

## Service Activities For Unity In Society

*If you lack pure mind and good character, how do you expect Sai, the bestower of peace, love, happiness and prosperity, to appreciate you? How do you expect Prema Sai to treat you as His own?*

(Telugu Poem)

**H**UMAN life is one of compassion; time is sacred; the heart is pure; and the mind is nectarous. Having been blessed with such a sacred human birth, what is man supposed to do? What is the foundation on which the mansion of life is to be built? Every man aspires for peace and happiness. How can one lead a peaceful life? It is possible only when he puts human values into practice. Human values need not be acquired from outside, they are latent in every man. If such values are forgotten how can man progress in life? In the first instance, man should enquire into the purpose of his birth.

## You Are Not Serving Others

Human life is based on *samata* (equality), *samaikyata* (unity), *saubhratrutvam* (fraternity) and *saujanya* (nobility). They constitute the very foundation of the mansion of life. Life will be meaningless even if one of them is absent. Everyone must cultivate and safeguard these four virtues. First of all, man should recognise the meaning of humanness. Truth fosters *neeti* (morality); *righteousness* confers *khyati* (reputation); *thyaga* (sacrifice) is the Jyoti (light) of life; *manava jathi* (human race) is the combination of these three — *neeti, khyati and jyoti*. But man today is neglecting the principles of truth, righteousness and sacrifice. He has to adhere to these principles not for the sake of society but for his own redemption. If you expect to be respected by all, you have to develop self-respect, which is the basis of human life. One who lacks self-respect cannot command respect from others. First and foremost, man should respect others and share his love with others wholeheartedly. This is the primary duty of man. Man is not merely a *vyashti jivi* (individual), he is a *samashti jivi* (part and parcel of society). *Vyashti* relates to *jivudu* (individual), *samashti* relates to *devudu* (God). Man has to travel from the level of individual to the level of society. What is the path prescribed for this? Firstly, man has to recognise the common principle of *jeevana jyoti* (light of life) that is present in all. The principle of *samatvam* (equality) can be experienced and practised only when man understands the principle of *ekatvam* (unity). The service activities that we undertake are meant to experience

unity in society. It is a great mistake if you think that you are serving others. In fact, you should not consider anybody as ‘other’, for all are the embodiments of divinity. But man is not making efforts to realise this truth. Hence, he is subjected to difficulties. Once man realises that God is all-pervasive, he will be free from suffering. In order to get rid of suffering, man has to practise the principle of unity in society. Once he understands the principle of unity, he can attain the Cosmic principle.

### **Give Up Body Attachment**

Every individual is endowed with a physical body. Nature is like a mirror. What you see in this mirror is only your reflection and nothing else. Today, man is leading a life of selfishness and self-interest. Selfishness is rampant in society. *Dehabhimanam* (body attachment) is on the rise and *deshabhimanam* (love for one’s motherland) is on the decline. Even spiritual aspirants and noble souls with pure hearts are unable to give up body attachment. So long as there is *dehaabhimanam*, man cannot develop *daivaabhimanam* (love for God).

*The body which is made up of five elements is weak and is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may leave his mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature.*

(Telugu Poem)

Body is given to you to know your true self. It is foolish to waste your time and energy in worldly pursuits. If you know your true self, you would have known everything else.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

All that you see in the external world, from microcosm to macrocosm, is present in you. The mountains, oceans, cities, villages, etc., are present in your heart. All beings are in you. You are the basis of everything. Such being the case, what is it that you want to see in the external world? How foolish it is on your part to get carried away by the reflection outside, ignoring the reality within!

### **Practise Human Values**

Know the human values in the first instance. The first among them is Truth. It is changeless and beyond time and space. There is nothing like American Truth, Russian Truth, Indian Truth or Pakistani Truth. Truth is one and the same for all countries at all times. You are the embodiment of Truth. Truth is God. So, make efforts to understand this Truth. *Sathyam bruyaaath, Priyam bhruyaaath, Na bhruyaaath sathyamapriyam* (speak the Truth, speak pleasantly and do not speak unpalatable truth). Having forgotten such eternal principle of Truth, man is in search of ephemeral things. Adherence to Truth is *neeti* which is nothing but proper conduct. *Sathyannasti paro dharmah* (there is no dharma greater than adherence to Truth). Sathya and dharma to-

gether will confer peace. One who adheres to Truth and righteousness will always remain peaceful. One need not search for peace outside. Where there is Truth, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is non-violence.

We call the human values as *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Santhi*, *Prema* and *Ahimsa* (Truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence). In fact, love is the fundamental basis for Truth and righteousness. Love is God, Truth is God, righteousness is God. One bereft of these principles is verily a living corpse. The five human values can be compared to five life principles (*prana*) present in us. If you do not speak truth, you would have lost one life principle. Unrighteous conduct amounts to losing the second life principle. Similarly, other life principles will be lost. Hence, all your efforts should be directed to safeguard these life principles, which are divine in nature.

There is divinity in humanity. Understand this. To-day every field of human activity is polluted. Once man purifies his heart, he will find purity everywhere. The world outside is just a reflection of your heart. If you fill your heart with love, you will experience love everywhere. If there is hatred in your heart, the same is reflected outside. Whatever you see, hear and experience outside is only the reflection, reaction and resound of your inner being. All the good and bad that you come across in the external world are just your own reflections. So, do not point an accusing finger at others. The whole world depends on man's behaviour. If man is good, the world will be. You think that

there is profanity all around you. It is a mistaken notion. In fact, the profanity in you is reflected outside. If your feelings are demonic, you will find the same all around you. If your feelings are divine, you will find divinity everywhere.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Your heart is full of love. The yearning for God that emanates from your heart is love. Let truth and righteousness be reflected in your word and deed, respectively. The harmony of truth, righteousness and love will lead to peace. Your breathing process – *Soham* is reminding you of your reality 21,600 times a day. Of what use is your education if you are unable to remember the truth that is taught to you so many times day in and day out. You may listen to any number of sermons, study any number of sacred texts, visit any number of noble souls, but all these will prove futile if you forget the principle of truth that your inner voice teaches.

Buddha renounced all the palatial comforts and took to *sanyasa* (renunciation). He wandered in the forests, listened to the teachings of noble souls and studied holy texts. But none of these could give him satisfaction. Ultimately, he realised that his heart is the true holy text given by God and God is his true friend. He discarded all books and stopped visiting noble souls. He turned inward and enquired into the truth. Ignoring the holy text (heart) and forgetting the true friend (God), man is going hither and thither in search of peace.

Firstly, make sacred use of the eyes given by God. Only then will your life be sanctified. He alone is a true human being who has a good mind and whose behaviour is exemplary. All your spiritual pursuits will be of little consequence if your vision is sullied. Your *nethra* (eye) is the *sastra* (scripture) given by God. Understand this *sastra* and conduct yourself accordingly. Once you have control over your vision, you will have control over your speech. Speak only truth, there is nothing greater than truth. *Samyak drishti* (pure vision) and *samyak vak* (pure speech) will lead to *samyak sravanam* (pure hearing) and *samyak bhaavam* (pure feeling). The youth in particular should exercise control over their vision. *Manava* (human being) becomes *Madhava* (God), once he understands the importance of human values and puts them into practice. The youth of today are the future emancipators of the country. So, they should develop steadiness of mind and self-confidence.

*Where there is confidence, there is love;*

*Where there is love, there is Truth;*

*Where there is Truth, there is peace;*

*Where there is peace, there is bliss;*

*Where there is bliss, there is God.*

Without confidence you can never attain divinity. Your confidence is your God. So, develop unwavering confidence in the self. Self-confidence and self-respect will lead to atmic bliss and the vision of the self. You are all seated in this magnificent hall with many supporting pillars. You are enjoying

its beauty. Without a strong foundation this hall would not have come into existence. Likewise, self-confidence is the foundation for the mansion of life. Once you have self-confidence, you can raise the walls of self-satisfaction over which you can lay the roof of self-sacrifice and lead a life of self-realisation. Hence, lay the foundation of self-confidence strong and sturdy.

### **Truth Is The Basis Of Every Culture**

The culture of Bharat proclaims *Sathyam vada dharmam chara* (speak truth, follow righteousness). Not only Indian culture, the culture of all countries proclaims the same truth. Truth is the basis of every culture. Do not give scope for any differences based on culture. The whole world is like a mansion and various countries are like different rooms in it. So, do not divide humanity based on nationality. It is because of such division that humanness is on the decline. Sai devotees should not entertain any such differences. All should stand united. Names, forms and complexions may be different but humanity is one race. God is one. All human beings belong to one family.

*Cows are many, but milk is one.*

*Beings are many, but indweller is one.*

*Castes are many, but humanity is one.*

*Flowers are many, but worship is one.*

*Paths are many, but God is one.*

Hence, you should give up all the differences based on caste, religion and nationality and develop the spirit of



love. Young men and women should work for the progress of the country. The country will prosper only when the youth develop sound character. Human life is based on character. Today there are many who are heroes in precept and zeroes in practice. Your actions should be in harmony with your words. Develop sacred feelings. Only then can you perform sacred activities. Devotion does not mean merely performing rituals like worship. Any work done with pure and selfless love is devotion.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Right from this day, let your lives be suffused with love. Let your hands undertake deeds that are beneficial to society at large. Let your thoughts be centred on the principle of love. You should rise from the level of *vyashti* (individual) to *samashti* (society) and ultimately merge in *parameshti* (God). In this physical and ephemeral world, wherever you see there is only restlessness. At times your physical body may be subjected to diseases. You should not be unduly perturbed. Body comes and goes.

*This body is a storehouse of dirt, and prone to diseases; it cannot cross the ocean of Samsara. Oh mind! Do not be under the delusion that body is permanent. Instead take refuge at the Divine Lotus Feet. (Telugu Poem)*

### **Greatness Lies In Practice, Not Preaching**

One should not be unduly attached to the physical body, but it has to be taken care of properly. Sometimes

you are afflicted with diseases because of negligence on your part. I take the sufferings of devotees because of My love for them. It disappears in the same way as it appears. Here is a small example. A young boy was suffering a great deal because of mumps (swollen cheek). The doctor said that it would take a minimum of 20 to 25 days to get cured. He was crying bitterly unable to bear the severe pain. I called him inside and consoled him saying, "When Swami is with you, why do you cry?" I materialised a sweet for him and made him eat. I took his pain upon Myself. For any other person, the pain would have been unbearable. Srinivasan was very worried about conducting this conference, when Swami was undergoing so much pain. As the swelling was between the two jaws, it was not possible to eat or speak. What does it matter if the body is not given food for a few days? Hence, I did not care for it. I told the organisers to go ahead with the conference. He asked, "Swami, how are you going to deliver the inaugural address?" I said, "I feel the pain if I think that this is My body. But this is not My body, it is yours." All your bodies are Mine. Hence, I take your suffering upon Myself. That is My duty. **This** is not My body, so I do not care for it. Not only now, at any point of time, I do not care for any suffering. I practise whatever I preach. That is why I say, *My life is My message*. It is not possible for all to understand and realise My Divinity. I do not want to say it in public. I do not indulge in advertisement. All that is Mine is yours and vice-versa. I have no desires at all. All My desires are meant

to give you happiness. Greatness does not lie in preaching, it lies in practice. A true acharya (preceptor) is one who practises and then preaches. That is what I am doing.

*Youngsters – Men and Women!*

Understand your true nature. Follow the path of Truth. *Sathyam* (Truth) is the name of **this body**. Develop this Truth in you. *Truth is God, Love is God; live in love.* When you follow the path of truth and love, you will certainly attain bliss. Some people put the blame on Me ignoring their own defects. It is a great mistake. There are no defects in Me whatsoever. I am like a pure mirror. There is no scope for even a trace of impurity in Me. You see the reflection of your own feelings in Me. Purify your hearts. Only then can you understand the truth.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Today we have inaugurated this Conference. Many more programmes are to follow. Hence, I bring My discourse to a close in order to give sufficient time for other programmes. I am prepared to spend any length of time to give you necessary guidelines.

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