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Beautiful thought provoking collections of Swami's messages

By Sai brother John Dymond, Southampton, England. UK.

AWAKE! AWAKE! AWAKE!

My Dear Children,

There is no longer time for slumber. You have been asleep and dreaming for thousands of lifetimes. If you do not awaken now, this chance may not come again for thousands more.

Come with Me. Separation is no longer the order of the day. I separated Myself from Myself, so that I could love Myself more. The experience is finished. I want all Myselfs to return and merge into Me, the one self.

I gave many of you the advantage of an unhappy childhood, including conflict or separation from your mother or father. In doing this I removed from you the temptation to become attached to human parents or a specific family situation. That left you with only one option - that is to attach yourself to Me.

Why do you not avail yourself of this opportunity instead of continually seeking those relationships, which can never satisfy you? Even if your childhood had been idyllic, as you would have liked, it is not even the love of this form that you long for. Your deepest innermost urge is to return to yourself - to love yourself - to become the Being, Awareness, Bliss which is all you will ever be.

Let go of the past. Stop trying to get from each other what you still think you missed in childhood or marriage. You will never find anyone who is enough. Not even Me. Love yourself, know yourself, be yourself. Only you will be enough. Can you not love yourself because I love over and over again? Did I not virtually move heaven and earth to bring you to Me?

I have asked all My devotees to repeat the mantra,

" I AM GOD, I AM NOT DIFFERENT FROM GOD"

Now I ask you to specifically follow that instruction. It will be more helpful than anything you can do. Now remember that I love you, and as I do, Love yourself.

With Love and Blessings Baba.



WHY I AM HERE

For the protection of the virtuous, for the destruction of evil-doers and for establishing righteousness on a firm footing, I incarnate from age to age. Whenever asanthi, or disharmony, overwhelms the world, the Lord will incarnate in human form to establish the modes of earning Prashanthi, or peace, and to re-educate the human community in the paths of peace. At the present time, strife and discord have robbed peace and unity from the family, the school, the society, the religions, the cities and the state.

The arrival of the Lord is also anxiously awaited by saints and sages. Sadhus (spiritual aspirants) prayed and I have come. My main tasks are fostering of the Vedas (Hindu scriptures) and fostering of the devotees.

Your virtue, your self-control, your detachment, your faith, your steadfastness - these are the signs by which people read of my glory.

You can lay claim to be My devotee only when you have placed yourself in My hands fully and completely with no trace of ego. The Avatar behaves in a human way so that mankind can feel kinship, but rises into his superhuman heights so that mankind can aspire to reach the heights and through that aspiration can actually reach Him.

Realizing the Lord within you as the motivator is the task for which He comes in human form. Avatars like Rama and Krishna had to kill one or more individuals who could be identified as enemies of the dharmic way of life and thus restore the practice of virtue. But now there is no one fully good. And so who deserves the protection of God? All are tainted by wickedness, and so who will survive if the avatar decides to uproot? Therefore, I have come to correct the `Buddhi', the intelligence, by various means. I have to counsel, help, command, condemn, and stand by as a friend and well wisher to all, so that they may give up evil propensities and, recognize the straight path, tread it and reach the goal. I have to reveal to the people the worth of the Vedas, the Shastras, and other spiritual texts, which lay down the norms. If you accept Me, and say "Yes", I, too, respond

and say, "Yes, yes, yes." If you deny and say "No", I also echo "No". Come, examine, experience, have faith. That is the method of utilizing Me.

I do not mention about Sai Baba in any of My discourses. Though I bear the name as Avatar of Sai Baba, I do not appreciate in the least the distinction between the various appearances of God - Sai, Rama, Krishna, etc. I do not proclaim that this is more important or that the other is less important. Continue your worship of your chosen God along the lines already familiar to you. Then you will find that you are coming nearer and nearer to Me, for all names are Mine and all forms are Mine. There is no need to change your chosen God and adopt a new one when you have seen Me and heard Me.

Every step in the career of the Avatar is pre-determined. Rama came to feed the roots of Sathya, or truth, and Dharma, or righteousness. Krishna came to foster Shanti, or peace, and Prema, love. Now all these four are in danger of being dried up. That is why the present Avatar has come. The Dharma that has fled to forests has to be led back into the villages and towns. The anti-dharma that is ruining the villages and towns has to be driven back into the jungle.

I have come to give you the key of the treasure of ananda, or bliss, to teach you how to tap that spring, for you have forgotten the way to blessedness. If you waste this time of saving yourselves, it is just your fate. You have come to get from me tinsel and trash, the petty little cures and promotions, worldly joys and comforts. Very few of you desire to get from me the thing that I have come to give you: namely, liberation itself. Even among these few, those who stick to the path of sadhana, or spiritual practice, and succeed are a handful.

Your worldly intelligence cannot fathom the ways of God. He cannot be recognized by mere cleverness of intelligence. You may benefit from God, but you cannot explain Him. Your explanations are merely guesses, attempts to cloak your ignorance in pompous expressions. Bring something into your daily practice as evidence of your having known the secret of the higher life from me. Show that you have greater brotherliness. Speak with more sweetness and self-control. Bear defeat as well as victory with calm resignation, I am always aware of the future and the past, as well as the present, of every one of you, so I am not so moved by mercy. Since I know the past, the background, the reaction is different. It is your consequence of evil deliberately done in the previous birth, and so I allow your suffering to continue, often modified by some little compensation. I do not cause either joy or grief. You are the designer of both these chains that bind you. I am Anandaswarupa (the embodiment of bliss). Come, take ananda (bliss) from me, dwell on that ananda and be full of Shanti (peace).

My acts are the foundations on which I am building my work, the task for which I have come. All the miraculous acts, which you observe, are to be interpreted so. The foundation for a dam requires a variety of materials. Without these it will not last and hold back the waters. An incarnation of the Lord has to be used in various ways by man for his uplift.

The Lord has no intention to publicize Himself. I do not need publicity, nor does any other Avatar of the Lord. What are you daring to publicize? Me? What do you know about me? You speak one thing about me today and another tomorrow. Your faith has not become unshakable. You praise me when things go well, and blame me when things go wrong. When you start publicity you descend to the level of those who compete in collecting plenty by decrying others and extolling themselves.

Where money is calculated, garnered or exhibited to demonstrate one's achievements, I will not be present. I come only where sincerity and faith and surrender are valued. Only inferior minds will revel in publicity and self-aggrandizement. These have no relevance in the case of Avatars. Avatars need no advertisement.



The establishment of dharma (righteousness): that is my aim. The teaching of dharma, the spread of dharma: that is my object. These miracles as you call them are just a means toward that end. Some of you remark that Ramakrishna Paramahansa (an Indian saint) said that Siddhis or yogic powers are obstructions in the path of the Sadhaka (spiritual aspirant). Yes, Siddhis may lead the Sadhaka, the spiritual aspirant, astray. Without being involved in them he has to keep straight on. His ego will bring him down if he yields to the temptation of demonstrating his yogic powers. That is the correct advice, which every aspirant should heed. But the mistake lies in equating me with a sadhaka, like the one whom Ramakrishna wanted to help, guide and warn. These Siddhis or yogic powers are just in the nature of the Avatar - the creation of things with intent to protect and give joy, is spontaneous and lasting. Creation, preservation and dissolution can be accomplished only by the Almighty... no one else can.

Cynics carp without knowledge. If they learn the Sastras or scriptures, or if they cultivate direct experience, they can understand me. Your innate laziness prevents you from the spiritual exercises necessary to discover the nature of God. This laziness should go. It has to be driven out of man's nature in whatever shape it appears. That is my mission. My task is not merely to cure and console and remove individual misery, but is something far more important. The removal of misery and distress is incidental to my mission. My main task is the re-establishment of the Vedas and Sastras (spiritual scriptures), and revealing the knowledge about them to all people.

This task will succeed. It will not be limited. It will not be slowed down. When the Lord decides and wills, His Divine Will cannot be hindered.

You must have heard people say that mine is all magic. But the manifestation of divine power must not be interpreted in terms of magic. Magicians play their tricks for earning their maintenance, worldly fame and wealth. They are based on falsehood and they thrive on deceit, but this body could never stoop to such a low level. This body has come through the Lord's resolve to come. That resolve is intended to uphold satya, or truth. Divine resolve is always true resolve. Remember there is nothing that divine power cannot accomplish. It can transmute earth into sky and sky into earth. To doubt this is to prove that you are too weak to grasp great things, the grandeur of the universe.

I have come to instruct all in the essence of the Vedas, to shower on all this precious gift, to protect the sanathana dharma, the ancient wisdom, and preserve it. My mission is to spread happiness, and so I am always ready to come among you not once, but twice or thrice -- as often as you want me. Many of you probably think that since people from all parts of India, and even foreign countries outside India, come to Puttaparthi, they must be pouring their contributions into the coffers of the Nilayam (Prashanthi Nilayam: name of Sai Baba's ashram). But let me declare the truth. I do not take anything from anyone except their love and devotion. This has been my consistent practice for the last many years. People who come here are giving me just the wealth of faith, devotion and love. That is all.

Many of you come to me with problems of health and mental worry of one sort or another. They are mere baits by which you have been brought here. But the main purpose is that you may have grace and strengthen your faith in the divine. Problems and worries are really to be welcomed as they teach you the lessons of humility and reverence. Running after external things produces all this discontent. That type of desire has no end. Once you have become a slave to the senses, they will not leave hold until you are dead. It is an unquenchable thirst. But I call you to me and even grant worldly boons so that you may turn Godward. No Avatar has done like this before, going among the masses, counseling them, guiding them, consoling them, uplifting them and directing them along the path of Sathya, Dharma, Shanthi and Prema (truth, righteousness, peace and love).

My activities and movements will never be altered, whoever may pass whatever opinion on them. I shall not modify my plans for Dharmasthapana (the establishment of righteousness), my discourses or my movements. I have stuck to this determination for many years and I am engaged in the task for which I have come: that is, to inculcate faith in the path of Prashanthi (the highest spiritual peace). I shall not stop nor retract a step.

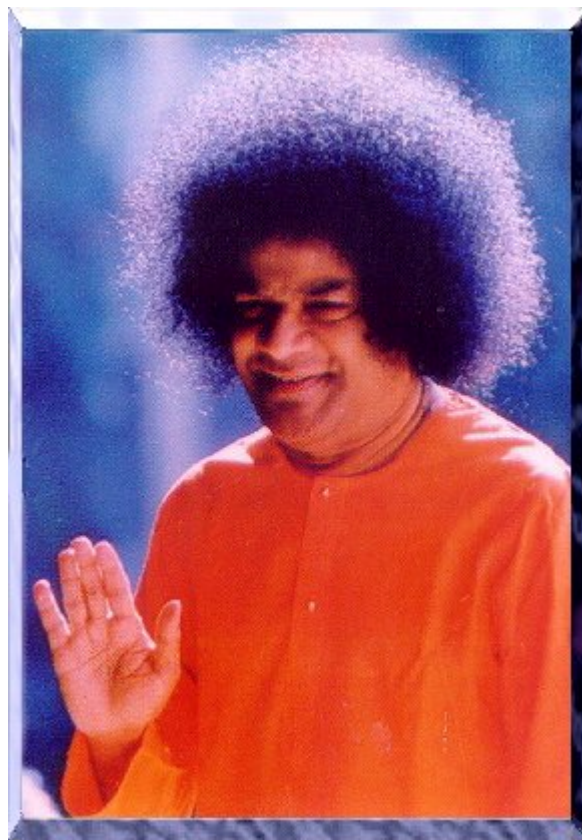
Not even the biggest scientist can understand me by means of his laboratory knowledge. I am always full of bliss. Whatever may happen, nothing can come in the way of my smile. That is why I am able to impart joy to you and make your burden lighter. I never exult when I am extolled, nor shrink when I am reviled. Few have realized my purpose and significance, but I am not worried. When things that are not in me are attributed to me, why should I

worry? When things that are in me are mentioned, why should I exult? For me it is always, "Yes, yes, yes." If you give all and surrender to the Lord, he will guard and guide you. The Lord has come for just this task. He is declaring that He will do so, and that it is the very task that has brought Him here. I know the agitations of your heart and its aspirations, but you do not know my heart. I react to the pain that you undergo and to the joy that you feel, for I am in your heart. I am the dweller in the temple of every heart. Do not lose contact and company, for it is only when the coal is in contact with the live embers that it can also become a live ember.

Cultivate a nearness with me in the heart and it will be rewarded. Then you too will acquire a fraction of that supreme love. This is a great chance. Be confident that you will be liberated. Know that you are saved. Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that life will be happy for all and full of joy, and that the Golden Age will recur. Let me assure you that this dharmaswarupa, this divine body, has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity.

43rd Birthday Discourse, 23 November 1968.

(HMAP, 89-96. Transcribed by Madhav Naik.)



WHO IS SAI

God is inscrutable. He cannot be realised in the outer objective world; He is in the very heart of every being. Gemstones have to be sought deep underground; they do not float in mid-air. Seek God in the depths of yourself, not in tantalising, kaleidoscopic Nature. The body is granted to you for this high purpose; but you are now misusing it, like the person who

cooked his daily food in the gem-studded gold vase that came into his hands as an heirloom.

Man extols God as omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent, but, he ignores His Presence in himself! Of course, many venture to describe the attributes of God and proclaim Him to be such and such; but, these are but their own guesses and the reflections of their own predilections and preferences.

Who can affirm that God is this or thus? Who can affirm that God is not of this form or with this attribute? Each one can acquire from the vast expanse of the ocean only as much as can be contained in the vessel he carries to its shore. From that quantity, they can grasp but little of that immensity.

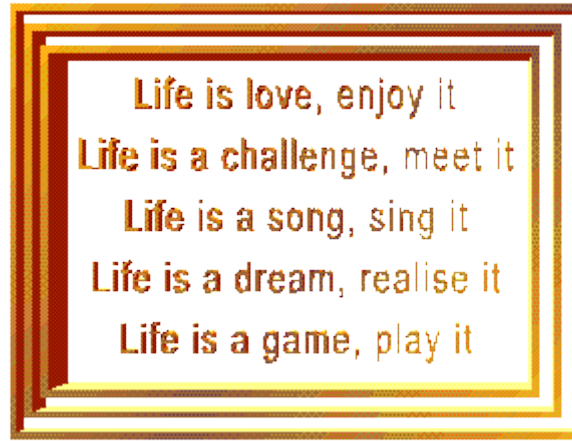
Each religion defines God within the limits it demarcates and then claims to have grasped Him. Like the seven blind men who spoke of the elephant as a pillar, a fan, a rope or a wall, because they contacted but a part and could not comprehend the entire animal, so too, religions speak of a part and assert that its vision is full and total.

Each religion forgets that God is all Forms and all Names, all attributes and all assertions. The Religion of Humanity is the sum and substance of all these partial faiths; for, there is only one Religion and that is the Religion of Love. The various limbs of the elephant that seemed separate and distinct to the eye-less seekers of its truth were all fostered and activated by one single stream of blood; the various religions and faiths that feel separate and distinct are all fostered by a single stream of Love.

The optical sense cannot visualise the Truth. It gives only false and fogged information. For example, there are many who observe my actions and start declaring that my nature is such and such. They are unable to gauge the sanctity, the majesty and the eternal reality that is Me. The power of Sai is limitless; It manifests for ever. All forms of 'power' are resident in this Sai palm.

But those who profess to have understood Me, the scholars, the Yogis, the Pundits, the Jnanis, all of them are aware only of the least important, the casual external manifestation of an infinitesimal part of that power, namely, the "miracles"! They have not desired to contact the Source of all Power and all Wisdom that is available here at Brindavan. They are satisfied when they secure a chance to exhibit their book learning and parade their scholarship in Vedic Lore, not realising that the Person from whom the Vedas emanated is in the midst, for their sake. They even ask, in their pride, for a few more chances!

This has been the case, in all ages. People may be very near (physically) to the Avatar, but, they live out their lives unaware of their fortune; they exaggerate the role of miracles, which are as trivial, when compared to My glory and majesty, as a mosquito is in size and strength to the elephant upon which it squats. Therefore, when you speak about these 'miracles,' I laugh within myself out of pity, that you allow yourself so easily to lose the precious awareness of My Reality.



My power is immeasurable; My truth is inexplicable, unfathomable. I am announcing this about Me, for, the need has arisen. But, what I am doing now is only the gift of a 'Visiting Card!' Let Me tell you that emphatic declarations of the Truth by Avatars were made so clearly and so unmistakably only by Krishna. In spite of the declaration, you will notice in the career of the same Krishna that He underwent defeat in His efforts and endeavors, on a few occasions; you must also note that those defeats too were part of the drama which He had planned and which He Himself directed. For example, when many Kings pleaded with Him to avert the war with the Kauravas, He confessed that His Mission to the Kauravas Court for ensuring peace had 'failed'! But, He had not willed that it should succeed! He had decided that war would be waged! His Mission was intended to publish the greed and iniquity of the Kauravas and to condemn them before the whole world.

Now, I must tell you, that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for even such 'drama' with scenes of failures and defeats! What I will, MUST take place; what I plan MUST succeed. I am Truth; and Truth has no need to hesitate, or fear, or bend.

'Will-ing' is superfluous for Me. For, My Grace is ever available to devotees who have steady Love and Faith. Since I move freely among them, talking and singing, even intellectuals are unable to grasp My Truth, My Power, My Glory, or My real Task as Avatar. I can solve any problem however knotty. I am beyond the reach of the most intensive enquiry and the most meticulous measurement. Only those who have recognised My Love and experienced that Love, can assert that they have glimpsed My Reality. For, the Path of Love is the Royal Road that leads mankind to Me.

Do not attempt to know Me through the external eyes. When you go to a temple and stand before the Image of God, you pray with closed eyes, don't you? Why? Because you feel that the Inner Eye of Wisdom alone can reveal Him to you. Therefore, do not crave from me trivial material objects; but, crave for Me, and you will be rewarded. Not that you should not receive whatever objects I give as sign of Grace out of the fullness of Love.

I shall tell you why I give these rings, talismans, rosaries etc. It is to signalize the bond between Me and those to whom they are given. When calamity befalls them, the article comes to Me in a flash and returns in a flash

taking from Me the remedial Grace of protection. That Grace is available to all who call on Me in any Name or Form, not merely to those who wear these gifts. Love is the bond that wins Grace.

Consider the meaning of the name, Sai Baba. Sa means 'Divine'; ai or ayi means 'mother' and Baba means Father. The Name indicates the Divine Mother and Father, just as Saambasiva, which also means the Divine Mother and Father (Sa-amba-siva). Your physical parents exhibit Love with a dose of selfishness; but, this Sai "Mother and Father" showers affection or reprimands, only for leading you towards victory in the struggle for self-realisation.

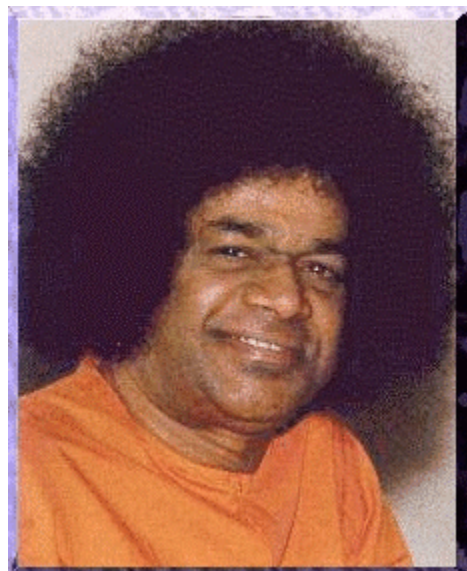
For this Sai has come in order to achieve the supreme task of uniting the entire mankind, as one family through the bond of brotherhood, of affirming and illumining the Atmic Reality of each being in order to reveal the Divine which is the Basis on which the entire Cosmos rests, and of instructing all to recognise the common Divine Heritage that binds man to man, so that man can rid himself of the animal, and rise into the Divine which is his goal.

I am the embodiment of Love; Love is My Instrument. There is no creature without Love; the lowest loves itself, at least. And its self is God. So there are no atheists, though some might dislike Him or refuse Him, as malarial patients dislike sweets or diabetic patients refuse to have anything to do with sweets! Those who preen themselves as atheists will one day, when their illness is gone, relish God and revere Him.

I had to tell you so much about My Truth, for, I desire that you should contemplate on this and derive joy therefrom, so that you may be inspired to observe the disciplines laid down by Me and progress towards the Goal of Self-realisation, the Realisation of the Sai that shines in your hearts.

Brindavan, 9 June 1974.

(SSS, IX, 82-85. Transcribed by Dr. John Wilson.)



THIS IS THE ANSWER

Why does the sun rise and set every day without delay or disruption? Why do the stars that light the sky to the delight of all eyes hide their splendid faces when the day dawns, and never even slyly peer [out] to tell us where they are? Why does air always be around, giving us the breath of life? Why do these streams and rivers roar, murmur, giggle and gossip over rock, pebble and sand, as they meander along towards the parent sea? How is it that billions that constitute mankind, though they are caskets treasuring images of the same Entity, remain distinct from each other in appearance, achievement, aspiration and attitude? This is the answer. Know that I am the One who has ordained that these be such and shall behave so.

(Sathyam, IV, 117-8.)