



we should not give the impression that one has to worship Him within the context of any particular religious orientation.

Also, it is just a matter of common courtesy that we should seek to make visitors to our Centers feel comfortable. Welcome them warmly and lovingly, because whether they realize it or not they were drawn there so that they might experience some of the Love that we have received from Swami. Let's not put obstacles in their way. Try to explain things in a loving way. The setting should reflect universality of faiths. Swami's Love should be allowed to flow through us.

Air Chief Marshall Suri: It is important to have a focus on equality. Baba has now given me the inspiration to look into other religions. I have learned prayers from other religions. They are all to the same God. The focus in the Sai Centers should be the unity underlying all faiths.

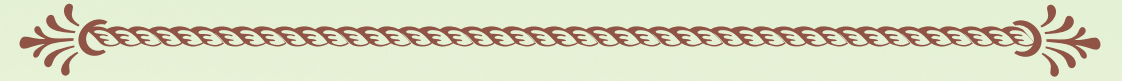
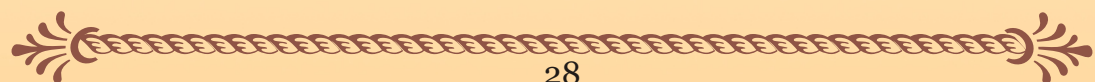
Q6. *Will Swami answer these questions?*

A6. Dr. Goldstein: Swami likely will not address everything in His Discourse. His answers come in many ways. The answer may come from friends and others, it could be an insight. That is Swami's way. He is Divinity. We must look into our own heart and reflect on our actions. Swami will uplift and inspire us and help us address these questions.

Q7. *How can we always be connected to Swami?*

A7. Dr. Reddy: Swami says "Hear no evil, hear what is good. See no evil, see what is good. Speak no evil, speak what is good and think no evil, think what is good – this is the way to God." Let us practice this and be in tune with the Lord. Onetime when I asked Swami, how to communicate with Him when I am not in His immediate presence, He told me, "When you have a problem, go to a corner, sit quietly, think about Me and the answer you get is My voice. It is in the depth of silence that the voice of God can be heard." It means that we can always be connected to Swami by turning our mind inward. Let us practice the essence of the values – Help Ever, Hurt Never and Love All, Serve All.

Dr. Harvey: We are always connected to Swami, we just have to switch on our receiving unit. The experiences we are given are specific messages to each of us, especially when we are here in the Ashram. Swami says that none of us come here of our own volition. He has brought us here, and He is constantly looking at each of us – in the context of our past, present and our future. The most important thing is for us to keep in mind this fact. We'll never understand Him



fully through the mind. So don't try. "Relinquish the imperative to understand," He has said. He is giving us precisely the experiences we need. We are fortunate to be here and must take this Love back home and share it. Practice seeing God everywhere: practice, practice, practice.

Air Chief Marshall Suri: In order to be near Swami, you have to surrender to Him. If you do, you will be near to Him. This morning I was sitting on the veranda wanting padnamaskar. An inner voice said, "Move to the other side," which I did, and I got padnamaskar. If you want to hear Swami, surrender. If you want to serve Swami, surrender.

Q8 *How can I Love people who constantly irritate me and those who try to rule others' lives? Explain how can I see God in them?*

A8. Dr. Harvey: Everything is God; everyone is God. He has taken all these various forms. The person who is irritating us is playing a role. The role has a purpose that is divinely inspired.

But we should not be focusing so much on what others are doing, but on how we are responding. That is the key. Our buttons are being pushed for a good reason, to stimulate us to reflect upon our own behavior, or reactions and emotional responses. Go inwards. We should look at ourselves, continually go inward. We have to ask, 'Why does this irritate me so? Why am I upset?'

Dr. Reddy: Whenever we are criticized, Swami wants us to understand that God is speaking through the person who criticizes us. Our critics are our real friends because they point out our flaws so we can improve. We don't like people pointing out our flaws, but it is helpful if we can take this positively and learn from it. What can I learn? How can I improve? Try, try, try to accept everything that happens as Swami's *Prasad* to us, and reflect on our reactions in the light of Swami's teachings.

Dr. Harvey: Pain and suffering have a positive value for our spiritual development. If we never get out of our comfort zone, we stagnate. Swami frequently asks, "What change is there in you from coming to Prasanthi Nilayam for many years?" We must strive to welcome every experience that comes, even the painful ones, that come to us. Everything is for our good. Just witness everything and don't label it good or bad. We should always remember Swami's message that whatever happens is through His Will, and is for our good.

Q9. *What is the role of the Sai Organization in responding to disasters such as the tsunami?*

