

Aum Sri Sai Ram

Think of Divinity Every Minute



There are no permanent mothers in the world, the only permanent mother is the Divine Mother. Swami often reminds you of your spiritual family where Truth is your father, Love is your mother, Wisdom is your son, Peace is your daughter, Devotion is your brother, and Yogis are your friends. In the spiritual path these are your true relatives, who will always accompany you. When you have this kind of relationship, when you treasure this kind of friendship, you will be able to break the bonds of the world and become free. Light has value only when there is darkness; otherwise, it has no value by itself. Therefore, in times of trouble and sorrow, whenever problems arise, evoke the principle of Divinity, which will shed illumination and light in moments of darkness.

There is no use in just thinking of Shivaraathri once a year. Every minute, every day, every night, you should think of Divinity and sanctify your time, for the Time principle truly speaking is Shiva. You yourself are Shiva. Try to understand and recognize this principle of Shiva Tatva which is your own Reality.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 18, Chapter 7, February 17, 1985

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Know Your Genuine Kith and Kin



Revere Knowledge as you revere your father, adore Love as you adore your mother, move fondly with Dharma, as if it is your own brother; confide in Dhaya (compassion) as if it is your dearest friend; have Shantham (calmness) as your better half; treat Sahana (fortitude), as if it is your own beloved son. These are your genuine kith and kin. Move with them, live with them, do not forsake or neglect them.

Arjuna asked Krishna how the ever-restless mind could be controlled. Living with these kinsmen is the best recipe. That is the best atmosphere to ensure the discipline and detachment needed for mind control. Mere prayer will not do. You will have to swallow and digest the morsel that is put into the mouth; repetition of the name of the dish is of no use. Hearing discourses and nodding approval or clapping in appreciation are not enough. The mother feeds lovingly, but the child must take it in with avidity and relish. When this earthly mother has so much love, who can estimate the love of the Mother of all beings, the Jagathjanani. You heard the Bhagavatha, portions of it, today. All the teaching you need for liberation from grief and worry, you can get in that one book. Read it every day, bit by bit, page by page and ruminate over the lessons you find there. Gradually, you will earn detachment from worldly sense objects; the book will take you in hand and lead you Godword. It is a better guide than many of the so-called gurus who ply their trade today. They welcome you with great gusto and proclaim the excellence of their wares, condemning those of the others and set about the profitable task of hooking you as a disciple, so that they may extract funds from you or fame through you. Like shopkeepers clamoring for customers, manufacturers of patent medicines competing for customers, they try to sell their prescriptions to you, before you discriminate and escape.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 4, Chapter 30, October 9, 1964

Aum Sri Sai Ram

The Role of Teachers and Parents



Then, there are the teachers. They become parents of children in due course. But that is not important in itself. They should become ideal parents. If teachers fail to bring up their own children in an exemplary manner, how are they going to mould the other children who come under their care? The children of teachers have been found to behave improperly. Many parents spoil the children when they come home for the holidays. Whatever discipline the students had cultivated at school or college is undermined at home. Many parents tend to pamper their children and spoil them as Dhritarashtra did. Parents may commend what is good in their children, but they should not hesitate to chastise them when they go astray. It is because of the excessive indulgence shown by parents that many students are spoiled. Nor is that all. When a boy comes home and keeps up his spiritual practices, the parents rebuke him for his devotion and tell him that there is time enough for him to observe such practices in his old age. Parents of this type who undermine the seeds of devotion in their children are modern versions of Hiranyakasipu (Prahlada's father).

Parents should see that the children are kept on the right path at all times. The students, for their part, should make it clear to their parents that they will not give up on any account the good things they have imbibed in their educational institution. When the children recite at home a prayer, before taking food, as they do in their hostel, they are sometimes ridiculed for observing such a practice. The boys should have the courage to tell their parents that the prayer is being said as an expression of gratitude to the Divine who is the provider of all things.

The Role of Teachers and Parents (Cont.)

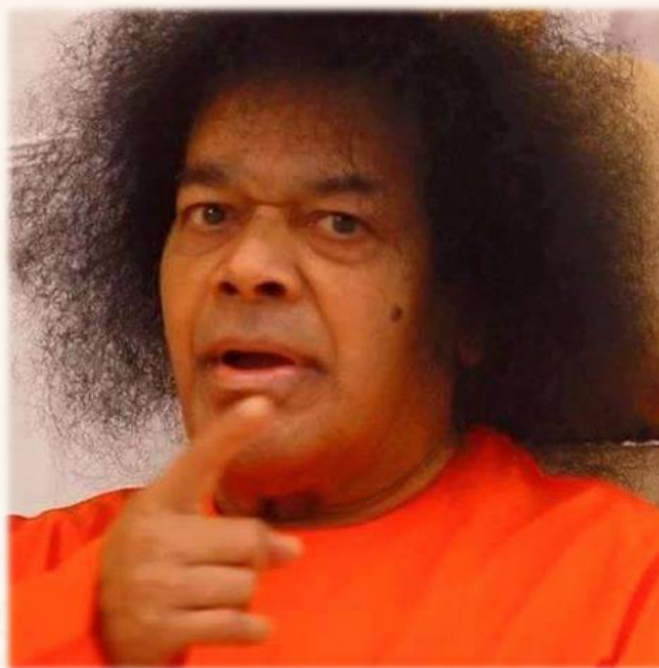
You should not give up the practice, if you cannot persuade your parents to do so. Students should develop into such exemplary persons. Be respectful towards your parents, but do not hesitate to tell them what you feel to be right in all humility and reverence. Mere book knowledge does not constitute education. Nor does it mean the ability to juggle with words. Education means broadening the heart. It implies development of control over the senses. It should make one seek to promote the good of the world. It should serve to instill all good qualities in the student. An education that is devoid of such qualities is worthless. Excessive talk is responsible for students losing self-control and failing to acquire good qualities. Even the power to discriminate between what is transient and what is permanent is lost thereby. One does not know how to behave towards elders and strangers.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 22, Chapter 10, June 15, 1989



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Destructive Power of Anger



You should see to it that women do not shed tears. Otherwise, the family will face hardships. A thorn can be removed from the foot, but a harsh word, which has wounded the heart, cannot be taken back. So, never use harsh words. Talk sweetly and softly. The husband has the right to point out the mistakes of his wife, but he has no right to use harsh words and hurt her feelings. You cannot always oblige, but you can speak always obligingly. The family will attain peace and prosperity once you observe these principles. Usually, the element of anger is more in men than in women. If you get angry once, the energy gained by you from the food consumed over three months will be destroyed. Not merely that, it also boils your blood which will take nearly three months to cool down. Such being the case, imagine what would be your fate if you lose your temper time and again.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 33, Chapter 11, August 11, 2000

Aum Sri Sai Ram

Worldly relations bereft of love are useless



So far as the mother has strength, she nourishes her children. The children should nourish their mother in the same way. God has given us human birth to nourish and nurture each other. What for are the relations like brothers and sisters? Not merely for the sake of division of property and wealth. These relations are for developing love and sharing it with each other. Real relations are those who share love with each other. Worldly relations bereft of love are useless. Those who are strong and powerful should protect the weak and helpless. When you see someone in trouble, show kindness towards him and try to wipe his tears. This is real compassion. This compassion is righteousness; it is love. When we expand our love, we can give happiness to the whole world. Therefore, develop love. If you come across a poor man, a sick person or one who is in trouble, give them whatever help you can. When you extend help to such people, God will shower His love on you. In every human being, God is present in the form of love. We should not waste or misuse this love. Today we express our love arbitrarily for anything and everything. By loving undesirable things, we tread the wrong path and come to a sorry state.

Some people show great love for outsiders, but do not show the same love towards their mother and father in their house. First and foremost, we should love our parents and then, other people. But we should not limit our love to our friends and relatives alone; we should love all. Only then will God shower His love on us. When we see somebody in trouble or an injured person on the road, we should not show indifference towards them. Howsoever urgent be the work we are having; we should try to remove their suffering. Then God will manifest before us and fill us with energy. There is none in this world who can give us more love than God.

Worldly relations bereft of love are useless (Cont.)

We do bhajans and perform service activities only to attain the love of God. God's love fills us with great energy. It is God only who gives us this energy. Therefore, love God, and love all people who are verily the children of God. Some children become orphans. You should alleviate their suffering. Then your birth as human being will become worthwhile. You see a person in trouble and go away without showing any kindness to him. There is no sin greater than this. The next day when you are in trouble, then your friends will also ignore and deride you. Therefore, you should love others and receive their love. Charity and kindness are an important part of Dharma (righteousness).

There is no charity greater than feeding the hungry,
There are no greater Gods than parents,
There is no greater Dharma than compassion,
There is no greater gain than the company of the good,
There is no enemy greater than anger.
(Telugu poem)

In no condition should we allow anger to overpower us. We should obey our parents. We should love even those who hate us. One should sacrifice even one's life for the sake of love. One's life becomes worthwhile only when one has love.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 40, Chapter 3, January 27, 2007



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Decline in Human Values



Students acquire human values, in addition to their scholastic, intellectual and other attainments. It is the decline in human values that accounts for the degradation of human-beings in the country today.

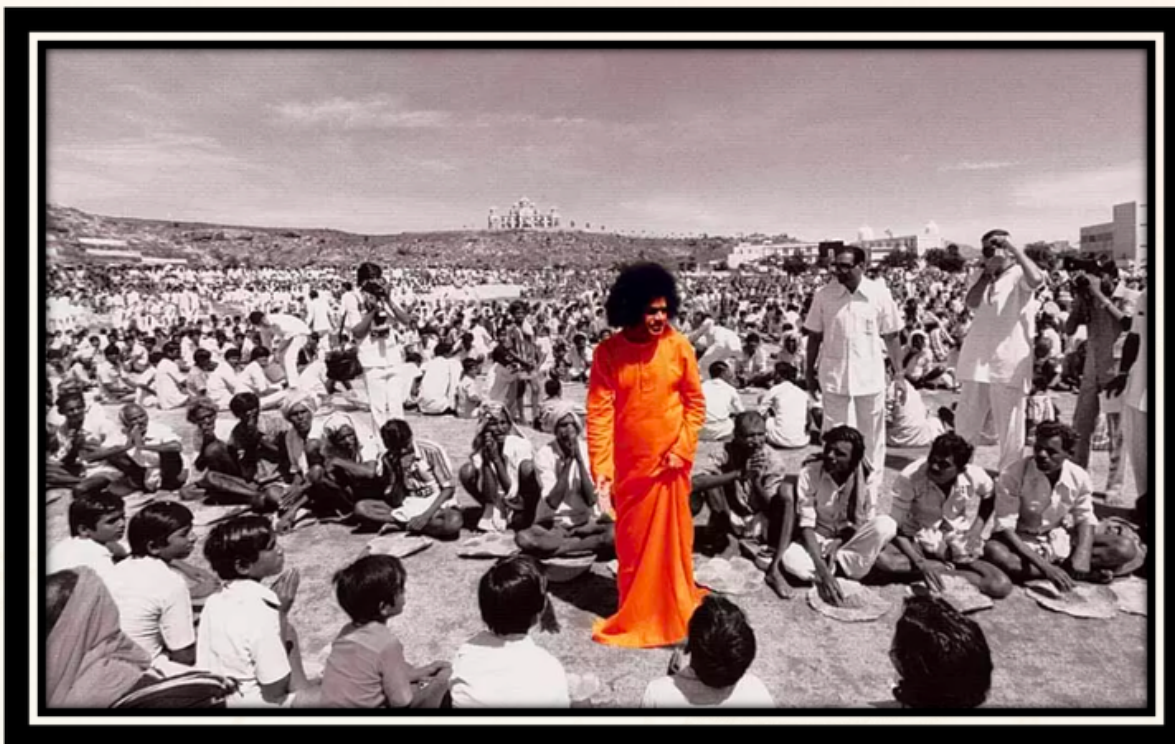
Technology has made great strides in modern times. The advances in other fields need no mention. The revolutionary advances in technology have brought about many changes in national life. The most important change is the decay of morals. All spiritual and ethical values have been undermined. Moral standards have collapsed. Hence, students today should be more concerned about good qualities than about knowledge. Society can progress only through men of virtue. Every student should have the welfare of society in view and have service as the ideal. What is education? It is not mere acquaintance with books. Can mere ability to read and write be regarded as education or even the acquisition of degrees? True education is associated with the ideal goals of life. Today all ideals have been perverted.

"Qualities like compassion and goodness have been replaced by unrighteous conduct. The ancient teachings have been given up. Education has gone astray," says a Kannada poem.

India gave the message of peace to the world in ancient times because of its spiritual leadership. Then, as well as now, the Bharatheeya message has been "Let all the people everywhere be happy."

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 28, Chapter 12, May 20, 1995

Difficulties Bring Out Human Values in Man



However, despite all the teachings, mankind is prone to go astray from time to time. Men should shed their pettiness and develop broad-mindedness by the cultivation of love. Human life is beset with ups and downs, joys and sorrows. These experiences are intended to serve as guideposts for man. Life would be stale if there were no trials and difficulties. It is these difficulties which bring out the human values in man. Because of the way Harischandra faced all the trials in his life, his story has become a glorious chapter in human annals. Prahlada stands out equally as a great devotee who stood up to all the persecutions of his father. Today, however, people want instant salvation, without the slightest effort or sacrifice on their part. But if such instant salvation is achieved, it will vanish also in a trice. Only that which is got by hard effort will yield lasting benefit. People pray to Swami to rid them of all difficulties and losses. This is a totally wrong kind of prayer. Difficulties must be welcomed and must be overcome. By overcoming trouble, the Divine must be experienced. You cannot get the juice of the sugarcane without crushing it. You cannot enhance the brilliance of a diamond without cutting it and making many facets. The body is like a sugarcane stalk. It is only when it goes through various difficulties that you can experience the sweet bliss of Self-realization. That sweetness is Divinity itself. Where does that sweetness reside in man? It is in every limb and organ.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 24, Chapter 23, September 2, 1991

Aum Sri Sai Ram

Marks of a Truly Educated Person



To realise the divinity in him, man should embark on this process of enquiry. One who claims to know everything should be treated as utterly ignorant. Before Buddha attained Nirvana, his disciples gathered round him and asked him what stage they have reached in their spiritual journey. Buddha took out a handful of leaves from the branch of the tree under which he was sitting and said: "Children, can you reckon the leaves in all the trees in all the forests all over the earth? What you have learnt is equal only to the handful of leaves in my palm, compared to what is to be known (that is, all the leaves in all the forests). We are today concerned with education in Human Values. In my view the cultivation of Human Values alone is education. Whoever tries to understand the human values of Truth, Righteous conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence properly, who practises these values and propagates them with zeal and sincerity can alone be described as a truly educated person. There are, of course, the obligations and compulsions relating to one's daily life and the duties which have to be discharged to the family and others. For these purposes and for earning a living, one may have to take up some occupation or other. Knowledge of the natural sciences may be required for this purpose. But together with this it is essential to acquire knowledge relating to human values.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 19, Chapter 5, March 9, 1986

Lessons to be learnt from the body



Our senses and limbs demonstrate these human qualities and serve as excellent teachers for us. There are numerous lessons to be learnt from the body. It is engaged in a variety of actions as the instrument for all activity. Knowledge and skill are required for doing anything. The body has to be kept in a fit condition for this purpose. All parts of the body, from head to foot, are equally important and have to be cared for with love and regard. Love should become the ruling principle of our life. Only then can we sanctify it. You may think the programme of education in human values was launched only five years ago. But in fact I initiated it nearly fifty years ago. When I was staying in Karnam Subbamma's house (in Puttaparthi) I used to sing a song: With Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema Carry on your life's journey, oh man; Karma Yoga is your bounden duty; Remembering the Lord is the great secret And Sadhana is the devotee's hallmark, Proceed, oh man, on your life's pilgrimage With Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 19, Chapter 5, March 9, 1986

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Raise the crop of Brahmananda in your hearts



Regard the heart as a vast field. Use the mind as a plough. Treat the gunas (qualities) as bullocks. Use the Viveka (intelligence) as a whip. With these aids, cultivate the field of your heart. What is the crop that is to be grown in it? Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema are the seeds, Bhakti is the rain, Dhyana is the manure, Brahmananda is the crop. This is your task today. Cultivate the heart to raise a harvest of Truth, Righteousness, Peace and Love. This crop has to be raised in your heart and should be shared with others. Our life is like a block of ice which is melting away every moment. Before it spends itself, devote it to the service of others. Education in Human Values is designed to prepare everyone for this life of dedicated service. There may be doubts regarding this programme. No room should be given for futile controversies. The Human Values should be regarded as basic requirements for every human being. In spreading the message of these values to the world, you should all cooperate with each other and act in harmony. Whatever may be the experience in everyday life, the basic inner Truth should not be forgotten. "The Reality is one, though it may be called by different names". You have now the Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, the Sathya Sai Bhajana mandali, the Sai Seva Dal, the Sathya Sai Study Circle, the Sathya Sai Mahila Vibhag and the Sathya Sai Education Foundation. All this may be district Organisations, but the basic for all of them is Sathya Sai. This should always be borne in mind.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 19, Chapter 5, March 9, 1986