have lost the knowledge that is required to live in tune with nature. We have polluted the nature both inside and outside and hence this impurity.

We should learn to live in tune with nature. We need not protect the body from sun, wind, rain, etc. unless the weather is extreme. Earlier, we were not living in air conditions to protect the body from heat. Some years back, people used to move around freely without any fear of heat, cold or rain but in the name of civilization, we have now too much protection and we have no kind of resistance to heat or cold. Even the vegetables and fruits used to be grown naturally as per the seasons but now we have hybridization through which any vegetable and fruit is grown at any time in the year. In this manner, we eat vegetables and fruits in an unnatural manner. There are also some things which we have to eat at some places and which are not to be eaten at some places. We need to follow accordingly but now we are going completely against nature and hence so many diseases.

A lady is a representation of nature. All women in creation are manifestations of the divine mother and they should be respected and they should never be hurt. If a man hurts a woman, it would amount to great sin and he will have to suffer for lives together, sometimes. Such a one cannot progress in the path. Apart from the women in physical, there is a woman in each of the being in the form of his nature. Without the support of nature, no one can do anything. We need to be friendly with nature and display our love towards it. Similarly, with the women around us, we should live in harmony and cooperation. Each man gets to associate with 4 women in his life - Mother, sister, wife and daughter. When you are born as a man, you are tested with all these relations as to how you relate with these 4 women in life. How well are you taking care of them? Are you taking good care of your mother? It does not matter how she is. She is still a mother to you and you have the responsibility to take care of her. Similarly you should take care of your sister until marriage or if she is a widow, it is again your responsibility to take care of her. There are men who take away the wealth of their sisters and such men will be debited for lives together. Next, comes the wife. A man should never hurt his wife even if she hurts him. If a wife hurts a man, the man should take it as clearance of past karma. Also a lady, if she is hurt by her husband, should take it karma neutralization being done by the nature in her husband.

We have the life of Socrates as an example. Socrates used to give lot of teachings but his wife never liked him giving teachings and she used to make lot of noise and cause disturbance to his

classes. The learners used to be disturbed but never asked. In one class, Socrates tells his students "If you should be good disciple, you should hear attentively even when there is lot of noise around you." So in that manner the students also get used to the noise of made by that lady. As they were not caring her, she started making even more noise and on the last day of teaching she even started throwing utensils at the students. They even pass through that and next day it was convocation. That day, the lady pours water on all the students and Socrates tells "Until now we had only thunder and lightning, today we have rainfall as well." So that is how Socrates handled his wife without hurting her at any moment.

You can take many examples from our history and Scriptures. Duryodhana and Ravana were decimated mainly because of their unruly behavior towards women. Rama and Krishna showed us how to relate with women at different situations.

So taking care of nature and women is very important. Next comes the daughter. Daughter is a responsibility but not a burden. If a daughter is born to you, it means that you were given an opportunity to bring her up with good qualities and give her in marriage to a good man to support him. Bringing up a lady in good manner is very important. All these 4 relations are manifestations of the divine mother and you should handle them in a proper manner. Nature supports you when you relate to it properly. You cannot just handle it as you want. When good activities are happening at a place, nature would be very pleased and cooperates with the activity. One should get support from the women around you and nature around you and in you. You should work in that direction. If you read the lives of Rama and Krishna, you know how well they related to woman and gained their cooperation. If you do something without the permission of your wife or nature, it turns out to be very problematic to you.

So Hercules was given a task to know how he would relate to a woman. He dealt with that woman in a violent manner and failed in the task.

The whole creation comes from the nature. There is nothing that cannot be achieved if the nature cooperates. Hence we should know how to relate and adjust to nature. It is the secret that one should know. Men should adjust to their women and women should adjust to their men. If their cooperation and adjustments from both sides, it would result in great companionship and their lives would be great experience. It should be an educational experience for both of them. Unless one is with nature, there is no experience. If you become THAT, there is only existence but not experience. You can experience the splendor of creation only when you remain with nature. That is what Adi Shankaracharya. I know Brahman (THAT) and became THAT but I wish to remain at a step below THAT and experience the Lord.

So, one should not neglect nature. One should worship nature equivalent to the Lord. First the nature and then the Lord. Even while performing Puja, we say the name of the Mother and then the Lord.

So every disciple should learn how to relate to nature. Only then you are said to have comprehended the Virgo sign. We should know the purity in nature. We will discuss more on this topic in the evening.

-Swasthi.