

# Contents

Dharma Vahini	5
Publisher's Note	6
Editor's Note for this EBook Edition	7
PREFACE	8
Chapter I. What Is Dharma?	9
God is the embodiment of dharma	9
Dharma is misunderstood	9
Buddha and Sankara adhered to dharma	10
On the path of dharma	10
Symbolic meanings of spiritual terms and acts	11
Chapter II. Divine Versus Worldly Dharma	13
See the stone as God	13
Follow divine dharma and be free	13
Egotism based on the body is hell	15
True dharma is the fundamental basis	15
Chapter III. The Basic Flaw	17
Dharma and the Gita	17
The Atma has no form	18
Dharma is ...	19
Chapter IV. Masculine and Feminine Natures	20
The chief guides of living	20
Dharma for women	20
Chastity	21
Modesty	21
Woman: the prop of home and religion	22
Chapter V. Education for Women	24
Progress is based on proper education for women	24
Study and society not harmful in themselves	25
Adhere to the dictates of dharma	26
Chapter VI. Practise Dharma!	27
The protection of dharma	27
Falling into a-dharma	28
Follow dharma, as do the elements	29
Dharma for men	29
Chapter VII. Gayatri: Mother Of Mantras	30
The four duties of people	31
Cultivate the soul-force	32
The real meaning of Gayatri	32
Chapter VIII. The Householder Stage	34
All four stages lead to liberation	34
Adhere strictly to dharma	35
Harmony in the household	36
Chapter IX. All May Seek Spiritual Wisdom	37
Women may seek knowledge of Brahman	37

Practise the spiritual injunctions	38
Classification of the four ages (yugas)	39
Chapter X. The House of God	40
Functions of the temple	40
Devotion is the queen	40
Arousing feelings during worship	41
Temple rules should not conflict with highest conceptions of devotion	42
Chapter XI. Three Eras	44
The Vedic age	44
The Upanishadic Age	45
The Puranic age	45
Chapter XII. Temples	48
The temple is the heart of the village	48
The reason for the misery	49
Temples are invitations to and reminders of God	49
Seekers find temples indispensable	51
Chapter XIII. The Dharmic Person	52
Three stages to knowledge of dharma	52
Keep mind and conscience on the path	52
The discipline of truth (sathya)	53
The traits of the castes	54
Glossary	56

# **Dharma Vahini**

**(Stream of Righteousness)**

**by**

**Sathya Sai Baba**



**SRI SATHYA SAI SADHANA TRUST**

**Publications Division**

Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134

Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, India

STD: 08555 : ISD : 91-8555 Phone: 287375, Fax: 287236

Email: [enquiry@sssbpt.org](mailto:enquiry@sssbpt.org) URL [www.sssbpt.org](http://www.sssbpt.org)

© Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam P.O. 515 134, Anantapur District, A.P. (India.)

All Rights Reserved.

The copyright and the rights of translation in any language are reserved by the Publishers. No part, passage, text or photograph or Artwork of this book should be reproduced, transmitted or utilised, in original language or by translation, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photo copying, recording or by any information, storage and retrieval system except with the express and prior permission, in writing from the Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam (Andhra Pradesh) India - Pin Code 515 134, except for brief passages quoted in book review. This book can be exported from India only by the Publishers - Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam, India.

International Standard Book Number 81-7208-344-0: ISBN for this ebook edition will come later

First Edition: July 2010

Published by:

The Convener,

Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust,

Publications Division

Prasanthi Nilayam, Pincode 515 134, India

STD: 08555 ISD: 91-8555 Phone: 287375 Fax: 287236

## Publisher's Note

The first English edition of *Dharma Vahini* was a translation from Telugu by Prof. N. Kasturi. The present one is an attempt to improve upon the previous edition. Some grammatical errors and typos have been corrected, and some sentences have been modified to smooth and clarify the presentation — of course, without disturbing the original meaning. So also, long paragraphs have been split into two where it made sense and provided easier reading.

Sanskrit words have been replaced by their English equivalents, to make the *Dharma Vahini* more accessible to readers who do not know Sanskrit. All the same, the Sanskrit words have been retained in parentheses, following the English. At the same time Sanskrit words having no exact English equivalents are retained so as to keep the edition accurate. Some Sanskrit compounds have been hyphenated to aid those who like to analyse the meanings of the individual words.

It is a well known fact that several Sanskrit words have made their way into the English language and can be found in most dictionaries —e.g. *dharmā*, *guru*, *yoga*, and *moksha*. These words are mostly used without translation, although their meanings appear in the glossary at the end of the book.

Besides definition of Sanskrit words used in the *Dharma Vahini*, the glossary contains descriptions of the people and places mentioned.

In addition to Chapter headings on the title pages, a brief expansion of the same is given in the Table of Contents, with an Index appended to the text.

A larger format is another speciality of this edition. It is hoped that the computerized typesetting, using a larger size and a different font will provide more comfortable reading.

With these changes, the revised *Dharma Vahini* is being presented to the readers with the hope that it will benefit all earnest seekers in the spiritual realm.

Convener

Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

Prasanthi Nilayam Pin 515134, India.

## Editor's Note for this EBook Edition

This “ebook” version of *Dharma Vahini* enables the reading of *Dharma Vahini* on Ipads, Kindles, Nooks, and other electronic platforms. Now, the reader can choose the type face and the point size (based on the parameters given them by their electronic platform).

In addition, it is easy to access a Sanskrit word and many of the people mentioned in the discourses in the Glossary. When reading a page, press on a Sanskrit word or person and usually, but not always, the page shifts to the Glossary page where that word is defined or explained. Your electronic platform should have a button or arrow to press to get back to where you were reading. We hope that this “hypertext” feature will make it easier to use the Glossary.

This book represents one of our initial attempt into the EBook realm. It is preliminary, and there may be changes, based on what you, the reader, like or dislike about it. Because of this, the book does not yet have its own ISBN number—that is expected to come later. We expect to continue on this venture and publish EBook versions of all of Sai's discourses and *Vahinis*.

We look forward to hearing what you think of this ebook. Please email your opinions and constructive criticisms of this ebook to

[enquiry@sssbpt.org](mailto:enquiry@sssbpt.org)

## PREFACE

This little book contains the articles written by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the series *Dharma Vahini* for the *Sanathana Sarathi*, the monthly journal published from Prasanthi Nilayam. They are given here in English; but, it must be said that the original Telugu is simpler and sweeter. It is difficult to express in English the fundamental ideas of Indian culture, for English is strange to the translator and perhaps to many a reader; the English vocabulary does not offer satisfactory equivalents to many words that form the common currency of Indian languages. The reader will, therefore, pardon me for the alloy of abstruseness that might have come into the pure metal of Baba's Telugu clarity.

This must be said of this book: It is the authentic Voice of the Divine Phenomenon, that is setting right the moral codes and behaviour of millions of men and women today. So, it merits careful and devoted study. The Lord has declared that when ethical standards fall and man forgets or ignores His glorious destiny, He will Himself come down among men and guide humanity along the straight and sacred path. The Lord has come; He is guiding those who accept the guidance; He is calling on all who have strayed away to retrace their steps. Baba's love and wisdom know no bounds, His grace knows no obstacle. He is no hard taskmaster; His solicitude for our welfare and real progress is overwhelming.

May this book reveal to you the Mother's love that has made Baba write it, the Father's authority that backs every injunction therein, the Teacher's illumination that lights up every statement, and the Lord's sublime Universality, which invites you to expand your personality into a great Instrument of service.

N. Kasturi