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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 4 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (12 Jan, 2015)

Today is the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. He is a great soul. If you read his writings, you get great inspiration. He was born in Capricorn. The discourse for today is also Hercules' labor related to Capricorn. So it is good that we recollect his name today. He did great service the nation in a very less time. Vivekananda left his body with his willful decision, in just three days. Today's labour is also somewhat related to it.

I will first read the myth as given by Master DK. These are in other books of Greek Mythology as well. But Master DK gave them in his own style and they are a bit mystical. Mystical means that it can only be partially understood. From what we understand, there is some interest generated to know that which is not understood. If you know everything, there will no sufficient interest. Even if you do not understand anything, you lost interest. Veda Vyasa is a specialist in these types of mystical writings. All his writings are so mystical that there is no one who completely knows his writings. As you try to know more, you realize that there is a lot that is unknown. The one who knows that he does not know anything is the real knower. If you think that you a lot, then it is useless. We should realize that Scriptures and writing of Grand Masters cannot be understood by just studying but the understanding comes when the teachings reveal themselves to us. That is how it is. Master DK's text for each labor is so short and condensed is that it is only one page of text.

“The light of life must now shine forth within a world of dark,” the great Presiding One declared. The teacher understood. “The son of man who is also the son of God must pass through Gate the tenth”, he said

“Within this very hour Hercules shall venture forth.” When Hercules stood face to face with him who was his guide, the latter spoke: “A thousand dangers you have braved, O Hercules,” the Teacher said, “and much has been achieved. Wisdom and strength are yours. Will you make use of them to rescue one in agony, a prey to vast and unremitting suffering?”

The Presiding One means the One who presides over the creation. The teacher heard from this Presiding One that "the light of light has to shine forth in the world of darkness". Since he is a teacher, he understood clearly what it meant. The Lord told that the time has come for Hercules to venture into the 10th labor. The teacher said that Hercules shall immediately venture into the 10th labor. The teacher said, "Much has been achieved. Wisdom and strength are yours. Will you

make use of those to rescue the one who is suffering?" The teacher said that your labor is now rescuing the others. The sun in the 10th zodiac sign is called savior. The one who supports others, and help them come out of their miseries and also relieve them of their curses is called savior. Hercules to relieve cursed one from his sufferings.

The teacher gently touched the forehead of Hercules. It is the grace of teacher so that his task has to be fulfilled. He is interested in making the disciple equal to him. The teacher blessed the student.

When the teacher touched the forehead of Hercules, Hercules had a vision. The left eye is said to be see the outer world. It relates to the moon principle. The right eye is said to see the wisdom. It relates to sun principle. It is generally said that if you lose the right eye, you won't be able to see the wisdom. The sight without wisdom is useless. SurDas walked without eyes, but relying on Krishna completely. He used to walk with a stick held in the air. People used to ask "What is the use if you just hold the stick in air. You need to tap it on the ground before you to ensure that you do not fall into some pit." He used to reply "I have no such worry. Krishna holds my stick on the other side and makes me walk." He was such a devotee and he composed many songs in praise of Lord Krishna, which are famous in North India.

Apart from these 2 eyes, there is eye of vision. There are three eyes - eye of sight, eye of wisdom, eye of vision. The eye of vision includes both eye of sight and eye of wisdom. This is the third eye. It provides insight as well. Hercules was given that vision and he needs need to make use of this third eye to rescue others who are suffering, and who are cursed. That is the labor of the 10th zodiacal sign.

The sun entered the northern coursing on December 22. If we assimilate the sun's rays in the morning times in this month, our consciousness gets an upward thrust. In those rays, the male-female energies of the creation are equally present. That's why the sun in Capricorn is called Aditi. Aditi uplifts the beings from the body. The Capricorn allows the north (upward) movement of the soul. We have lot of bondages at various levels - bondage of body, thoughts and concepts. The concepts about a teacher are also bondages. Master EK wrote so in Shakaravam book. Any "ism" is ism only. We should not be with the form. If we leave the wisdom given by a Master and get stuck to his form, what is the use? We should be with the wisdom. We can respect the form but do not just remain with it. Electricity is more important than a bulb. If you just hold to the bulb, it is useless without electricity. If there is electricity, many bulbs can be lighted.

Guru principle is different, Guru form is different. There is only Guru Principle, there are many, many forms of Guru. The teacher principle that works in a teacher is the key. If you follow that Guru Principle, then you get to wisdom, otherwise you will not get wisdom.

Master EK writes in the book “Man Sacrifice”, where Lord Krishna says each of us is bonded by some concepts. Generally what happens is, what we do regularly, that becomes a routine and we get stuck in it. If you just know how to enter but not exit, then you can get stuck in anything. One who sees the One Principle in all is not stuck in anything. That wisdom is required. We should know how to exit when we enter. The wisdom can come from any source, not just from the scriptures. The wisdom may be given through poems, songs, etc.

The labors of Hercules so far fulfilled by him, made him eligible for such grace of the teacher. The god himself told that the light of light must now shine forth in darkness. We need to see the light in ourselves first. The next step is to uplift others through that light by permeation. This is the labor relating to 10th zodiacal sign.

If you want to uplift the ones in darkness, you need to have light in you first. How can one blind person show the way to another blind one? The god mentioned that the time has come for Hercules to carry forward the light in him. Bringing light into darkness is a big job. This is not a simple labor that Hercules was assigned. It is not just telling others what he knows. It is actually helping others get released from their suffering and their curses. If Hercules can rescue others, then he is eligible to become a teacher himself. There is no liberation without helping others. That’s why Master EK said that in WTT the key objective is helping others and everything else follows. If you strive for the upliftment of others, then you get your own upliftment automatically. If you strive for your own upliftment, you will not get upliftment. The Master said that I will help you and give you the needed inspiration for your upliftment if you are working incessantly for the upliftment of others. If we are with the teacher, the teacher does all this through us. You should just be prepared to serve without any reservations.

There is a person called Prometheus. He is a representative of the human race. Secret Doctrine has lot of description about Prometheus. Prometheus name came from the word “Pramatha”. Manthan, in Sanskrit, means “to churn”. Milk is churned to produce butter by using a stick with a rope which is pulled alternately from both sides. Every person is pulled to right or left due to the dualities. Every person is bound at three places. There is bondage of our form. The second one is bondage of the relations associated with this form. The third one is bondage of the concepts/thoughts.

Prometheus is said that he tried for the upliftment of the human race and got cursed by the gods. He was chained off with his legs and feet stretched. Vultures eat the flesh from his stomach. He was crying very loudly. We also cry when we cannot bear our suffering. The suffering comes from our worldly thoughts. A thought of anxiety or fear, will cause you lot of suffering. People go on pilgrimages, or go to temples only because we cannot bear our suffering.

It is said that if you go around the Arunachalam hill, the Saturn releases you from his bondage. Similarly, visiting Tirumala by climbing the stairs is said to relieve you of sufferings. In this manner, in every religion, there are certain prescribed acts given in order to escape from the sufferings one undergoes. These sufferings won't go away like that. The change has to come in you. We are experts in bringing a different suffering on to ourselves even if these visits or acts somehow reduced our suffering. For example, suppose we know that if we eat a dish, it will cause stomach pain to us but still we eat. And when the pain comes, we take some medicine. Even if the medicine relieves you of pain, there is no guarantee that the pain will not come again because your habit did not change. You may still eat the same thing again. So that is not the way.

In this manner, the mankind undergoes many sufferings. The Grand Masters feel very sad on this state of humanity and they keep trying to help us come out of this cycle. They are the true saviors are those who think of helping others. The transformation from a disciple to a savior is a great transformation. The sages do lot of rituals on the night of December 21 with the intent of transforming the disciples to saviors. Jesus is also said to be born on the night of December 21 and hence called Savior.

So Hercules was asked to save Prometheus from the bondages. There are three bondages - bondage of form, bondage of our relations coming out of our body/form, and bondage from concepts. Even if we leave the town, we won't leave our bondage of relations. We keep telephoning our family members when we go out of town. We chant "Traimbamkam Mantram" to help us release from these bondages. Similarly there are other mantrams. The specialty of the Indian scriptures is the knowledge of how to leave the body while it is intact. If we don't know how to leave, but only to enter, there is a trouble.

Here Prometheus is bonded by the chains. He told his bondage is in hell. He tells Hercules that you need to go to hell and talk to them there, to release him. He angered the gods by stealing the Holy Fire from their worlds and was cursed to get bound in all three worlds. This is nothing but the story of humanity. We fail to obey the eternal law (Dharma) and as a result get bounded. How is such a one released from the bondage? Prometheus is chained off with hands and legs stretched. Vultures keep eating his liver. We also have lot of problems with our liver. No matter how much wisdom you acquire, if you don't know how to exit from this body, it is not much use. We do many things and learn many things but we fail to learn the most important thing.

If we cannot get out the body, we keep depending on others. As we get older, we keep thinking that it is better if we depart without getting sick, and getting lot of help from others. Since we do not know to get exit this body, if we get sick, we are completely depend on others. Even the people around us get so tired of serving us that they start feeling that it is better that this person departs. Many people face this situation. When we take the Theertham (waters from a ritual), we request the Lord that we get don't get sick, we don't get untimely death, we are released from all

cures! You don't get all that just by taking that water from ritual. You should take it with devotion and right intent and then you will be shown a path to follow. When you follow that path with sincerity, the above are granted to you.

The labor given to Hercules is to go to hell and talk to the lord there. The Lord of death is Pluto (Yama). He is called Lord of Hades in Greek literature. Hercules goes to hell and talks to him. The Lord asks "How did you come to hell?" Nachiketa and Savitri went to hell and talked to Pluto as well. So Hercules went in the same manner. Lord of Hades tells that he cannot release Prometheus. Lord of Hades tells that there is a hound there and that Hercules needs to win over. This hound has three heads and is very fierce. Its tail and tongue are like cobras. There were lot of serpents around him. It is similar to the Kalabhairava, the Lord of Time, Shiva in Indian Mythology. That is why it is said that in the science of omens that if a dog crosses from the left to right, when you are going out, then you get the blessings of the lord of time on your task. This hound does not allow beings from lower planes to move to higher planes and vice versa. It is also referred to as the Great Dog.

So Hercules went to this hound. This is nothing but the dog at the Muladhara. This dog becomes a lion in the heart. This becomes a bear in the Sahasrara. This dog has three heads. We have a god with three heads - Dattatreya. There are are near him and remain subservient to him. If you the Dattatreya principle is active in you, the dogs remain close to you. That is what Master EK wrote in Spiritual Astrology. It is one thing to have dogs come to you, it is another to bring a dog as a pet. That is why dogs moved close to Shirdi Sai Baba. The Divine Mother always has lion around her. Sugreeva has a bear around him. He is no ordinary person. He has great ones like Hanuman, Jambavanta, Nala, Neela around him. That is another story. I will not deviate into that.

Hercules saw this hound. The serpents around him are said to be the causes for the bondages. Hercules thought of how to release Prometheus from these three bondages. Due to Tamas (inertia) we get the bondage of the form. Due to Rajas (dynamism) we get the bondage of the relations coming out of the form. Such ones have strong attachments to people and things. Ravana got a house from Kubera (lord of wealth) so that he can put any number of things in house and still have space left. So he keeps on accumulating.

It is better that we bring as little stuff into our house as possible. We have so much stuff in our homes that we just have enough space to walk. We have sofas in the living room. We just have enough space in our bedroom to just walk to get to the bed. In the dining room, we just have enough space to go walk up to dining table. We don't have enough place for ourselves. We walk in the corner paths while the objects occupy the room. Similarly, in this body as well, we move in constricted paths leaving the main path. As a result, we get stuck.

We strive a lot to be comfortable in this body but the contrary happens. That's how the three qualities work. We pray to Dattatreya to release us from these three bondages. In Indian scriptures, we recognize Lord Principles present in Muladhara. We have Kapila who releases from the bondage of karma. Ganapati releases us from the bondage of the body. Ganapati worship is to be comfortable in the body, and also to be released from the bondage of the body. That's why it is important to worship Ganapati. Then we have Dattatreya and Hanuman also at the Muladhara (base center). Each one is at one of the four petals of the Muladhara lotus. If we worship anyone of them with devotion, they can uplift us. A true Master, when followed sincerely, can also lift us up.

The lift up has to be from the 3 qualities. Also from the body. There are three bodies for us relating to the 3 qualities. Realizing Brahman is possible only when we are released from all these three bodies. Starting with the 13th chapter of Bhagavad Gita, the Lord talks about the three principles (inertia, dynamism, poise). All beings were born out of the 3 qualities. We can stand above the 3 qualities only by aligning with the ONE above the 3 qualities. Bhagavad Gita says we need to get to poise first to balance the inertia and dynamism.

Trayee Vidya speaks of everything as three. We can see ourselves as three. The god, soul and personality is one such division in us. The more we are with poise, the more the inertia and dynamism leave us. The more we are with the poise, the more we develop incessant poise (Nitya Satva). Only such a one can come in touch with the Principle above the 3 qualities. Once we descend from Sahasrara, we get into these three qualities. There are the 3 Nadis of Ida, Pingala and Sushumna. They are symbolically presented as 3 serpents. The serpents are nothing but the three qualities. To get released from these qualities, we need to be more with poise, the middle quality.

Hercules went to hound and saw the three heads of this hound. He thought of how he could win over that dog. He remembered his Master and as a result, he was uplifted into a state beyond the 3 qualities. Then, he got an impulse to lift the hound by holding its middle head, to tame that dog. We too should stick to poise in every work that we do. There are three qualities at work in every task that we do. We can see those at work in how we sleep. We can see those at work how one eats food. The one in dynamism eats lot of spicy food. The one in inertia eats lot of sour, and stale food. The clean and fresh food is preferred by the one in poise. We typically pick up vegetables that is closer to getting spoiled, instead of eating the freshest vegetables available. So we always end up eating which is close to getting spoilt.

The one in dynamism is at work even before the sunrise. The one in inertia does not even wake up before 7:30 am or 8 am. Likewise, we can see the three qualities in each activity that we do. We have to choose the middle path in everything.

There are some rivers which have such a strong currents such that if you have high Blood Pressure, you may get heart attack if you stay in that river for long. You should not take bath in a river with lot of currents or in a river with no currents. Likewise, you should not be too speedy or too late in any work that you do. Everything should be optimal.

Hercules understood the situation that he needs to hold the hound, Cerberus, by its middle head and lift it up. The main aim of the teacher is to bring light into the disciple. It was decided that time has come for Hercules to don the role of a teacher. The god told the teacher it is time that Hercules can bring light into darkness. The teacher told Hercules that your liberation is only when you help and rescue others. The rescue should be from all the 3 bondages.

Krishna says “I am the wise one. I like wise one.” He says so because the wise ones strive towards the upliftment of others. In this story, Hercules uplifts Prometheus through poise. Once Hercules completes this task, Minerva, pleased by him, gives the white robe to him upon his return.

If we keep working towards the upliftment of others, the Divine Mother eventually uplifts us. We will discourse a bit more, this evening, on the Capricorn and get into Aquarius.

- Swasti