

1. The Power of Divine Love

STUDENTS! To see an effulgent light you do not need another lamp. Likewise to know the self-luminous *Aathmik* Knowledge there is no need for any other knowledge. Every human being has in him the knowledge of his true form. Owing to his failure to know this stupendous fact, man pursues all kinds of worldly knowledge.

All the diversity you see in creation is a manifestation of the Indivisible One. The cause is the same for both differences and oneness. All the changing entities are based upon the One that is unchanging.

Creation has to be viewed as a Cosmic Stage. God is the director and *dramatis personae* in this play. He assigns all the roles of the characters in the play. All creatures in the world are manifestations of the Divine. The good and evil in the world are expressions of the Divine consciousness. Man should not be misled by these expressions. Behind all the various actions of the actors, the Divine director is at work. It should be realised that though names and forms may vary, languages and nationalities may be different, the human race is one in its divine essence. All are sparks of the Divine. The Lord declared in the Geetha: "All beings in the world of the living are aspects of my Eternal Self."

Manifest God's love

God is the embodiment of Love. Love is His nature. His love pervades the cosmos. This love is present in one and all. Just as God manifests His love in the world, everyone should manifest his love.

Prema (Love) has been described as beyond speech and mind, It is said to be *Anirvachaneeyam* (indescribable). This love cannot be got through scholarship, wealth, or physical powers. God, who is the embodiment of love, can be attained only through love, just as the effulgent Sun can be seen only through its own light.

There is nothing more precious in this world than Divine love. God is beyond all attributes. Hence His love also is beyond *attributes---Gunaatheetha*. But, human love, because it is governed by *Gunas* (attributes), results in attachment and aversion. Love should not be based on expectations of a reward or return. Love based on such expectations makes it a business deal. Love is not an article of commerce. It is not like a loan and getting it back. It is a spontaneous offering. Pure love of this kind can emanate only from a pure heart.

Prema should be like a mariner's compass. Wherever the compass may be placed, the needle will point only to the north. Likewise, man's love, in all circumstances, should be directed towards God. That alone is true love. It should be unaffected by pleasure or pain. It makes no difference between "mine" and "thine." Love has to be acquired only through love and not by any other means whatsoever.

No one can describe the nature of Divine love. It is beyond the reach of poets. The one who is immersed in the waters of Divine Love will be unable to speak to anyone. When he is only upto neck-deep in the water he may be able to say a few words.

Those who speak about God in the world do so only from superficial experience, but those who are wholly saturated with God's love will find no words to describe their bliss. That is why the *Vedhas* declared that the Divine is beyond the reach of the mind and speech.

Transcendental love

Divine love transcends the three qualities of *Sathva*; *Rajas* and *Thamas*. It is beyond the dullness of *Thamas*, the passionate form of *Rajas* and the coolness of *Sathva*. God's love is pure, unsullied and utterly selfless. Everyone should make an all-out effort to experience this love.

The ancient sages identified this Love with the *Aathma* (Supreme Self). The Self and Love are not different from each other. The Self is love and love is Self.

In every human being this love is present. But, not recognising this, man is a prey to greed, hatred, pride and envy, Man can get rid of these evil traits only by developing the Love principle that is inherent in him.

Love is present not only in human beings, but also in all creatures, birds or beasts. Nor is that all. It is in fact all-pervasive. Love pervades everything in creation. Man's humanness is vitiated when he fails to recognise this love.

Today men worship wealth and power, which are transient and ephemeral. They must fill their hearts with love, which is greater than all the wealth of the world. What use is there in imparting knowledge to those who have no love in their hearts?

It is not got by education,

Nor by knowing the rules of logic,

Nor by secular studies,

Nor by professing any religion,

Nor by Vedhik speculation.

It is present only

In a heart filled with compassion.

Every man should have a compassionate heart. Without compassion, all wealth or scholarship is of no use.

Acquire Divine Love

Students! You may seek various positions in life. You may desire to earn wealth. But Divine love, which is the source of everything, should be acquired first. Grasp the significance of this truth. Everyone should experience and manifest this love. Men today have become playthings in the hands of demonic forces like egoistic pride, envy and ostentation. Can they be called human at all?

People talk about *Bhakthi*, *Yoga* and *Jnaana*. What do they mean by these terms? Does *Bhakthi* mean getting involved in *bhajans* and enjoying the tune and beat of the songs? Does *Yoga* mean sitting in a corner and exercising breath control? Does *Jnaana* consist in reading some books and getting by rote a few *shlokas*? What is *Sanyaasa*? Is it wearing the ochre robe? *Bhakthi* (true devotion) means getting rid of the vices of attachment, hatred and envy and manifesting pure love. Anyone who loves pomp, who is filled with pride and is consumed by envy cannot be a devotee by any test. Devotion will go nowhere near him. The devotee has to overcome hatred, envy and attachment and experience the peace and bliss of love. That devotee will then acquire the attributes of the Divine.

Yoga, Jnaana and Sanyaasa

As regards *Yoga*, people speak about *Hatha Yoga*, *Kriya Yoga*, Transcendental Meditation and some new-fangled ideas. All these are not *Yoga*. "*Yoga* is control of the vagaries of the mind." True *yoga* is control of the senses. One should treat alike both praise and censure, pleasure and pain. This kind of self-restraint is *yoga*.

What is *Jnaana*? "*Adhvaitha dharshanam Jnaanam*" (To see the One without a second is the supreme knowledge). To recognise the *Ekaathma-bhaava* (the same *Aathma* dwells in all beings) is true knowledge.

True *sanyaasa* (renunciation) consists in the transformation of one's qualities and not in a change of garb. The mind must change, not the apparel. A true *sanyaasi* (renunciant) is one who has mastery over all his senses and has given up all desires. *Sanyaasis* today have more desires than householders. Why have these desires? For whose sake? Not for the sake of the body, which is a perishable leather bag filled with nine holes. He is a *sanyaasi* who seeks the feet of the Lord, giving up all attachments to the body, which is subject to disease and decay. He must treat life and death, pleasure and pain alike.

Students, however, should learn to lead ideal lives even in the mundane world in which they have to get on in life. Most of them, boys and girls, are carried away by the attractions of the phenomenal world and go after worldly comfort. While utilizing their education for earning a decent living, they should share the fruits of their knowledge with others. Education should inculcate in them good thoughts, good character, truthfulness, devotion, discipline and dedication to duty.

Jnaana cannot be secured without Bhakthi

Aadhi Shankara proclaimed the supremacy of the path of knowledge for the realisation of the Self. In his "*Aanandhalahari*" he declared that *Aanandha* (Bliss) is man's goal and it can be secured only by God's grace. He firmly asserted that *Brahman* alone is real and there is no second. Even for such a staunch exponent of Monism, devotion became necessary. Without cultivating devotion, *Jnaana* (Knowledge of the Divine) cannot be secured.

What is the cause of the erosion of wisdom among the people today? It is the sway of bad thoughts and evil impulses over-them. Capping all these bad qualities is egoism. The individual human being is such a pitifully petty creature in this vast cosmos that he has no basis at all for getting conceited. Egoism is demonic quality. Those who are proud about their wealth or power should realise that both these are maladies presaging ruin.

Learn to give respect and receive respect. This is the first lesson students have to learn. When you revere and love others, they will also love and respect you. Practise humility and reverence, which are the hallmarks of true scholarship.

Students! By your conduct you have to demonstrate the basic difference between the Sathya Sai Institute and all other universities in the world. The teachers should also set the example in this respect. If the teachers and higher authorities go astray, how can the students be expected to behave properly? All teachers and administrative officials should act in harmony and unity. Without unity and cooperation, they are no better than wandering buffaloes.

Students! The first and foremost thing you have to observe is respectfulness. This is the essence of education. Cultivate reverence and behave without pride and ostentation. Give no room for

jealousy. Do not feel envious when some one is better than you in scoring marks or in sports. Even if you live for only three days, you should lead ideal lives. Better be a swan for a brief while than live long like a crow.

Today is a sacred festival day. It is a day for the celebration of plenty and prosperity. This day of Sankraanthi brings with it an abundance of crops and wealth. This *Pushya* month brings with it a cool breeze, a bright sun, golden fields and trees echoing the songs of birds. The earth shines in the glory of Nature.

People admire the beauty of Nature, but are not aware of the beauty in their hearts. Make your heart beautiful by adorning it with the sacred love of God.

Spread the Lord's name

Students! Members of this august gathering! From today harness the enthusiasm of youth for carrying to every street and alley, the glory of the Lord's name! The entire atmosphere is surcharged with electro-magnetic waves. Because of the pollution of these waves, the hearts of human beings also get polluted. To purify this atmosphere, you have to chant the Lord's name and sanctify the radio waves. There is pollution in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we consume. Our entire life has been polluted. All this has to be purified by suffusing the atmosphere with the Divine name. Chant the name with joy in your hearts.

Discourse in the Puurnachandhra Auditorium on the morning of 14-1-1995.

Sugar-dolls are valued for the sugar, not the shapes they are given by the manufactures. Their sweetness makes men purchase them. Elephant, dog, cat, rat, jackal or lion -- it does not matter. That is a matter of individual fancy. Each is sweet, that is the essential thing. The sweetness draws Maanavas (human beings) towards Maadhava; the Pravritthi (deed) towards Nivritthi (dedication); the Ananda towards Sath-Chith-Aanandha (Highest Bliss). When the appetite for these grows, all low desires and hungers cease.

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