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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 6 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (12 Jan, 2014)

This morning we have completed Ganapati Puja and Prayer and now entering the 6th discourse. Before that we have some book releases "Ganapati" written Sri.A.L.N.Rao 2nd edition, "Yoga Sadhana" written by Sri.Satyadev - 6th edition.

In the path of discipleship, as ignorance recedes, knowledge reveals itself. We are all self luminous and we have knowledge inherently. That knowledge has been veiled by many impurities and as a result we remain in ignorance. So as a part of practice, we need to remove those impurities and as a result the natural light, knowledge, love and skill within emerge out. So there are no 2 separate processes as removing ignorance and gaining knowledge. It is only one step in which when ignorance is removed, knowledge automatically reveals itself. Gaining knowledge is nothing but removal of ignorance.

We place a chimney around an oil lamp so that the air does not off the lamp. But soot gathers around that chimney and it needs to be cleaned otherwise that soot itself blocks the light coming from the lamp. Chimney is necessary but the impurities gathering on it should be constantly cleaned to ensure the light coming out. Glass chimney ensures that light comes out. If we arrange a chimney made out of some metal, what will happen? No light comes out. The chimneys around the light in us are such. The metal chimneys are to be converted to glass chimneys. The formation of body of light is such. The personality blocks the light. I AM, the immortal self is covered by mortal lower self, personality. So the elders tell us that the practice is in cleaning and transformation of the chimney.

We need to first see the being but not the personality. In any being, human or animal, we need to first see the being. Then you can come to the layers surrounding the being. It is a part of practice. There are some who think that they one of the layers themselves. Some think that they are their body. Some think that they are there thoughts and so on. Some get stuck in their desires and emotions. Only those who are in Buddhic plane know that he is a being and permeates into 8 layers.

Many do not permeate into the 8 layers and they get stuck in one layer or the other. It is like the blind men and the elephant story in which each one touches a part of the elephant and thinks it to be the elephant. Similarly we have many followers of Masters who think that only their Master is true and others are not. They are ones living in mental plane. One can comprehend the Master

principle only when he enters the Buddhic plane. So in this manner there are many dimensions of darkness present in us which need to be eliminated. A Master knows how that can be removed. He gradually throws light in each dimension where there is darkness filled in. He will not remove the impurities. He will just throw light and show us the impurities and we are made to remove it. If he removes them for us, we again accumulate impurities. So we are made to do the cleaning all by ourselves. All aspirants should be self dependant. Not only in this aspect, the same applies in the objective world as well. Do not depend on servants for everything. We should be able to live independently.

So that is a prelude and now we come back to the story relating to the 7th sign. In this labour, Hercules was asked to catch a wild boar.

The myth is as follows:

"The great Presiding One, within the Council Chamber of the Lord, pondered the nature of the son of man who is likewise a son of God. He thought on what was needed to make him still more like unto his Father."

Here the Lord is seeing what kinds of aspects are still present in the personality of Hercules. The Lord/Masters always wants his disciple to be uplifted and looks to what all transformations are to happen in him for him to become immortal and more luminous. A Master has such compassion towards his chosen disciple. One cannot directly reach the divine in a moment. You cannot even see the divine in everything. It requires lot of transformations for that vision to emerge. If someone makes an stone idol of Ganesha or Venkateswara and asks you "Can you see Lord Ganesha or Lord Venkateswara in that stone?" Can you really see the Lord? You may believe but you will not have the vision unless you reach that state. All the unnecessary impurities are to be removed before that state can be attained. It is removing the outer cover for a fruit before eating the fruit. For all this to happen, you need to follow the instructions of the Master meticulously.

"Another labor must be carried out. Balance he needs, and judgment sound, and preparation for a major test and future service to the race of men. For this, let him prepare with care."

So he thinks that he should be given another labour. He needs to be more balanced. There should not be extremity in any direction. He needs to have equanimity in vision and thought. In the earlier task, he succeeded but not in the right manner. His judgment should also improve. For him to be useful to others, some more changes need to take place in him. If one does not hold good values, he cannot be of use to others. If we have to be of use to others, we need to grow in light. If our light is very dim, how can we spread light to others? First we need to grow in light and that light automatically radiates to others around us.

"And the Teacher, noting on his tablets the purpose of the coming test, went forth and spoke to Hercules."

The thought of the Lord came to the teacher and he goes and meets Hercules. Though he told that he would not appear before him, the teacher appears before Hercules because of the love he has for his disciple. A parent says to his child, "I will give you food if you do not do so and so thing" but does he really mean it? No! It is said so just for the well being of the child.

"Go forth, my son, and capture the wild boar; salvage a ravaged country, yet take the time to eat." And Hercules went forth.

Hercules was asked to catch a wild boar which is causing lot of destruction in a country but do not abstain from eating. People with dominant Rajas generally abstain from eating until what they want to do is done. It is not correct. The body needs food to work. It amounts to hurting the body if you make it work without giving it food. There are many intelligences working in the body and we need to feed them. Eat food and eat in the right manner. A Master always looks for whether his disciple is eating properly or not. A true Master always ensures food for his disciple and does not always give instructions without proper feed.

"And Hercules, who is a son of man and yet a son of God, passed through the seventh Gate. The power of the seventh sign passed through him."

The 7th sign is Libra and there is a danger of strong indulgence in this sign. People who live only for food belong to this sign. So there is a caution for all of us when sun enters this sign. That is why we begin this month with the worship of the Divine Mother for 9 days (Sarannavarathri Pujas) to help us overcome this danger. Unknowingly the power of Libra passed through him.

He knew not that he faced a dual test, the test of friendship rare and the test of courage unafraid. The Teacher had instructed him to seek a boar, and Apollo gave to him a brand-new bow to use.

Quote Hercules: 'I will not take it with me on the way, for fear I kill. At my last labor, upon the shores of the great sea, I slew and killed. This time I slaughter not. I leave the bow.'

Hercules did not know the kind of test that he was about to face in this labour. To help him, Apollo gave him a new bow to use. Apollo is Sun. The bow is nothing but OM which he had earlier attained but this is a recollection. In Puranas, we are told of the bow of Vishnu, bow of Shiva and many devas (intelligences) are said to hold a bow. In all those cases the bow is OM. Hercules did not take that bow because he feared that he might kill if he has a weapon with him. In my last labour, Hercules killed a lady unnecessarily and so he doesn't want to take this weapon now. We generally use anything given to without knowing when it is to be used and

when it is not. We are given the ability to speak and so we speak, most of the times, unnecessarily. But this weapon here is no normal weapon. It is a special light coming from Sushumna, which restricts you from within and gives you discrimination. Here Hercules was wrong in his judgment and he goes without the weapon.

"And so unarmed, save with his trusty club, he climbed the mountain steep, seeking the boar, and seeing sights, on every hand, of fear and terror."

So as he moved, he climbed a mountain and he sees many sights. This is the nature of Libra. They get easily distracted. When we go out to do some work or buy something, we need to do only that work and come back. If we see something and get distracted and indulge in some other work, what happens? We fail in the work that is to be done. It is because of loss of focus. Generally we go to malls to buy one thing and end up buying many things and may even forget that is to be bought actually.

"Higher and higher still he climbed. And then he met a friend. Upon the way, he met with Pholos, one of a group of centaurs, known unto the gods. They stopped and talked and for a time Hercules forgot the object of his search."

Hercules went on searching for the boar and on the way he meets a friend. His name was Pholos. They both get into a conversation and Hercules forgot the task on hand. What kind of friend he is? Friend should support you in fulfilling your duty. If he stops you from doing your work, he is no real friend. There are many, now days, which live in this manner. That is why right associations, friends are very important. That is why, there is saying "tell me who your friends are and I will tell you what kind of a person you are." Similarly we have a saying with the books. So associations & books are very important. We buy too many books but do not take time to read them. Now days, mobile phone and facebook are spoiling the generation a lot and all the associations are almost useless. People spend whole of the weekends in clubs, community centres, malls, cinema theatres mostly with useless associations. Also we keep looking for sensuous comfort in every aspect – body comfort, sleep comfort, food comfort, etc. "Passion for wisdom is the higher dimension of Libra. Passion for sensuous things is the lower dimension of Libra." Greece was great at one time because of passion for wisdom. India was great at one time because of passion for wisdom. Things have changed now and most of us are passionate for sensuous things. We need to have passion for knowledge and it will automatically lead us to salvation.

Here Hercules left the bow of OM, went on to find the wild boar and on meeting a friend he forgot the task and starting indulging in useless activity.

"And Pholos called to Hercules, inviting him to broach a cask of wine, which was not his, nor yet belonged to Pholos."

So Photo, the friend of Hercules invites him to a bar to have some wine. Hercules goes along with him forgetting the word of the Master. Are we doing the word of the Master or doing something else? We may not be going to a bar but we may be indulging in smaller things like going to movies, malls, restaurants, etc. regularly. We have new movies coming up every week and we want to see every movie. The producers of movies also lure us so strongly with their advertisements and posters. I am not saying that we should not go to movies or restaurants but it should be marginal. There should also be objective pleasure in life. It should be dry in the name of spiritual austerity. If at all somebody is not at all watching movies, I will tell them the significance in movies and make them go. That is what I did with the Bangalore group most of who never went to movies. There is a limit to everything and one needs to stick to it. So all this indulging is related to Libra. This entire story can be related to us.

Also the wine arrangement did not belong to Pholos and anyway it does not belong to Hercules. It is like inviting a friend to lunch and taking him to someone else's home for lunch. Even in Master EK's like it happened that his friend took him to a group gathering of Master CVV followers saying that it was best place to have food. We too have people in our groups, who do not come for prayer but are present during lunch. The case here is similar.

"Unto the group of centaurs, this great cask belonged, and from the gods, who dowered them with the cask, had come the word that never must the cask be broached, save when the centaurs meet and all were present. It belonged unto the group."

Centaur means a body which is part horse and part man. In earlier races, we used to have such bodies. This Pholos does not take Hercules to his house but he takes him to a feast organized for a group of centaurs. Hercules does not belong to that group but enters it. This is all due to loss of judgement.

"But Hercules and Pholos opened it in the absence of their brothers, calling to Cherion, another centaur wise, to come and share their revels. This he did, and all the three together drank, and feasted and caroused and made much noise. This noise the other centaurs heard from distant points."

The other members of the group were not yet present but Hercules & Pholos entered the place of group meeting. They also called another Centaur by name Cherion and all of them starting drinking and eating. Generally one, doing a mistake, wants 2 or 3 more along with him so that he does not fear and he will have some support in case he gets caught. After that, they also started making lot of noise which alerted the other centaurs.

"In wrath they came, and a fierce battle then took place and in spite of resolutions wise, again the son of man, who was a son of God, became the messenger of death and slew his friends, the centaurs twain with whom he earlier had drunk."

When the other centaurs come and question Hercules, he gets angry and kills all of them including his 2 friends. Earlier he told that he will not take a weapon because he might kill but in his rage, he kills even without any weapon. What does this mean? With our sensuous desires we disturb all the intelligences helping us from within and they no more help you. With the intelligences not cooperating, all the discrimination is lost and such a one will not be in a position to listen even when given a good advice. This is what happens with our sensuous desires and the present generation youth are mostly indulging in such useless sensuous activity. Living in large cities has become very dangerous in this regard. Children and Youth are the future and the elders are responsible to show them the right direction. I feel very happy when seeing children of our groups do prayer regularly and chant many stotras.

Hercules became the messenger of death from a son of god. How can he now progress in the path? What Yoga can be done if you kill all the intelligences that support you in the path?

"And, whilst the other centaurs sorrowed with lamentations loud, Hercules escaped again into the mountains high, and again renewed his search."

While the other centaurs were crying with sorrow, Hercules escaped from that place back into the mountains and started his search again. He now remembered his task again. He realizes his mistake and repents a lot. Many repent in their old when they realize that their life purpose has failed and there was no progress.

There is lot more in this labour. I thought I can complete 2 labours today but it does not seem to be possible. So climbing the mountain again is moving from sensuous state to a higher state. He is again searching for the boar.

What has not to happen has happened. He realizes his mistake now and because focused now to ensure that the mistake is not repeated. This tells us that every disciple makes mistakes in this manner but he can still realize his mistake, repent over it and recover from that state.

All the details are not given in the story. Only a part of it is given and the rest is left to the comprehension and contemplation of the aspirant. It is like we are given the fruit and opening and eating is left to us. We need to open and eat it in this manner. I once spoke about Libra for 5 days in a Seminar in Spain and so there is lot more to detail.

So Hercules has now experienced and realized his mistake and he is now focused well enough that he cannot be disturbed by a friend.

We will continue with the story of Libra in the evening.

-Swasthi