



the swing, the Joola, in Trayee Brindavan Hall, and I was alone with Him. I thought this might be the right time to know from Swami why I did not deserve it. Even before I asked Him the question, Swami began to speak about my mother, who had passed away five years back. Swami said: “Your mother was a great devotee. Do you know what was your mother's last prayer to Me? It was about you only. Do you know what she told me about you? She said that Narasimha Murthy is a great fool. His mind is very fickle. By your mercy, he has the great opportunity to serve You. But because of his foolishness, because of his fickleness, he may commit any number of blunders and mistakes. Please don't kick him out. Swami, You are the ocean of mercy and he is a fool; don't kick him out.”

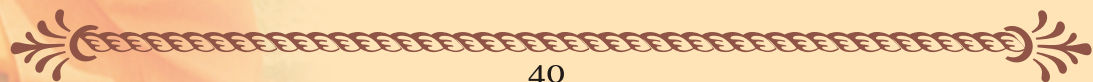
I fell at His feet and said to Swami, “What my mother said about me is correct. Also, what she said about Yourself – that You are the ocean of mercy – is correct. So, please don't kick me out.”

I remembered this episode when I was asked to speak on this topic, 'An Ideal Sai Devotee.' I don't know why I was asked to speak on this topic, because if I had any insight, Swami has already destroyed it. I have come across many great devotees. There was one whom I considered as my mentor. His name was Narayana Bhatt. When he passed away, Swami sent a telegram saying, “Don't worry; he has merged with me. Be bold.” I have aspiration of idealism even though I may not be an ideal devotee.

Swami says that most devotees come to Swami to receive things; but that there are four classes of devotees.

1. Those who are distressed by adversity and sickness and come to be relieved;
2. Those seeking money, power, wealth and position;
3. Spiritual seekers who want to realize God; and
4. The *Jnani* who lives in the constant awareness that, “He is with Me at all times.”

And Swami says that although most of the devotees who come to Him are at the first stage, “time will change.” I have myself seen this. More and more devotees are not asking for material things, but only for His blessing so that they can spend their time serving Him. So initially the devotee comes to Swami hoping to receive something from Him. Then he goes to the stage of wanting to serve Swami.



Regarding qualities of an ideal devotee, the **a, b, c, d** points that I mentioned earlier apply here also, though slightly differently. An ideal devotee will have found Swami within himself, in the form of unsullied joy and selfless Love. Once a devotee was complaining that by not being physically present at Prasanthi Nilayam, she would not be able to talk to Him if the need arose. Swami said, “My phone number is 1, I am right in your heart. I am always available to you on the hotline. I am always in your heart.”

That means any of us can contact Him at any time, by simply turning inward. Therefore, finding Swami within is the first quality of an ideal devotee. In the Darshan sometimes He talks to us, sometimes He doesn't talk to us; and it leads to doubts and upsets in our mind. But we can always instantly establish contact with Him in our hearts. Wherever we may be if we develop longing, and yearning, or what is called the power of 'seeking,' we will be able to establish contact with Bhagawan at any time anywhere. Jesus spoke of that power when He said, “Seek and Ye shall find.” The power of seeking in the human heart is capable of getting a Divine response in the form of a spontaneous rush of Love and joy. That power of seeking only arises in a pure heart that is cleansed of worldly attachment. That is what Jesus meant when He said you cannot worship God and mammon at the same time. An ideal devotee is aware of this; he is Aware of his true relationship with Swami and realizes that it is not physical.

This Awareness leads to **Balance** of Mind, which comes naturally when we enjoy that kind of spontaneous bliss at least for sometimes during the day. We are able to have that communion with God at these times, either during meditation or concentration or prayer. If we can experience this presence of Swami sometimes during the day, that makes us balanced, and we are not overcome by doubts and worries. We are not irritated. We can see Swami in everyone. But first we have to be able to see Him within ourselves. Then we can face life with a smile and see God everywhere.

Once we are able to establish that Joy and Bliss, then comes spontaneously **Control** over the mind and senses. This is most difficult, but very important.

Finally, we have '**D**', **Dedication** to Sai Vision. This comes out of devotion. I dedicate my life for the erudition of the Sai Vision. And as regards to our actions, we have to change the motivation for all our actions. Generally we are egocentric. But we have to continually remind ourselves that we are doing Swami's work, because many times we forget Swami even while we are doing His work.

