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Vizag Gurupujas – Labours of Hercules

Discourse 6 by Master K.Parvathi Kumar (13 Jan, 2015)

In this 54th Master CVV Gurupuja Celebrations, we completed the Morning Prayer for this day and now beginning the discourse. Though generally winter season is for 60 days, in a place like Vizag, we have winter for very few days and most of the year we have high temperatures with lot of humidity. We sweat a lot and think it would be better if we have colder temperatures. But when the winter really comes, we feel that it is too cold and start thinking when it would go. Similarly, we look for rains and when in rainy season, incessant rains happens, we pray that rains should stop. So it goes on like this. We mostly crave for something which is not present at that point of time and when what we want really comes, we crave for something else. We rarely accept the weather as it is. We don't want heat, cold, wind or rain and are never satisfied with what is present. We should learn to accept what is given to us without crying for something else. We generally fail to realize the importance of something which we have at present and when we lose it, we start realising the importance. To only those who accept, will that which is not there at present will come, in future. So let us experience the beauty of this winter season for now. Each season makes certain adjustments in us. When we invite the season gratefully, then adjustments happen properly.

Now coming to our story of Hercules. He completed 11 labours successfully and now is about to perform the 12 labour relating to Pieces. The 12 sun signs happen in a cyclic manner. The beings too undergo life after life in a cyclic manner. While in the body, one may feel that he wants liberation from the body. Once the liberation from the body happens, the being wants to get into a body again. Remember, no one sends us into a body. It is our desire that results in taking to a body. Once the desire fades away, we don't take to bodies. So we keep on taking body after body. In body, we feel we should be liberated, while we are out of it, we feel we want a body to experience. A realised one never does not feel sad whether he is in the body or not because he realised that he is eternally present in this creation and experiences whatever is present. He accepts everything. Such a one is out of the cycle. Hercules has come out through his efforts.

Also the same is the case with people around us. Great ones might be moving with us but we do not realize their greatness when they move with us. After they depart, we realize their greatness. It was always so with great ones who came to earth. Even after realizing them to be great, we just speak about them but do not follow their teachings. We even proclaim to be someone's

followers with the courage that the person will not come back and ask us “Are you really following my teachings to be calling yourself my follower?”

In the story of Hercules, every time, the Lord calls the Master and the Master calls the disciple and the story goes on. If the Master or disciple do not follow their higher one, there is no story.

Within the sacred Council Chamber, the great Presiding One revealed unto the Teacher the Will of What Must Be.

Upto now, Hercules has performed many tasks and now he is given a task "will to be". There is no more doing. “Will to be” is only one the fulfilled ones. For others it is still “Will to do.” “To be” is different from “to do”. What does that mean? To be is Cosmic Person and to do is Cosmic Nature. We refer to them as Shiva and Shakti as well.

Once one exists, can one just remain to be without doing anything? There are few can remain like that. One of them is Sage Vasistha. He just be's. He knows that just by being, everything keeps happening.

The whole creation runs by the 3 forces of will, knowledge and action. Due to these forces, people keep running around for some work or the other. A Great One knows that everything happens just by being. There is no need to run. That is what Hercules is to be taught now.

Hercules has now got into the habit of doing everything, now he is to be taught "to be". He needs to realize that the whole creational activity is a big illusion. Pieces tells us that this is a big illusion. It is very difficult to accept that all this is illusion. A realized one should also realise this illusion. Otherwise, one just remains in the thought "What should I do now?" By doing more and more, one reaches a state where one cannot just be without doing anything.

People keep moving around for many activities. But are we really moving or are we be being moved? It is the nature that moves everything. We just remain in the illusion that we are moving. When we move from doing to being, we realise that all this is not in our hands but there is the Cosmic Nature in the background which does everything and makes things happen through us. We should realise that we are never really the doer. We should never think that things that we are doing stop without our presence. Things might be happening better if we are not there. The nature arranges someone else if we are not there. Nothing will stop if we are not doing. The nature has millions of mediums to get work done.

So now Hercules is given the task "will to be". It is an exit point. In a life, we get into many things and we should leave all of them in that life. We cannot hold onto things. At some point in life, we should feel "How long can we go on like this?" We should start retreating at some point.

That is what Annamacharya writes in one of his songs in praise of Lord Venkateswara. If we go on like that, there will never be an end. There will never be an end to the activities. It is a cyclic path. You should get out of that cycle at some point when you realize that there is no end to that cycle of activities. Pieces is the exit door. We can either begin again and get into a new cycle or move higher, out of the cycle. You exit only when you lose the attachment.

There are activities that we have to do because we are in this creation. We cannot avoid doing them. But there is a state in which we can be where things just happen without us doing anything. That is the state of Sage Vasistha. He had a cow out of which anything would come as and when required. King Viswamithra was baffled looking at the abilities of the cow. He wanted the cow to be given to him. Vasistha told Viswamithra that he could take it if the cow wanted to come. Viswamithra tried with all his force and army but he could not catch the cow. All his armies were neutralized by the armies that emerged from that cow. Vishwamithra wanted to know how to get such a cow. It is possible only when one can remain in beness like Vasistha. It is because of his state that cow had such abilities. It is very tough to remain in that state. It is beyond the state of poise.

Even if we see Lord Vishnu, he appears to be sleeping. When we see Shiva, he is always sitting in meditation. Are they doing anything or not? They are in a state where we cannot tell whether they are doing or just being. We are given such symbolisms relating to the logos. They remain in beness and everything happens through them.

In creation, from the Absolute Lord, the Cosmic Person or the Universal Soul has emerged and from that soul, all individual souls emerged. So that is the order in creation. In the evolution process, we should realize ourselves as souls, we should realize that we all emerged from one Universal soul and then that soul emerged from one Absolute Principle. Only then one has said to be realized Brahma, THAT.

For that realization to happen, Hercules is here given a task. He was told that in place, there is person (king) who is holding many cattle that do not belong to him and those cattle are to be released from the hold of that person. That person had 3 heads, 3 bodies and 6 hands. What is this story? It is our story only. This 3 headed person also has a manager who has a dog with 2 heads. The cattle were under the hold of this dog. The cattle consisted of red sheep. The cattle need to be released. By doing this task, Hercules knows "will to be".

If you observe carefully, every Scripture tells stories which speak of man in a symbolic manner, in different ways. You should understand the mystical language in them.

The king with 3 heads here is the separated consciousness (ego). Due to that ego, we think I AM. Only because of that thought, three heads emerge. The first head is will to do. The moment we wake up from sleep and get awareness, we start getting thoughts. That is the first head here. We think that we have woken up but in reality we have been woken up. So after will, we have the knowledge which is the 2nd head. We have the knowledge to do what is willed. Then there is the action which is the 3rd head. The background to all this is a consciousness which is present in us and also wakes us up and which ensures our existence. There is existence as basis to that consciousness. Only because we exist, we are able to will and act. That background is nature. Nature has 3 qualities which do things. Those qualities makes things happen through us. The Lord says in Bhagawadgita "The 3 qualities born of the nature born out of me, does things in this creation and you get stuck in those qualities. I am not the doer." The Lord has nothing to do in this creation but he does just as a play.

The secret behind all this is "We do not exist and it is only THAT which exists as all of us." We should realize that it is THAT existing as I AM. That is the ultimate realization. It is very difficult for that realization to happen because how can we accept that we do not exist. We got habituated to the thought of I AM and cannot be relieved of it so easily.

The 6 hands referred to are the mind and 5 senses. From the moment we wake up, these 6 hands start working in a busy manner, the whole day. The nature runs this play and we get stuck in that play. With these 6 hands, we do many activities. The 5 here not only refers to senses but also to 5 organs of action, 5 pranas, 5 elements and 5 sensations.

The 2 headed dog here is the duality that we face in life. In everything in this creation, we face duality. We have likes and dislikes. What you like may not be liked by others. We want something and don't want something else. We get stuck between likes and dislikes. We have many choices and mostly we make wrong choices. And that wrong choice causes problems to us. Sometimes we ask advice as to what to choose but mostly end up doing what we like. We rarely follow advices. Whatever that comes to us on its own will not cause trouble, whatever we choose causes trouble. Our desire when followed might cause trouble. The desire may be positive or negative. That is what happens most of the times.

The cattle here refers to the beings stuck in desire. The dog here does not allow us to come out our desires. It is so alert. It makes us run between likes and dislikes. Did we ever think about this dog? Because we have a choice in creation, we are stuck like this. We want something and some we don't. The whole life goes on with these likes and dislikes. In creation, we may not get what we desire and we might get what we do not desire. Everyone wants good health and prosperity

but many do not get it. We keep asking the Lord or Divine Mother for many things. It is easy if we say "Lord give me what is good for me". But we do not stop like that. We have a big list of desires. The Lord gave us many good things without us asking. We should know that things do not come when we ask and we should also know that things come even when we do not ask. So why should we ask at all? Accept what we get without expecting. That is why I started this discourse with speaking on accepting winter season. The more we desire, the more we are bound by this dog.

This dog has a manager in the form of mind. The mind is neutral. It just reflects our desire. If you have more desire, the mind appears red. The cattle here are referred to as red cattle because of the strong desire. The red is passion. So the cattle are to be saved by removing the dualities. The mind need not be killed. Only the personality controlling the mind should be transformed.

So the mind need not be eliminated. We should gain the cooperation of the mind and transform our personality. If the being is alert, the mind remains in his control. Otherwise, the being becomes a slave to the mind.

We have continuous cycle of will, knowledge and action happening because of the 3 qualities. To be able to stand above the 3 qualities, we should first kill the dog, the duality principle. Then the manager, the mind becomes your friend. Then to stand above the 3 qualities, one should align with the Divine principle. Then one does not get into the 3 qualities. Even if he does for the sake of fulfilling a work, he remains with the Divine and fulfills the work. As there are no more likes and desires, your will merges into the Divine will and you start acting according to it. There will be no expectations and there will be no consequences. One do not get stuck in anything. We get stuck in small things due to our habits. But when one works with Divine will, he does everything as it comes and he does not expect anything to happen. He again goes and stands above the 3 qualities, once the work is done. He just be's and does only when required.

So crossing the duality is one step. We get stuck in small things. Suppose you have the habit combing your hair very neatly and you forget your comb while coming to Gurupuja. If you very disturbed by that, it means you are stuck in it. If that habit is strong, you may even go around into the market looking for a comb instead of participating in Gurupuja. Or you sit in prayer and keep thinking "Why did I forget the comb? I could not comb my hair today...." A series of unnecessary thoughts prevail and there is no prayer. So one small habit can hold you like that. It may be a good habit but you should not get stuck in it. If you accept whatever happens, then you can always remain happy.

Then there should be detachment from personal will. If you remain in duality with many desires, there cannot be Yoga. You keep running after many things. You have big list of things to do. You do lot of future planning. If the will is yours, you remain in the rotating machine of nature.

If the will is Divine, you stand above and observe the machine rotating. The difference is, are the thoughts coming from you or are the thoughts coming through you. Are you the medium or source? One who does not renounce personal will is no renunciate (Sanyasi), says Lord Krishna.

The nature does most of the work through the one who does not have a personal will. Even if you stand above the 3 qualities, you are still made to get into them and work with them. That is how nature is. We have the story of Kardama who realizes Brahman and remains in the state. That happened in last creation. He did not want to get into the creation any more. But in this creation, there came a need for Kardama to do some work. Vishnu himself asks Kardama to take birth and to attract him he gives a boon that he would be born to him as Kapila. So Kardama accepts to get into the creation to experience the Lord as his son. It is a very rare experience and no one can say no to such an offer. But even after getting into creation, he wanted to quickly complete the stipulated work and return to the source. So after Kapila is born, he immediately returns handing over the responsibility of his wife to the child.

Kardama had no will of his own. He even came into the creation only due to Divine will. He performed everything as per Divine will and left. There is a Divine will that is working out this creation. You just move as per that will. If you start something on your own, you stand responsible for the consequences coming out of that will. That is what Lord Krishna tells in Bhagawadgita.

The same is being taught to Hercules. One should reach a state where you have no will, knowledge and action of your own. You just respond to whatever comes as per the Divine will. That is how Vasistha, Janaka, Maitreya and others live. They just remain mediums to the Divine will. They do not have any personal will and do not think that they are the doers. They just remain observers. They just be.

The same was the case with Rama. He just remained while everything just happened through him. One should remain the stationary one in everything that is happening.

I will tell one story and conclude. Brahma came to know that he had to create and he wanted to create. During the creational process, the will came out of him in the form of Saraswati and Brahma initially started running after the will and everyone started laughing. He then realized that he should not run after it. He should just be while the will works out the plan. Saraswati is the Divine will manifesting through Brahma. You should not plan to work out. You just let the work happen. Ramakrishna Paramahansa just sat at one place and many things happened through him. He never appeared to do any work. Master CVV hardly moved from Kumbakonam but see how his work became global.

Vishnu appears very relaxed in a sleeping posture while Shiva appears very relaxed in a sitting posture. They appear not to be doing anything but they are the basis for everything to happen. The Divine Mother works out the plan while the Cosmic Person just remains as the basis.

Similarly, you should just be while the nature in you works out the plan. We will discuss more about it in the evening.

-Swasthi