38. Where to find God

EMBODIMENTS of Divine Love! God is complete love incarnate. This love shines equally in every human being. The fragrance of a flower remains the same whether it is held in the right hand or the left. Likewise God has no distinctions such as the favoured and the excluded. Different persons, proceeding from their own likes and dislikes, attribute to the Divine the differences existing in their own minds. God has no feelings of difference such as the good and the bad, the likable and the unwanted, the wicked and the virtuous. The sandalwood tree imparts its fragrance even to the axe that fells it. Likewise God is ever prepared to love, foster and protect equally everyone without any distinction. But narrow-minded persons cannot easily grasp the Divine's equal-mindedness. Indeed, how can a fishmonger know the value of diamonds? Everyone apprehends God's powers and attributes according to his own limited conceptions and experiences.

The reason for man's narrow outlook

To get rid of such narrow ideas, the first requisite is the cultivation of love. How is love to be promoted? By "giving and forgiving" man develops love within himself. In relation to God, this implies that you should always have the attitude of offering your heart to God. Today, far from having such a sacred attitude what we witness is the habit of "getting and forgetting."

Today man receives the love, the blessings, and the grace of God, but shows no gratitude and is immersed in his own selfish pursuits. This accounts for his narrow outlook.

Sanjaya declared at the end of the *Gita* that where Krishna, the Lord *of Yoga,* and *Partha,* the valiant archer, stand together, there is victory. Man makes various efforts to achieve prosperity, success and bliss. But the means of achieving them is for man to take his stand by the side of *Bhagavan.* *Partha* means the son of the *Prithvi* (Earth). It applies to every man. Sanjaya's declaration means that victory is assured when either man is by the side of God or God is beside man. Neither of these happens today. Man leads a life remote from God.

To start with, man has to recognise what is the goal of life. Seekers in all countries and followers of different religions have enquired into this question of the purpose life. As a result of these enquiries, different religions arose. Jesus is the founder of the Christian faith. For centuries before Christ , Judaism existed as the religion of the Jews. The Jews believed in the coming of the Messiah to protect the people of Israel.

When Jesus was born, three kings came from the east to bless the infant in Bethlehem. The first king, seeing the child, declared that he would be a great lover of God. The second one declared that God would immensely, love the child. The third one declared that Jesus is God and God is Jesus. What is the inner meaning of these statements? The first statement implies that all who love God are messengers of God. When God loves a person, he becomes a son of God. When a person gives up the sense of dualism and merges his consciousness in the Divine he becomes one with the Divine.

Jesus's life and mission

When Jesus was a child, during a visit to Jerusalem, he was lost in the crowd. After a frantic search Mary found him in a temple listening intently to the speech of a priest. When Mary told Jesus about the trouble they had gone through in searching for him, Jesus said: "Mother! When I am safe with my Father in His home, why should you worry about me? This is the temple of

God. It is my Father's mansion. Nothing will be lacking here. In this eternal and sacred home I am perfectly safe as well protected." This shows that even by his twelfth year, Jesus was full of Divine qualities and was imparting the Divine message to those around him. Christ declared to the world three important things: (1) God is one. (2) He is omnipotent. (3) Do not hurt anyone. God is the indweller in every being. Christ embarked on his mission and went about calling upon people to earn the love of God by developing love towards God.

People professing different faiths worship God under different names: Vishnu, Siva, Ganesa, Allah, Christ, and others. The truth is there is only one God. People today try to find God in religions. But God is to be found not in *mathamu* (religions) but in the *mathi* (mind). It is only when the mind is controlled and purified that God will be recognised.

The Lord dwells within man

People claim to make offerings to God without knowing where He is. There is a pretence of offering everything to *Brahman,* but they do not know where *Brahman* dwells. The Lord has declared: "I am residing within you in the form *of Vaisvanara* and am consuming all the offerings you are making. I am digesting everything and providing the sustenance for your body."

While the Lord is ever by the side of man, he is searching for God all over the world. By exploring the external, you can never purify the internal. It is essential to transform the consciousness. You have to rectify your conduct and actions, because everything depends on your actions. Adhering to the righteous path, with a pure heart, you have to divinise your life. All spiritual disciplines have been designed only for this purpose. All the prayers, *japas and pujas* that are offered are intended only to purify the heart.

All those who have achieved greatness in any field--education, science, etc.--have been able to do so solely because of their conduct. Neither physical strength nor wealth, nor even intellectual ability, can make one respected and honoured. It is the way one lives that: confers honour and dignity on him. Therefore, it is only through our actions that we should strive to realise the Divine. Without right conduct, all other spiritual practices are of no avail. Hence, all devotees should acquire good and sacred qualities in furtherance of their striving to realise God.

You all are in the Kingdom of Sai!

You all are in Sai's Home!

You all are in Sai's Light!

You all are in Sai's Heart!

I will bless you, I will bless you in

This Holy Night This is your right.

If you entertain proper thoughts, you will realise that all of you are in God's home. The whole universe is the mansion of the Lord. Once you recognise this truth, how can any differences arise?

Understand the ways of the Divine

People imagine that God is angry, or indifferent. Such persons have no understanding of Divinity. If there is a tumour in the stomach, the surgeon uses a knife to remove it. Is the

operation done out of ill-will towards the patient? Not at all. It is for his own good that the operation is done to make him well again. Likewise, when a person has. developed some bad qualities, a surgical operation has to be done to rid him of his vices. When this is done by the Divine, God is said to be angry or displeased. This is the mark of a petty mind. Those who have understood the Divine's love principle will not make such a mistake.

Today is the birthday of the founder of a great religion. Christians revere Jesus as a Messenger of God and the Son of God. On this sacred day, the old students of the Sathya Sai College for Women at Anantapur, who have formed an association called Messengers of Sathya Sai, celebrate their annual day. "How shall we show our gratitude to the Institution which has educated us and done so much good to us?" was the question put by an old student, who is the President of the association. "How shall we show our gratitude to Bhagavan?" she asked.

Serve the society with dedication

Dear old students! Wherever you may be, go into the society and render social service in all possible ways, with faith in God and in a selfless spirit. As she said, it is true that after getting married, the girls have to put up with various restraints imposed by their in-laws and husbands. Admittedly, the Bharatiya culture and tradition circumscribe the freedom of women. On the other hand, boys enjoy greater freedom and liberty to act as they please. Whatever job they take up or business they may carry on, whatever country they may go to, they have considerable freedom. There will be none to restrain them. If they want to do social service, they can do a great deal. Unfortunately, they are not filled with such noble urges. Women who have those sacred impulses to serve society suffer from handicaps and restraints. At least from today, I desire that young men and women, who have studied in the Sai educational institutions, will show their gratitude to their alma mater by engaging themselves in social service and stand forth as ideals for others by their dedicated lives. By merely acquiring degrees, you do not become educated persons.

Using education only for securing a mess of pottage is puerile. You must use your knowledge for bettering the lives of others. Of what use is a mountain of book knowledge, if you cannot secure real happiness as a human being? Will not God take care of man if he places his faith in the Divine? What is it that is achieved by ceaseless preoccupation with earning a living, for forgetting the all-pervading Lord?

Everybody clamours for peace, saying "I want peace." But can peace be found in the external world, which is only filled with pieces? Peace has to be found within oneself by getting rid of the "I" and desire. Peace is being destroyed by the ego and by insatiable desires. Restrain your desires. Man is haunted by endless worries of many kinds. Only by turning his mind towards God can he get rid of the worries. Men have to reduce desires and cultivate *vairagya* (detachment) so that they can have real peace of mind.

What is it that students, who have spent ten or twelve years in Sai educational .institutions, can show as evidence of their having benefited from their education? It should be evident to some extent from their conduct and practices. If this is not present, what is the use of their studies? If they have not learnt during this precious period in their lives to practise self-control and self-discipline, they will be guilty of having wasted their great opportunities. The essence of education consists in the cultivation of good qualities and the development of right values for meaningful living.

I bless you all students in the hope that you will dedicate yourselves to the service of the people and thereby earn the grace of the Lord.

Christmas Day Discourse to a large gathering of devotees from overseas countries in the Poornachandra Auditorium, on 25-12-1989.