

2. Money Comes And Goes; Morality Comes And Grows

Bharat (India) is the motherland of many noble souls who earned great name and fame in all the continents of the world.

This is the land of valorous people who vanquished the foreign rulers in the battlefield and attained independence.

This is the land that excelled in music, literature, and other fine arts.

Having been born in this great land of Bharat, oh, boys and girls, it is your sacred duty to protect its rich cultural heritage.

(Telugu poem)

Dear students!

Be prepared to uphold the honour and glory of this country of Bharat (India)! You are sure to come out victorious in this effort. Today, people are able to achieve great progress in secular and scientific fields, but they are unable to march forward in the field of spirituality. One has to progress in spirituality more than in other fields. People used to give great importance to progress in the spiritual arena in ancient times. In fact, it used to be the goal of their life. However, there is a decline in the spiritual outlook of people in recent times. In these days a lot of effort is made to achieve progress in secular, physical, and worldly matters. Whatever achievements made in these areas are only temporary and transitory; they are not permanent. While people are able to make giant strides in secular areas all over the world, there is decline in the importance given to spiritual and moral progress. This tendency is in sharp contrast to the culture of Bharat in ancient times.

This land of Bharat (India) has given birth to many noble women like

Savithri, who brought her dead husband back to life;

Chandramati, who extinguished wild fire with the power of truth;

Sita, who proved her chastity by coming out of blazing fire unscathed; and

Damayanti, who reduced an evil-minded hunter to ashes with the power of her chastity

This land of piety and nobility attained plenty and prosperity and

Became the teacher of all the nations of the world because of such women of chastity.

(Telugu poem)

Signs of Kali Age

Savithri, a great woman of chastity brought her deceased husband back to life by the power of her chastity. Such women brought great name and fame to the country of Bharat (India). Can you find parallels to her anywhere in this world? No doubt, whoever is born must die. But is there a woman in any country in the world who could bring her dead husband back to life except in Bharat? The whole world is falling to abysmal depth due to transgression of the righteous path, lack of character and bad behaviour.

Once, Arjuna was narrating to King Dharmaraja a few strange incidents he observed while going on a tour of the kingdom. A farmer reported to Arjuna, "Swami! Yesterday I left the implements in the field itself after ploughing, since it was getting dark. Today when I went to the field to pick up those implements, they are not to be found

there.” On another occasion he noticed some ladies putting locks to their houses and going out. On enquiry they informed him, “Swami! We wanted to go out on some work and unless we lock our houses, we will not be able to keep our belongings safe.” This was stunning news to Arjuna, since no house in the kingdom used to be locked in those days, unlike in present times, and people were able to move very freely without any worry. Later, when King Dharmaraja himself went on a stroll, he observed a lady talking to a man in public standing in the middle of the road. Such type of behaviour went against the custom prevailing in the country. Dharmaraja was taken aback at these developments and felt that the age of *Kali* (the age we are now in) had begun. He therefore decided that it was time for the Pandavas to leave for their heavenly abode. Ladies and gents engaging themselves in conversation in full view of the public was a taboo in those days.

Peace emanates from one’s heart

Bharat is a land where noble thoughts and feelings are cultivated right from childhood. In fact, Bharat (India) is the spiritual teacher for the entire world. Even now, you will find *Bharatiyas* (Indians) do not go astray in their behaviour, as is happening in some other countries in the world. They are decent and courteous in their behaviour at least in public. Even an aged son dare not talk to his mother standing in front of her. In the earlier days of Swami, the Raja of Venkatagiri used to visit Puttaparthi. He used to bring the heir apparent and his other son along with him. Before their departure, the sons took the blessings of their mother, who used to sit behind a screen and stretch her legs for her sons to offer their obeisance to her. Such were their noble feelings and exemplary character.

Today, you will find boys and girls moving together even in public places. If someone makes enquiries, they reply that so and so was their classmate. Such acts in the old days were considered highly improper. In fact, the term ‘classmate’ itself is a wrong expression. Do not use the word ‘classmate’. You should say ‘a fellow student in the class’. The rules of conduct in the earlier times were very strict. The situation has changed now. Boys and girls visit each other’s houses without any inhibition and even dine together. This is highly improper. Before doing such things, one has to ask oneself. “Am I a human being or an animal or a beast?” Animals have animal qualities. But you are a human being. Hence, you should possess human qualities. You say you are a human being. Therefore, you have to ask yourself, “Do I possess human qualities?”

What are those human qualities? Never hurt anyone. Do not speak harsh words against any individual. Have compassion and a charitable disposition. Only such a person can be said to be a human being. Truth (*sathya*), righteousness (*dharma*), peace (*santhi*), love (*prema*), and nonviolence (*ahimsa*) are the five qualities a human being should possess. Giving a go-bye to truth and righteousness, people pray for peace. Is it possible? Can anyone get peace outside? Peace is a state of mind that is very much inside one’s own self. It emanates from one’s heart. People are now searching for peace in the outside world.

Follow your inner voice; that is real education

There is reaction, resound, and reflection for everything in the world. Only when you develop the quality of hatred in yourself will you see hatred in others. Even when no one causes any harm to you, you try to hurt others. Whatever you do to others, surely you will experience the result of that action. Whatever you hear, whatever you experience, it is all due to the reaction, reflection, and resound of your own actions and feelings. Others are not responsible for it. You forget this simple truth and lament, “So and so is accusing me; so and so is causing pain to me; so and so is hurting me”, etc. No one is responsible for either your good or your bad. Neither is it God’s

creation; for, God is attributeless, unsullied, the final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free, and the embodiment of sacredness (God is *nirgunam, niranjanam, sanatana nicketanam, nitya, suddha, buddha, mukta, nirmala swarupinam*).

You go on fighting with others and try to hurt them. Then you are not a human being at all! Always help others; do not hurt anyone. “Help Ever, Hurt Never.” It is said,

“One attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them (*Paropakara punyaya, papaya parapeedanam*).”

“Whoever you salute, it reaches God (*Sarva jiva namaskaram Kesavam pratigachhati*).”

“Whoever you criticise, it reaches God (*Sarva jiva tiraskaram Kesavam pratigachhati*).”

You think you are accusing someone or making fun of someone. It is all your illusion. In fact, you are accusing yourself and making fun of yourself in the process. Everything has reaction, reflection, and resound. You yourself are responsible for either good or bad. If you wish to enjoy good things in life, do good to others in the first instance.

Today’s education is information-oriented. It is bookish knowledge. It is not real education. It is not the type of education that you should pursue. You have to pursue ‘educare’. Educare manifests in one’s own heart. Education relates to gathering information by reading several books and storing them in your brain. Whatever you remember out of that knowledge, you will reproduce in your examinations and acquire degrees. You call that education. That is not real education. You have to follow your inner voice. That is real education.

In the recent sports day, you played many games; you displayed beautiful gymnastic skills; you sang several songs. These are all activities relating to the body, which is the result of your past actions (*karmas*). However, do not repose absolute confidence in the physical body. The body is given to you for discharging your duty as a human being. Do not misuse your body. It is the responsibility of teachers, headmistresses, principals, vice chancellors, and chancellors to teach the students the value and purpose of human birth.

Treat your parents with love and respect

Your duty is to follow your conscience. Your conscience helps you manifest noble qualities. But you do not pay heed to the voice of your conscience and go against the human values. Hence, you should never ignore your conscience. Your conscience is your most valuable property. You do not have to repeat the name of the Lord, meditate, do yoga, etc. You will achieve a lot of progress in your spiritual exercises if you only listen to your inner voice. Whatever comes from the depth of your heart will do good for you. Whatever goes against the dictates of your conscience is worldly, whereas inner voice or conscience is spiritual. “Help Ever; Hurt Never,” is the cardinal principle of spirituality. Whoever follows the inner voice will always be safe. Never go against that inner voice. That is true spirituality.

Spirituality does not mean just conforming to worship and meditation. These practices have degenerated into several undesirable activities these days. The underlying principle and the purpose of these spiritual practices are totally forgotten. It is said, “Those are the noble ones whose thoughts, words, and deeds are in perfect harmony (*Manasyekam vachasyekam, karmanyekam mahatmanam*).” Unless there is perfect accord between your thoughts, words, and deeds you are not a human being at all!

You get very angry against someone and slap them. But think for a moment, for it is a great sin to hurt others. In the process, you are hurting not your enemy but God verily! All are divine. Hence, never hurt anyone. It is natural to help those who help you, but you should be able to help even those who harm you.

There is nothing great in helping
Those who have helped you.
He is a noble one who helps even
Those who have harmed him.
(Telugu poem)

It is only Sai in this world who helps even those who try to harm Him, ignoring their faults. I never mind the harm done to Me by others. We must always be calm, serene, and peaceful under all circumstances. If only you maintain the quality of peace, you can achieve anything in life. Wherever you see in the outside world, it is only pieces and pieces! Do not hurt the feelings of others, come what may. Always treat your parents with love and respect.

Money is not important; your mind is important

In fact, your parents are your first teachers. Respect them. Any amount of your good work by inconveniencing your parents is of no avail. That cannot be considered good work at all. Though it may appear to be yielding some benefits temporarily, the end result of all this work will turn out to be very bad. Hence, you must ensure that you do not cause any inconvenience or suffering to your parents. The more you inconvenience them the more you will suffer. With regard to charity, the more you give in charity to others, the more benefit you will receive later. Therefore, try to help others, always. Do any kind of selfless service which you are capable of. When you thus go on doing help to others, you will be progressing in the path of truth. As you travel in the path of truth, righteousness (*dharma*) will automatically follow. Where truth (*sathya*) and righteousness go together, peace (*santhi*) will reign there. Then love (*prema*) will follow. Where there is love, there cannot be hatred. You will not have enemies then. It is only when the spring of love gets dried up in your heart that you will try to cause suffering to others. Hence, develop love for all. Truth, righteousness, peace, love, and nonviolence (*ahimsa*) are human qualities.

Today, there is rampant violence everywhere in the world. People are afraid to stay alone even in their houses. Several changes are taking place all over the world. Earlier, the United States of America was considered to be a super power and a wealthy country. But now all that glory is gone. As a result, people who were going to their workplaces in cars earlier are now walking. We think money and wealth can do anything, but money is not important; your mind is important. If only you can control your mind, everything will turn out to be good for you.

Always remember society and its welfare

Dear students!

Whatever work you undertake, do it with a sense of dedication to God. “Do all actions to please God (*Sarva karma Bhagavad pretyartham*).” Always remind yourself that God is the doer and you are just an instrument in God’s hands. You can achieve anything in life only when there is the will of God. Perform your duty and remain a witness to all that goes in the world. It is said, “Any action resulting in the good of others is noble and should be followed (*Paropakarayaya punyaya papaya parapeedanam*).” Always follow the principles of, “Be good, do good, and see good.” Let your tongue speak only the truth. Let all your deeds be helpful to others. Whoever undertakes

service in society with such a motto will always be happy.

Pride, jealousy, etc, are all bad qualities. They drive away good qualities. They do harm to you as well as to society. Hence, be good and do good to others. If someone is in a difficult situation, go all out to help him even at the cost of your own work. This is the foremost duty of a human being. “Help Ever, Hurt Never” should be your motto. It is enough if you remember these two commands always. Do not cause harm even to your enemy. Hurt never. Do not cause even the slightest inconvenience to others. This is true education.

You make your parents suffer in the house, come to the office, and show your egoistic power on your subordinates and draw a huge salary for your so-called work and responsibility. This is a great mistake. As you go up in your career and life, your ego and jealousy must come down. Then only will you earn respect from one and all. Always remember society and its welfare. You are a member of society, so you have a social responsibility. You owe your very existence to society. Similarly, society is not separate from you. The individuals make up society. You and society are inseparable and mutually dependent. It is only when fellow members of the society prosper that you too will prosper.

Develop faith in your motherland

Dear students!

You all have done well in your studies, getting good marks and securing ranks. You brought good name to the Institution in the fields of education, sports, and cultural activities. Yesterday, you witnessed a play on Bhakta Potana. He did not feel bad, in spite of criticism and belittling from his brother-in-law, Srinatha, also a great poet. Since Potana was a great devotee of Rama and surrendered himself totally to the Lord, Rama Himself composed the great epic *Bhagavatham* on his behalf. Potana always believed that his poetry, his life, and even his very existence were all the gift of Lord Rama. He was a true devotee. When Potana was suffering from acute poverty and finding it very difficult to make both ends meet, his brother-in-law advised him to dedicate his works to the king and make a comfortable living with the money and jewelry gifted by the king. Potana refused to do so, saying that he would take refuge only in Lord Rama. Instead, he decided to live by cultivating his small piece of land.

One day, while Srinatha was going by the side of the fields in a palanquin, he saw his brother-in-law Potana working in his field. He derisively passed a comment on Potana addressing him as “*Haalika!*” meaning, ‘Oh farmer! Are you OK?’ Potana gave an apt reply saying, ‘What does it matter if I am a farmer? I feel it is better and nobler to make a living by farming than dedicating my poetry to earthly kings and living upon their charity. That gives me great satisfaction!’

The earth is the basis for all the objects and all activities in the world. Whoever reposes his faith in the land will never undergo any difficulties. Hence, I advise students to develop faith in their motherland and pursue their vocations in this great land of Bharat (India) itself, instead of dreaming to go to other countries like America and earn lakhs and lakhs of rupees. Earn name and fame in your motherland itself. Earning money is not something great. Even a beggar can earn a lot of money. “Money comes and goes; but morality comes and grows.” Cultivate that morality. Whoever has morality will never undergo any difficulty.

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The Lord is a wish-fulfilling tree (*kalpavriksha*); you have to approach Him and develop attachment to Him. You must win His grace and be ever near Him, keeping back all the forces that draw you away from Him. Even if you commit some technical faults in singing about Him or in worshipping Him, it does not matter. Devotion makes every error excusable.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

It requires all the strength one can collect to carry a load uphill. The gear and the accelerator have both to operate to haul a car up a steep hill. The guru who taught you cannot do anything to haul it; he can only guide. Control of the senses, changing the mode of life, the habits of thought have to be done by you. The senses say, "Why struggle? Eat, drink, and be merry while you can," but the guru says, "Death lands on you without notice; overcome its fear now, before he calls." "Now" is the true friend; "yesterday" has deceived you and gone; "tomorrow" is a doubtful visitor. "Today" is the fastest friend; hold fast to it."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba