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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 1 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (10 Jan, 2015)

We are at the sacred place of Simhachalam, which is a very old place where the Lord is present as Varaha & Narasimha avatars and the Lord is blessing the place and as a result, the place is developing year after year. At this place, we are celebrating the 54th MAster CVV Gurupujas and we began with Ganapati Puja and prayer.

The pendal (altar, stage and seating arrangement) is ready for the day and members have arrived from many places near and far. We will be on a Group Living for 3 days and 3 nights to give us strength to align our mind, body and senses and to stay in Buddhi in an effort to realise the self and to reach a state of immortality. We have been proceeding on this path with immortality and realisation of Brahman as the ultimate objectives. Depending on our interest and orientation, we keep progressing proportionally.

During these group lives, many have moved from childhood to youth stage and youth have become elders and elders have become older. That is with regard to our physical growth but there should also be proportional growth into light. For that, we need to have a good Buddhi. For an enlightened Buddhi, we worship Gayatri through Gayatri Mantra. Once the Buddhi presides over mind, body and senses, and once that Buddhi is aligned with the soul and in such a state if we worship, we gradually progress towards Divinity. That is the summary of the path of Yoga. Due to our good past karma and grace of the Master, we are able to remain and progress in this path. Otherwise there is no way that all of you will be coming here for Gurupujas. All past good deeds of service, help us to meet a Master who helps us to walk the path towards the Lord. If we have atleast have 1% interest of what the Master has towards us, then that is sufficient for our fulfillment. Master wishes that we are proceed towards fulfillment and are uplifted in the process. The parents want their children to progress in the objective world but rarely we find parents who teach their children to move towards the Lord. Prahalada, a great devotee, tells that the latter group are the real parents.

Even if have little interest in the path, the Master would make great effort to help us progress. He remains with us all the time and there is never a time that he would leave us. He never closes his eyes with regard to us. We should never be bored in worshipping him. The worship or prayer should go on as long as possible and with deep intent. The Master principle is an infinite one and

the more we worship it, the more we receive energies from him. What we receive, depends on our orientation.

Gurupujas is not just me sitting on the dais and giving some discourses. There is a bigger picture that we have to see. Every year we have huge arrangements made for the large group to stay comfortably. It involves great thought and effort to make all these arrangements. The arrangements are made newly every year. It is not a readymade thing.

This year, we have another new venue for the dais and seating. This is a big garden where all the arrangements have been made. It is a magnanimous creative act. And it is being done again and again every year. The team which works along with the leader for all this to become a reality should be greatly commended. They mostly remain in the background. They have more grace of the Master than the ones who just come here and participate. Each one of us should try to contribute, even in a small way, to serve the group during this group life in some way or the other. Also, for these 3 days, try to remain in this atmosphere as far as possible without wandering out in pursuit of other activities.

Remember that the Master is ever present with us and try to see him in everything around you. Try to see the one Divine principle which permeates everything. You may call it the Lord or Vishnu or Shiva or Baba or Master and so on but the principle is one. We should realize the oneness in all. Our path is not a religion where we just believe in the Lord, it is path to follow. It is a path of practice and discipleship. We should have an aspiration to realize the truth and for that there should be both worship and awareness which should keep growing. And whatever you learn should be practiced. So worship, knowledge and practice are very important in this path. Instead of sticking to the 3 steps, if we indulge in other activities or criticizing others acts, there will be no progress. We need to keep checking from time to time whether we are progressing in the right direction. We should request the Master to ensure that we are in the right direction and if there is anything useless in our acts, we should ask the Master to eliminate them. So self-criticism and self-study is also important.

We should not just rely on our Buddhi because it might lead to ego. The Buddhi should remain in alignment with the Lord for it to function properly. So we should worship the Mother in the form of Gayatri to help us remain in Buddhi. When we are with Buddhi, we are close to both the soul and mind. It is middle state. If we just remain in mind, senses and body, there will be constant decay. We progress when we remain in Buddhi and from there work with mind, body and senses. For a good Buddhi, we need the help of a Master. Our Master gave us Gayatri Mantra for a good Buddhi. It ensures influx of solar energies into us.

In this path, we should re-align ourselves from time to time, atleast once a day. It means that we should question ourselves "What am I to do? What am I doing? Are we doing what we are

reading on books and hearing in discourses?" We have this kind of group livings so that our aspiration is renewed. We hear some discourses here to renew our interests. But if this becomes a routine, we are happy just to hear and do nothing. It just becomes a habit for the mind. The mind is not much involved. It just entrusts the work and leaves. It is just like the chanting of stotras that we do. Once we know it by heart, the mind entrusts the mouth to keep chanting while it keeps wandering somewhere.

Weeds keep growing in the farming land and they should be removed from time to time. Similarly in ourselves as well, there are weeds like thoughts that crop up from time to time and they should be eliminated and purification should happen continuously. If we have 10 people praising us constantly, that may be enough to spoil our mind and it develops pride gradually.

We have a moral story in this regard. Once a man was carrying a goat after buying it in a market. There were 3 people who wanted to take that goat from that man but without hurting that person. So one of them goes to this man and tells him "You have a beautiful dog. I think you bought it in the nearby market. I didn't know that they sell dogs in that market." He says so and leaves. The man was confused and checked closely whether it is a dog or a goat. After he was sure that it was a goat, he continues the journey carrying it. The 2nd man comes and says that "Sir, you have a beautiful dog. I have never seen such a dog." and leaves. The man checks the goat again but he started doubting. The 3rd man comes and says the same thing again and even tells that he wishes to have such a dog. Finally this man was convinced that it is a dog and gives that dog to the 3rd person as he wanted it. The same thing applies to us.

If many people keep praising us all the time, we may feel that we are great and behave differently. That is why we should recollect our true identity from time to time. "I AM THAT I AM" should be recollect constantly and we should also recollect the Lord is present in us and around us, at all times. That recollection ensures that we remain in the right path. Otherwise we may be moving in the wrong direction. That is why we have Morning Prayer to ensure that this recollection happens every morning.

We should move forward in the right path and we should constantly strive to go inside. As we remain more and more inside, an inner mind and inner senses and even inner body are formed. With that, we can move anywhere. That inner formation is immortal. It is a permanent one. It remains even when the physical body falls. The physical body is temporary. How many days will we just remain in a temporary structure? With the help of this temporary structure, we should create a permanent structure and move to it. It is the formation of an etheric body. It ensures immortality and then we move towards realization of Brahman. It is path which brings in continuity in our lives as we move from one body to another. Master CVV gave us this path for that ultimate purpose of realizing Brahman and he instructed us to do prayer daily. It is no use if prayer just becomes a routine. If it is just a routine, there will be no progress. There are many

people who many acts of service daily but just out of habit and not with the right intent and right awareness. As a result, they do not progress subjectively. If we progress subjectively, there will also be increase in quality in our objective activities. Whatever we do, we should do with Divine attunement. Then that act results in expansion of awareness.

We want the Lord to look at us. The Lord always looks at us but we should look to us as well. We are mostly involved in looking at others. We should spare others but spare not ourselves. We should strongly criticize ourselves. If we commit to something, we should do it and if we fail, we should strongly question ourselves of our failure. We should keep questioning our personality. Ask it "will you be useful to me or just keep looking at others?" Why should we remain with a personality which is not useful to us? It should be transformed at any cost if you wish to progress. A stray dog should be transformed into trained dog.

In Kali yuga, we have many difficulties. It is the effect of time. The Master ever tries to help us come out of those troubles and to uplift us. We should also put in little effort for the result to come. Here Master CVV promised us that he would do everything for us and he asked us only to sit in the morning and evening invoking him. If you do not sit, he will not do anything. He cleans us once we invoke him. He can remove any amount of dirt.

For the past 3 years, we have been discussing the story of Hercules. I initially thought that I could complete them early but it did not happen. We completed 7 labors up to now and I hope to complete the next 5 this year. This is coming out of the request of some people who wanted me to speak in telugu on Hercules.

I will give a little revision before we continue from tomorrow. We will begin the labour relating to Scorpio tomorrow. We completed upto Libra last year. The 12 labors relate to the 12 sun signs. Each of the labor helps an aspirant to progress in the path to Divinity.

In the path, an aspirant meets a Master who initially bestows the aspirant with 6 gifts. Hercules was also given these 6 gifts. We will recollect them now. The first gift is breast jewel which is to protect the breast and it is a gift coming from Fire God. Vulcan is said to be the angel of Fire God and which bestows one with strong will. One should have a fiery will to progress. Even if the will drops, a Master ensures that this jewel helps the aspirant to renew the will. Even if the aspirant deviates at times, Master ensures that he is brought back into the path.

Master CVV promised that once you invoke me, I will ensure that I am with you until you realise Brahman. It is strange path where the Master catches hold of the disciple once the disciple invokes him. So it is a permanent bond once initiated. Even if you think of getting away, you cannot. It is the result of magnanimous grace of the Master.

So Vulcan is the principle which grants a fiery will. That will is supplied by the Master from inside. It is a regular and continuous reminder coming from the Master. If we miss a prayer one day, the moment we see the picture of the Master, we feel that the Master is asking us "Why did you miss the prayer?" So the Master reminds us in such a manner. It is to help us that we constantly remain in the path. Master takes the responsibility to ensure that we are in the path. He is Jupiter. Any Master is a form of Jupiter.

The 2nd gift is a sword coming from Mercury. What is that sword? It is discrimination. You need to know what is eternal and what not. What is your duty and what is not? It ensures that we do not have interest in unnecessary things and activities. This sword cuts us off from such things.

The 3rd gift is 2 horses coming from Neptune. Once we follow a Master, all the intelligences keep helping us and give us gifts that we require in the path. So here Indra (Neptune) gifts 2 horses. Indra is the lord of senses. It ensures that we relate to the objective world. All the senses are compared to horses because they permeate into the objectivity so fast. We can hear far off things. We can smell far off things. We can sense touch and so on. These are the objective horses. There are inner horses as well. We only use the former but do not use the latter. They are the 2 horses of Neptune. If we work it out, even the inner senses start functioning. The inner mind also starts functioning.

The 4th gift comes from Sun God (Apollo) which is a bow and arrow. You are the arrow while the bow is the respiration. The stronger the pull of the bow, the farther the arrow travels. We should travel towards the aim like the rays of the Sun. The aim of arrow is the soul. We should continuously aspire to reach the soul. We should constantly aspire to see the Lord in the form of light. We should aspire to move into the plane of light. So Apollo gave this gift and showed the aim. The bow is important. What will we do if we just have the arrows? That bow is so powerful that once we are able to mount the arrow on that bow and shoot it, it will definitely reach the target.

The 5th gift came from Minerva, the God of Education which is a white robe which she started stitching. It is the White robe which we talk of many times. We should not just keep looking for those robes. As the aspirant keeps progressing, the robe is prepared. That preparation begins at the moment, a Master accepts one as a disciple. Master accepting a disciple is more significant than our thinking that we are a Master's disciple. Being an accepted disciple is important. Such an accepted disciple has an inner link with his Master and he can talk with that Master within, at any time, when required. Madam Alice Bailey had such a facility of relating with Master Koot Hoomi.

The 6th gift is which the disciple should create for himself. It is a mace present within from the Sahasrara to Muladhara. It is a lighted column of light which appears like a mace. It helps you to permeate into the 7 planes.

So with these 6 gifts, the disciple began his practice. During the first 7 labours, we discussed how he used these 6 gifts and even failed to use them, at times. He succeeded in some labours while failed in some. At every point, we could see how strongly the Master wished Hercules to progress in the path. He supports his disciple at the council of the Lord.

So in this manner, Hercules completed 7 labours relating to the first 7 sun signs. The 7th labour is to ensure that one is uplifted from objective bondage. We discussed how Hercules succeeded in that labour.

Then comes the labour relating to Scorpio which is to ensure disappearance from objectivity. We should go inside and start observing from there. We will know how much disorder is there in the house and that disorder is to be set right. It is a great test to bring in order. Hercules encounters a 9 headed snake inside. The Master tells that the snake should be won over. Earlier he wins over a snake and now he encounters a bigger snake. We will discuss this story tomorrow in detail.

In every prayer, we should invoke the Master and request him to repair us from within. Do not think of when it will be complete. It should happen until we are able to see the light within.

After Scorpio, we have 4 more signs which I will try to cover in these 3 days. May the Master grace us to fulfill that purpose.

-Swasthi.