



Respect, Honor and Make Your Mother Happy



What can I say about the mother of this body? Man has actually three bodies – physical, mental and spiritual. Therefore, you are not one person but three – 1. The one you think you are, i.e., body 2. The one others think you are, i.e., mind 3. The one you really are, i.e., Atma (spirit). Your true form is the Atma, not the body or the mind.

In the circumstances that prevail today, there are very few who honour their mother. Your mother carried you in her womb for nine months and gave you birth after undergoing many difficulties and hardships. Forgetting such a mother is like forgetting God. This amounts to forgetting yourself. Mother is your first teacher. It is the mother who feeds and nourishes you. It is on the lap of your mother that you grow up and experience all types of happiness. None should forget the love that he receives from his mother. First and foremost, our mother deserves our highest respect.

After the death of his mother, many people told Sankaracharya to take the body out. But Sankaracharya told them, "Neither my mother is going to leave me, nor I am going to leave my mother. My mother and I are one forever. Bodies are different but the principle of the Atma is the same in both of us. You may go away from me but none has any right to separate my mother from me. Her body will be cremated in the compound of the house." Accordingly, Sankaracharya cremated the body of his mother in the compound of his house. None can estimate the feelings of the mother. Even today people of Palakkad either cremate or bury the body of their mother in the compound because they feel that such a great person like Sankaracharya has done it and they should also follow the same. In the beginning many people had criticised Sankaracharya, saying, being such a learned scholar, he had committed such a type of impropriety. Knowledge of scriptures is not that important, it is cultural refinement that has great value. Culture is that which brings about refinement.

Physically your mother may not be with you, but your love for her should remain the same. The mother of this body sent a letter to me when I was in Kodaikanal. After that I came to Brindavan (Bangalore). The Summer Course was going on at Brindavan. Once she prayed that My name should be on her lips at the time of her death. When she passed away in May 1972, Summer Course was in progress at Brindavan. She was hale and hearty. All of a sudden she called out, "Swami, Swami, Swami …" I replied, "I am coming, I am coming …" When I came down the stairs, she breathed her last.

So long as there is life in the body, we should take care of it. When the life goes away the body has no value. Truly speaking, who is the mother? It is the life principle that is the mother, not the body. Body is like a water bubble, mind is like a mad monkey. What for we should keep the body? Immediately, I asked for the car to be brought and sent her body in the car to Puttaparthi. I remained in Brindavan. For the summer course, students not just from one college but they had come from various colleges from all over India. They all thought that Swami would not come to the class that day. Then what? Exactly at 9 o' clock, I entered the classroom smilingly. Students were surprised to see Me there. They were all thinking, "What is this? Swami's mother has passed away and He has come to the classroom." Mother does not go anywhere. The body that was being addressed as 'mother' has left. But the mother is with Me only. Hence, there was no need to be sad. So long as I am there, mother is always with Me. Therefore, I told the students to be happy and not to feel sorry that the mother of this body left her mortal coil. At that time V.K. Gokak was the Vice Chancellor. He was also surprised thinking, "What, Swami is talking like this!" I have not taken birth from physical body. After all what is this body! It exists when five elements are there in it. Body is like a bag containing five elements. When the five elements leave the body, it becomes an empty bag. Hence, one should not have undue attachment with the body. All mothers and children should develop these feelings of detachment. So long as the mother is alive, we should respect her, honour her and make her happy in every possible way. There is no need to be sad when she leaves the body. Even here in Puttaparthi, people said, "What is this? Swami has sent the body of Easwaramma, but He Himself has not come?" What for I should go with the body? Body is only a vesture. It is like a leather bag. When the five elements leave the body, the five senses also go with it. Then why should we grieve over the lifeless body? I arranged for whatever was supposed to be done at the worldly level. I remained in Brindavan and conducted the summer classes happily. In this world, all the physical relationships are of our own making. Otherwise, who is related to whom? This relationship of mother and son is only at the physical level. The mother came, performed the actions that she was destined to perform and then left. I have to perform My duty. Therefore, I engaged Myself in the performance of the task for which I have come. When we see from the worldly point of view, the body is physical and ephemeral.

Do not form any relationships on the basis of the body. However, perform all duties which you are required to perform at the physical and worldly level with earnestness. Your conduct should be good and your actions should also be good. Never forget your mother; treasure her form in your heart. We come from the heart of our mother and mother should always be in our heart. Therefore, neither your mother ever leaves you nor you should leave her. Mother and children are united with each other for ever.

Everything in this world is reaction, reflection and resound. None can escape from these. If you cause difficulties for your parents today, your children will cause difficulties for you tomorrow. You will get back the result of your actions without much delay. You may love anyone you like, but do not forget your parents. When your parents have not forgotten you, you should not forget your parents.



Pilgrimage to Prashanthi Nilayam from Region 5 Swami on Unity





Take the first step today, in this long pilgrimage. Give up, in order to gain; restrain, in order to receive; become blind (to the external view), in order to see more clearly (the inner vision).*Prasanthi Nilayam: Birthday Festival, 23-11-1965*

You have a chance to see, experience and be sanctified by the incarnation of the Lord; this chance is as a result of accumulation of merit in many previous lives. That merit has brought you here when I have come down. For this chance sages and demi gods have prayed long in the past. Having won this chance, strive to taste the sweetness and achieve the bliss of merging without wasting even a single moment.

- Source: Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. II. P. 209.

"Unity is vital for all, wherever they are and whatever their country, religion or sex. Love should be the unifying force. Teachers! Promote the sense of human unity among all people, without regard to race, religion or caste."

"When individuals change, society will change and when society changes, the whole world will change. The welfare of the individual is bound up with the welfare of society as a whole. Unity is the secret of social progress, and service to society is the means to promote it. Everyone, therefore, should devote himself to such service in a spirit of dedication. One who does not dedicate himself to such work is like a rusting machine. Concern for one's own welfare and prosperity should not blind one to one's social obligations or spiritual destiny....A society in which the individuals are concerned only about material welfare will not be able to achieve harmony and peace."

"Man's foremost task is to recognize the unity that underlies the multiplicity. If one enquires into the matter with a pure and unselfish mind, one will see what is common to all beings. Birth and death are common to all men. Hunger and thirst are experienced by every person. These are truths that apply to all persons, whether they are destitute or millionaires, whether they are scholars or ignorant men."

Purity, unity and divinity are words which are familiar to you. Honesty, truth and purity are all one and they will lead you on to divinity, the true state of man at the highest level.

When the road ends, and the goal is gained, the pilgrim finds that he has traveled only from himself to himself.

What a single individual cannot accomplish, a well-knit Group or society can achieve. A man walking alone will feel tired and miserable at the end of five miles; but, walking with ten others as a group he would find the five miles a jaunt. He arrives refreshed and strong.

-Sevadal Conference, 11/19/1981

Riches beyond reasonable limits will result only in disaster. Unity of minds, mutual love and co-operation - these are the qualities we must develop continuously. One must not learn to live like a drop of oil on a pond, spreading all over the surface and refusing to merge with the water. One must join others in common tasks and contribute one's strength and skill to the common pool. A single thin string cannot stop even an ant, but hundreds of them twisted into a rope can hold back an elephant. This is the effect of united effort. It is a very desirable trait to work for a common cause with others in co-operation; do not believe in mere operation tasks. *-Divine Discourse, Vol 14 Ch 20, Feb 18, 1980.*

Develop the Spirit of Oneness

God is extolled as, Sabda Brahmamayi, Characharamayi, Jyotirmayi, Vangmayi, Nityanandamayi, Paratparamayi, Mayamayi and Sreemayi (embodiment of sound, mobility and immobility, light, speech, eternal bliss, perfection, delusion and wealth). Hence, even the words that we utter manifest our innate divinity. It is God who speaks through each one of you. You should have this firm conviction. If someone accuses you, think that God in that form is accusing you. When you develop such spirit of oneness and tolerance, you will never be perturbed by censure and blame. Your mind will always remain in peace. Whatever may happen, accept it wholeheartedly as the Will of God. Have firm faith that it is God and God alone who is the doer.

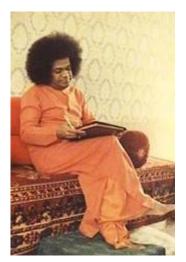
Do not consider your fellow human beings as mere individuals. When you talk to someone, think that you are talking to God. When you do not see God in others and treat them as your own, you will be giving room to evil qualities like anger, jealousy, hatred, etc. Develop the spirit of oneness. Only then will your life be redeemed.

Divine Discourse on 19th November 2005 - Ladies' Day









The first and foremost of my directions is: Revere your parents, especially the mother. There was once a place, which was hit by a hurricane so wild that all the houses were razed to the ground, and people had nothing to eat and nowhere to lay their heads. Among the worst hit were a mother and her two sons. The elder bow was a gem of virtue; he felt responsible for the safety and care of the family; he loved his mother, and sought to win her love and blessings, more than anything else.

The mother with the younger child was going out begging and keeping alive on the little they could get from the famine-stricken land. Soon, she found that she was too weak even to walk a few steps and so, the elder son had to go begging, all alone, to feed the family. He said, falling at her feet, he would do what she was doing and collect food for all. He wanted that she should not over-exert, and worsen her health. How could three live on mere handfulls? The son too was rendered weak. With faint voice and fainter steps, he moved towards a zamindar's [mogol name for leaseholder in India to collect taxes from peasants] house and called out for a morsel. The lady of the house called him in and led him to a plate whereon she served some food. But he tottered into an upright position, and fell plump on the floor. The zamindar came running into the room and placed her ear near the dying boy's mouth, so that she could catch the last words that emerged from his lips. He was saying: 'No, no! First she must be given food. My turn comes next'. You may be able to pay back any debt; but, the debt you owe your mother, you never can repay. Those who claim to be devotees of God must have this credential: they must revere the mother!

Activity	Time	Venue	Contact
Every Monday – Bhajans	07:00 pm to 08:00 pm	Aurora (Shirdi Mandir)	630-854-2004
Every Wednesday – Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	847-519-1631
Every Thursday – Bhajans	08:00 pm to 09:00 pm	Aurora	630-761-2968
Every Friday – Bhajans	08:00 pm to 09:00 pm	Oak Brook	847-722-5477
1st Thursday of the Month – Bhajans	07:30 pm to 08:30 pm	Hoffman Estates	847-695-7110
1st Saturday of the Month – Bhajans	03:30 pm to 04:30 pm	Glenview	847-729-2779 / 773-510-5936
Saturday, May 9 – Bhajans	05:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081
Saturday, May 23 – Bhajans	06:30 pm to 07:30 pm	Aurora	630-340-0943
Monday, May 25 – Bhajans	11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Swami Narayana, Temple, Itasca	224-628-0181
Saturday, May 30 – Padhuka Puja	02:30 pm to 04:00 pm	Bolingbrook	630-819-9081

Devotional Activities in Chicago and Suburbs

For more information, please contact any of the Center Officers

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