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"Master EK's Birthday Celebrations"

Discourse by Master Parvathi Kumar on 11th of August, 2020

Radhamadhavam, Vizag.



Today we are celebrating the grand occasion of the 95th Birth Anniversary of Master EK. Greetings to everyone who has gathered here. We have many other festivals falling on this day. As per solar calendar, we celebrate 11th august as the birthday of Master EK. As per lunar calendar, it is the birthday of Lord Krishna and Master MN as well. We also have the birthday of Madam HPB falling tomorrow. As we were thinking how can we celebrate all these events on this day, it was suggested that we should celebrate Master EK's birthday today, Madam HPB's birthday tomorrow, Lord Krishna's birthday day after since it coincides with the star Lord Krishna was born in and finally on 25th August, we celebrate the birthday of Master MN. In this manner, we recollect all the great ones and remain in the presence.

So coming to today's occasion, we first have a book release compiling poems written by Master EK along with a commentary written by a close follower of Master EK. These poems (in Telugu) give us a lot of experience to the aspirants. The commentary in brief was written by Brother UVAN Raju. The main intention is to give the meaning of the poems in an easy way. The book is dedicated to Mother Krishna Kumari by the ones who contributed to the publication of the book.

Master EK fills all our hearts giving his presence with a smile. There are many who grew up under Master EK's guidance since their childhood and all of them have many experiences to share. I feel that this time is not sufficient for them to speak out their experiences. However, it all happens as per the grace of the Master. If we see all this as the play of the Divine, then we need not worry about anything. In fact, that is what Master EK writes in one of the poems in this book. Great devotees recite their Divine experiences in the form of poems and they are all

beautiful to recite. Most of these experiences are within. The experience results in happiness so abundant that it overflows from within and comes out in the form of poems, prose, paintings and so on. They are not written by personal will but they come out due to Divine will. There are great poets and composers from whom poems and music has manifested in that manner as per the Divine will. Master EK wrote these poems based on his experiences over 32 years of his life. So this book was written over a very long period.

Devotees experience the Divine in their heart center. They further visualise themselves in the heart of the Divine present in their heart. This visualization is to understand the truth the Divine is present in us because we are present in the Divine. This is the truth to be realized by all aspirants. If we visualise ourselves in the heart of the Master or the Divine, then it is the safest place to be. A Master keeps you in his heart if you start leading a completely impersonal life serving the fellow beings. It is a state of complete surrender to the Divine plan. This state is described by the Master in the last 10 poems of this book. In that state, many activities happen through you almost effortlessly. You might gain a lot of name and fame in the process and there is a chance that you might get deviated from the path because of them. At that time, you should request the Divine to keep you connected to HIM without getting into the pride of name and fame gained. There are poems in which Master EK makes such a request to the Divine. These poems are in the form of steps that a normal being takes to become an aspirant, a disciple, a devotee and finally one with the Divine. One attains knowledge, yoga, detachment and liberation as one moves closer to the Divine. The Divine would make his devotee almost equal to him just like a father who wants his son to become like him. By reading these poems and understanding them, we get lot of inspiration to progress in the path.

In these poems, Master EK refers to the Lord in the name of Sripati. Sripati is another name of Lord Venkateswara, the deity in Tirupati. Generally, it takes a lot of effort to see the deity in this temple because it is very crowded. In one of the poems, Master EK questions the Lord “Why do people have to take so much effort to see you?” The Lord is actually easily accessible but it is ourselves who make it very difficult to see the Divine. In this manner Master EK pens out his thoughts to the Divine in some poems.

In one of the poems, Master EK tells that one cannot think of something which does not exist. Everything or everyone that exists will always continue to exist in one form or the other. It may or may not be visible to you. This is a teaching coming from Bhagawadgita. Master EK tells that Divine is not visible to all but by relating constantly to the Divine, one can definitely experience the Divine. So have faith and keep relating to the Divine.

In one poem, Master EK expresses to the Divine “I will keep accepting things, whatever happens, as your will. Even when I have the Divine experience or not on a day happens as per your will.” So Master EK is telling us that we should accept everything as Divine will, including having Divine experience or not. Master EK never wrote poems or books as and when he liked. He just surrendered to the Divine will and he wrote only when it came to him. He was scholarly enough to write it on his own but he never did so.

In one poem, Master EK describes his vision of the Divine in the heart center. He says that the heart chakra turned into a heart lotus and the Divine was visible to him in a very beautiful form in that lotus. He says “O Lord! I did not know until now that you existed in me in this form.” We generally rely on the outer forms to relate to the Divine but one can see more beautiful

forms of the Divine within. Then one can experience the Divine anytime and anywhere. There is no need to search for the Divine anywhere else.

In one of the poems, Master EK requests the Divine to take away all his vices, to take away his ignorance, to take away his pride and to aid in relating to the Divine within at all times. When we read poems like this, you should put yourself in that place and request the Divine in the same manner. Not only these poems, whenever you study the story of a devotee, you should put yourself in place of that devotee. Then you understand the heart of that devotee. Then we also know what we should do to become like that devotee.

In one of the poems Master EK tells about the things in which one may get stuck and forget the Divine. It may be family, it may be mundane wealth, it may be knowledge and so on. Though Master EK had a very splendid life, he did not get stuck in anything. He saw everything as Divine grace. Master EK used to be very cautious that he does not get stuck in fame, property and so on. He avoided people who would waste his time and always ensured that the work happened. He did not get stuck in anything or anyone. I observed from close quarters as to how he handled different people based on their needs. He had the courage to even avoid people in power because he believed that he needed to follow only the Divine will and nothing else. The reason why he agrees to meet someone or not used to be mysterious. He remained close to those who had Divine aspiration and those who related to him closely. But he spent time with anyone only to the extent required, nothing more or less. Even though he came from a very orthodox family with many traditions, he only followed what is most essential and left the rest because he believed that the Divine is most important than the tradition. For him, having the grace of the Divine is more important than anything else. This is what needs to be realized by us as well. Sometimes we might be stuck in tradition that we even forget the Divine which is meaningless.

In one of poems, Master EK expresses to the Divine “I surrender my life at your feet. Please forgive me for any mistakes that I have committed out of ignorance. I believe that everything happens as per your will”. Madam HPB also lived in the same manner with complete surrender to the Divine. She put everything in the Divine account. She was instructed by her Master to scold HS Olcott, the founder president of theosophical society, for no reason. She was given no reason except that she was told to scold him. She used to do so just by having faith in her Master’s word. Master EK also used to scold some people a lot sometimes and we used to find no proper reason. We realise later that the scolding neutralized karma of that person and he progressed in life in a much better way. Master EK saw such acts as the Divine working through him to put his children in the right direction. Therefore, he never worried of the consequences as he was acting completely under the Divine instructions.

Master EK never changed himself for the sake of others. He always lived in the same manner irrespective of who he met. He was there to show us the way and not to please us or do things as we like. He never played for the disciples or audience. He never did anything special to show to the world that he is a Master.

Master EK was always available to the needy, at any hour of the day. He never thought of rest. He used to tell that the Divine never sleeps and that the Divine would question him if he does not respond to someone in need. He never planned to sleep and he hardly used to sleep for few hours a day. In a poem, Master EK requests the Divine “Please allow me to serve you at all

times. Please grant me a state where I forget myself and only remember you.” That is how Master EK forgot himself in service to others.

In this manner, Master EK gave his experience of the Divine in 100 poems. I felt that every Sunday we should read one poem from this book and briefly discuss its meaning before getting into the Bhagavatam discourse. So, we will do so from next week. In that way, we can remain in the presence of Master EK.

So today, we related to Master EK through his poems. People who know Telugu can recite and understand these poems and gain the related experience.

-Swasthi