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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 5 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (12 Jan, 2015)

We are into the 2nd discourse of the day and we are discussing the story of Hercules.

In 1971, I came to know through my brother that Master EK conducts Gurupujas and there were looking for utensils for large scale cooking. I was then the auditor for Andhra University Hostels and as it was holiday period, I arranged for the utensils through them. Next year I came to know that they were in need of both utensils and place to conduct Gurupujas, so I arranged for both through the people I knew. That year I decided to even attend the Gurupujas myself to see what is done during these Gurupujas and from then on I have been coming to Gurupujas every year till now. Like me, each one of you came into this organization voluntarily through some means.

Our life also goes on in this manner as a cyclic process. Once we get into the cycle, we have many obligations and it is not very easy to get out the cycle. We enter by free will but lose that free will due to the many obligations that crop up and it is almost impossible to come out. But at some point we have to come out of it. It is possible if we are able to see this as a play. We begin to play, play for experience and then finish the game and come out. We cannot come out of the game in the middle. You have to play until you finish the game.

We go to some fair and suppose there is a Giant Wheel present there and we feel like getting on it. We feel so because many others are going on it. So we buy a ticket and get on the wheel. Once we are on wheel, if we feel that we cannot stay on that, we cannot simply get down in the middle. Whatever happen, you should stay on it until the ride is complete.

So for any act, one should know how to retreat. The knowledge of retreat is very important otherwise we keep going on and on, game after game, even though we feel like coming out. We cannot come out if we do not know how to. You have the freedom to get into this cycle of lives and after you get in, you cannot come out until you fulfill all your obligations and responsibilities. Instead of fulfilling them, if we keep accumulating more and more obligations, we can never come out.

We may be doing good things but how you do them is very important to be able to exit properly. If the means is wrong or improper, you get stuck. Prometheus' intent was to help the humanity by bringing the Holy Fire to earth. But he chose the wrong means and got prisoned.

Sage Viswamitra does penance and wanted to reach the Brahman, bypassing the intelligences. He could not succeed and finally realized his mistake. He told us not to do the same.

In this story of Hercules, Prometheus does an act without the cooperation of the intelligences (devas) and as a result, he is stuck. The devas curse him to suffer in hell. So he was suffering.

If you hold onto something, gradually it holds onto you. You should do whatever you do and pass it on the next one. Those who come into this creation hold onto things and then start complaining that things are holding onto him.

We see in the life of Lord Rama that he never held onto anything. He did what is necessary and left when his responsibilities were complete.

So here Hercules was sent to help Prometheus. The real help that one can render towards another being in to show him the right direction towards poise. You need not tell to do more or less. It may lead him to Rajas or Tamas. You should just tell what is to be done. Nature is the doer. You should just cooperate with nature and just do what exactly is to be done, neither more nor less. If doing becomes more, it becomes Hyperactivity, if you do less, it becomes inertia. Poise leads you to truth. The creations happens as a series of checks and balances.

Prometheus here did over action by bringing something belonging to the devas without their consent and cooperation. Devas are elders to us and we should respect them. If you avoid them, you cannot move forward.

In everything you do, there should be an optimal level. You should neither do more nor less. You should drive a vehicle at optimal speed. If you drive very fast, accidents happens, if you drive very slow, someone may hit you from behind.

In Ramayana, we have the example of Ravana who had excessive hyperactivity. He was doing anything and everything he felt like doing and brought himself lot of trouble. And we have his brother Kumbhakarna who did nothing but to eat and sleep. Finally both of them died. Their brother Vibhishana became the king because he was of poised nature.

In Bhagawadgita, Lord speaks of "karyam karma" which means doing what is to be done in an optimal manner. Then there will be smooth flow of life and experience. For hyperactive people, experience is very less because they always do and accumulate without experiencing much. We too buy too many things but never really use them. So standing above these 2 qualities of Rajas (hyperactivity) & Tamas (inertia) is one of the objectives of Yoga.

Lord Krishna tells us that we cannot overcome them on our own. Once you are on this vehicle of maya, you keep going round and round and round. We want to exit but we cannot. We can stand above them if we are able to see the Lord in everything happening around us. We should be in constant alignment with the Lord in you. Then you remain a non-moving entity in a moving object. Then you can observe everything without getting into anything.

Krishna says "I will be in the war but I will not participate in it." What does it mean? It means that he just remains an observer. We too can be an observer.

To stand above the 3 qualities, we should align with a principle which stands above the 3 qualities. The Lord or Master principle is such a one. All the Grand Masters who we worship have reached such a state. Only such ones can help us.

So to teach this to Hercules, he was given this task to help Prometheus. And in that task, Hercules defeated the dog by catching hold of the middle head. It means that he taught Prometheus to stick to Poise and work through Rajas and Tamas. One should take to the quality of poise (Satwa) and perform work through hyperactivity and inertia. If you are in poise, Rajas and Tamas cooperate. Satwa does not let you to be possessive or indifferent to anything, which generally happens with Rajas and Tamas.

To be able to do that, one should remain in alignment with a one who stand above the 3 qualities. Then through such a one, activities happen while one remains an observer. Master EK wrote books in such a manner. He never wrote just because he has the ability to write. He wrote only when it came through him. He never thought that he should write something or complete something that he started. He just remained a scribe to the Lord. When it came from above, he wrote it, otherwise he did not. When asked, when he would complete writing all the Cantos of Bhagavatam, he replied "Who am I decide? If it has to be completed, it will be otherwise not. If I wanted to write as Krishnamacharya, I would have written many more books by now." Master EK used to suddenly come home, sometimes even in a hurry, sat in a room, he used to call whosoever is available there and gave dictation. The moment it came, he was alert to dictate it. If it did not come, he was not worried why it is not coming. He informed that books relating to life of Krishna would come in 7 parts. We think that he wrote only 3 and half parts. But he never told that he would write all 7. Only 3 and half come through him, that's it. Similarly only 7 and half cantos of Bhagavatam came through him, out of 12. He used to simply tell, "If they give me, I will pass onto you. If you think that I stopped in the middle of a book, you might think so, but I do not crave to complete the book somehow." One who is in constant poise can remain so. Potana who wrote Bhagavatam in Telugu wrote in the same manner. He was never even worried to protect or publish the content though he knew that some were trying to steal it. He thought that it is the Divine will that made him write and so the Lord will take care of it. Such is the courage and belief that devotees have.

So if you remain in poise and have sraddha (interest & dedication), you know when you to do and when to stop. There is a centre in the body called "Bhukti" which tells the being when to stop doing something. It suggests the optimal value in every activity. It tells us when to stop eating. It tells us when to stop an activity. If we are oriented properly, we can hear to the message coming from that centre. Otherwise we miss that message and stop after indulging in over activity. In animals, it automatically works. That is why animals do not overeat. For us, it is left to our discretion. We can either heed the advice or ignore it.

When you collect vertically and perform horizontally, you can perform a very good creative activity. So that triangle is very useful for creation but the same triangle is not sufficient for withdrawal. Right triangle is for creation but you need equilateral triangle for withdrawal. If all the qualities are balanced, you can come out easily.

To be able to travel vertically is one thing while to be able to help someone who is stuck down in another thing. Hercules completed the first part and now he is given to work out the 2nd part.

A knower is one who does what is to be done by him. He does not do something just because he is capable of doing something. You do as much as your role is and withdraw. Just because you are capable to do, if you do, you might get stuck. Prometheus was stuck because he overdid a good deed.

So Hercules did what he has to do and completed the labour successfully. Now the mother is pleased with him and wanted to cover him with the White Robe. All Masters have white robes. This White Robe distinguishes a Master from others. You do not become a Master by wearing a white robe. It is an inner clothing. So after completing the 10th labour, Hercules was given this white robe. 10 relates to fulfillment and with the completion of 10th labour, Hercules deserved the white robe. He is now able enough to help fellow beings walk the path.

"Within the Place of Peace the Great Presiding One poured forth the radiance of his exalted thought. The Teacher drew nigh."

Now comes the time for 11th labour. The place of peace here referred to is the head centre because the Master relates with the Lord at that centre. The teacher received the message of the Lord at that centre. Master EK writes in the book Master CVV "Sahasrara, head centre is like the helipad arranged by the Lord to land on us." He gives his message from there.

"The single flame must light the other forty-nine," the Great Presiding One affirmed. "So be it," the Teacher answered. "Having lit his own lamp Hercules now must bring the Light to others." Not long thereafter, the Teacher summoned Hercules.

There are 7 planes of existences and each plane has again 7 sub-planes. The Lord instructed the Master to give a labour which would enable Hercules to permeate all the 49 planes with equal radiance. It is possible by doing something which would help the beings at large. He helped one being but that service needs to be magnified. Only then the purpose of attaining the white robe is fulfilled. The teacher immediately summoned Hercules.

"Eleven times the wheel has turned, and now you stand before another Gate. For long you have pursued the light which flickered first uncertainly, then waxed to a steady beacon, and now shines for you like a blazing sun. Turn now your back upon the brightness; reverse your steps; go back to those for whom the light is but a transient point, and help them make it grow. Direct your steps to Augeas whose kingdom must be cleansed of ancient evil. I have spoken."

Hercules started with a flickering light and now he is a stable light. Flickering happens in the beginning. We may be doing prayer at times and neglecting prayer at times. There will be lot of hindrances to begin with. From that state, we should reach a stable state. Hercules has reached such a state and he is now compared to a blazing sun.

One should keep striving for light and even after reaching a stable state, one cannot be satisfied with that he. He should do something great and magnanimous which helps the beings at large. Only then there is fulfillment. He then reaches the plane of Mahat, the source where the 3 qualities and 3 egos are born. He then becomes a Mahatma. Above Mahat, there is only the triangle of Comic Person, Cosmic Nature and Time.

So here the teacher instructs Hercules to help people those who aspire to walk the path and need help to overcome the hindrances. A Master comes to help only those who have the aspiration to walk the path of light. He does not help everyone. So Hercules was directed to help those aspirants. He has been bestowed with greater responsibility. Then the light in him would equally permeate the 49 planes and he can experience all the 7 planes equally. Only then he can become a Maharshi (Maha+Rishi).

Depending on one's state of evolution, there comes a time when one would get the spur from within to walk the path. We may initially follow a Master for some time and then the break due to some reason. Then we start again after some years. It like people coming for Gurupuja this year, missing for few years and then coming again. Gradually they start attending Gurupujas everyone. Then they attend Gurupujas not in Vizag but also in other places all through the year. Now, we have the facility to hear the discourse even if you are not able to attend in person. There are people who are hearing discourses, anywhere they happen, through this means. That shows that their aspiration is increasing. So in this manner, we gradually grow in the path. But we need help of the Master so that we remain in the path without deviating.

You cannot reach the highest planes just like that. You need to work a lot. The more you progress, the more the responsibility. That is what Master DK writes “I have walked into greater measure of light and hence incurred larger responsibility.” If you abstain from responsibilities in the initial stage itself, there can be no progress. So here Hercules has been entrusted a bigger responsibility.

Hercules was sent to a kingdom which is very dirty without lot of turmoil. The people were accumulating lot of dirt without any cleansing. They polluted everything. We have a similar situation in present times. We polluted air, water and earth. That is why there are lot of diseases prevalent. Cancer and Tuberculosis are spreading like anything and people are dying. Now we are working hard to reverse the situation.

So in that kingdom, lot of dirt has been accumulated and no one is able to clean that dirt. Even the king lost any more interest to clean the kingdom. He tried a lot but failed. He even decides that no can do it. So Hercules goes to that kingdom and offers to help cleaning the kingdom. The king hears about Hercules and wanted to know why he came here? Why he wanted to clean? How can he alone do it? What is that he wants by doing this? The king feared that Hercules might take the throne if he succeeds. Hercules tells that he does not want anything and just wanted to help. The king does not believe in Hercules.

The king wanted to offer something because he feared that he might lose something big later. So he told Hercules that he would be offered 1/10th of the kingdom, if he succeeds, and he would be killed, if he failed. So that was the deal.

The problem with the worldly people is that they do not accept anything if something is done causeless. They do not accept if anything is really done without any expectation. People do not believe in free Service. They think that is always some hidden benefit. People even do not value if something is offered free. If you offer some free healing service, people will think you are not a good healer and that is why you are offering it free. The king has the same problem here.

So now Hercules goes to observe the kingdom. He observes that there were 2 rivers flows in 2 different path. He joined both the flows and made it a single flow. Then there was a flush out of water on the land and the whole dirt was flushed out with that water. Hercules succeeds and he was greatly praised by the people of the land. Balarama, brother of Krishna, did a similar thing. He changed to course of River Yamuna for satisfying agricultural needs. The present state of Uttar Pradesh is so abundant with agricultural crops because of that deed of Balarama.

The king offers the land to Hercules as per the deal. Hercules does not accept the land and instructs the king to take care of the land without polluting it in future again. So that is the 11th labour.

We have to observe one thing here. How can one merge to flowing rivers? Is it possible by normal persons? Here it was possible for Hercules because he had the white robe. Moses performed a similar act of separating an ocean into 2 parts. Many of you might have seen the movie as well. Such acts are possible only due to the presence of White Robe. With the presence of that Robe, the nature always cooperates with Hercules and he could perform such a grand act.

All the Grand Masters have such White Robes and hence grand acts happen through them. Lord Maitreya has such a White Robe given by the Lord himself. He even offers it to others who deserve it and who need it. Mother Earth, the plant and animal kingdoms and many Grand beings did not want Lord Krishna to leave the planet. So Krishna left his super-natural body with Lord Maitreya. The same was given to Buddha to perform some grand acts. It is because of that he could introduce non-violence at a large scale. There used to be lot of violent rituals taking place at that time, in the name of worship. He told that all those rituals are not required and worship of the Lord through meditation was sufficient. This fact was mentioned by Madam HPB in Secret Doctrine. Later the same robe was given to Adi Sankaracharya. He had to revive some of the good things that were lost along with the unwanted things, due to the strong cleansing activities of Buddha. This robe is different from the robe that each one can make for himself through dedicated practice. That Robe coming from Lord Krishna is unique. The same robe was also given to Jesus to perform some grand acts.

Whenever that Robe was active, he could perform grand acts and he becomes Christ then. Otherwise he just remains as Jesus. This robe was apart from the robe that Jesus already had through his sincere practice. This robe coming from the Lord is more powerful. Buddha is considered an avatar because of the touch of the Krishna he had due to this robe.

So Hercules could perform this grand act with the help of the White Robe that he acquired through sincere practice. He did not accept anything from the king and leaves. That kingdom is nothing for Hercules. He had greater facilities and ruling a part of a kingdom is not his job. So he completed his job and goes back to his Master.

"A server of the world you have become," the Teacher said when Hercules drew nigh.

Now the Master proclaims that Hercules has become a world server.

"You have gone on by going back; you have come to the House of Light by yet another path; you have spent your light that the light of others might shine. The jewel that the eleventh labor gives is yours forever more."

The Master commends Hercules saying, "You have lighted the lives of others using the light you have." That is world service. One who walks the path of light is no more interested in anything objective. By doing that labour, Hercules enters into a higher light. Saying so, Master blesses Hercules.

So this labour related to month of Magha (Capricorn). It is about performing a Grand Act. For such an act to happen, a Grand body is required. We need to develop the body. So by performing that act, Hercules has acquired a permanent place in the kingdom of Divine light.

-Swasthi