

January 2016

SAIDHARMAM

'HAPPY' NEW YEAR

Human values make life worthwhile, noble, and excellent. Those qualities lie within the human personality, waiting to be drawn out and translated into action.

Most of us have been led to Swami by the strong desire to secure our happiness in the world. In Bhagawan we found an all-encompassing insurance for life, wealth and wellbeing, for ourselves and those we claim as ours. Can we make a conscious effort to utilize all that is in our disposition to win God's love? In other words, can we now 'use' the world and our time in it to achieve God? Wouldn't that be a perfect resolution for this New Year?

The beginning of a New Year is also characterized by our greetings to each other, wishing the year will be a 'happy' one for us. Swami would often remind us; true happiness is to be found in union with God alone. Swami prods us to seek happiness that's permanent by nature.

"What is the happiest day in your life? All are happy days to a person of true knowledge. Happiness is an internal conscious experience which comes as an effect of the

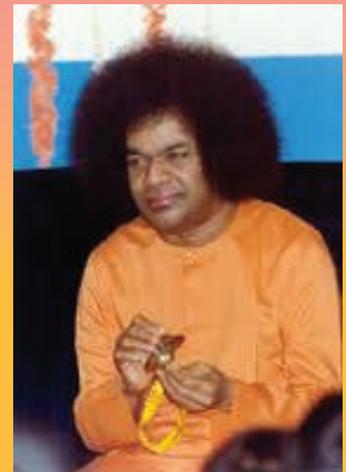
extinction of mental or physical desire. Life is an experience meant to train the individual for a higher, deeper and expanded state of existence through the experience of the results of action. The aim of everybody's life is the attainment of complete perfection in the spiritual Absolute.

The goal for each of us may be far or near, the goal of attaining the 'complete perfection in the spiritual Absolute', but it is in us to ensure that we take every step forward with conviction and a sense of purpose towards that goal. When firmly on the path and when our focus is undeterred, reaching the goal is but a matter of time. And what is time for the Master of Time? He chooses the length of the path, He chooses the time it would take to reach the goal, all that we need to offer Him is earnestness or Shradhdha.

As we begin this New Year with renewed energy to walk towards the goal, that one goal worthy of lifetimes of effort. There is no difference between His love and the Truth. There is no difference between liberation and being one with Him. Let us but fix Him as our goal and take every step dauntlessly towards Him.

BHAJAN CORNER

Sai Naama Bolo Govinda
Naama Bolo
Mahadeva Bolo Jai
Panduranga Bolo
Rama Krishna Bolo Jai Buddha
Sai Bolo
Zorashtra Mahavira Yesu Sai Bolo
Allah Sai Bolo Maula Sai Bolo
Prema Sai Shanthi Dayi Sathya
Sai Bolo



Listen to it here!



STORY

A pining devotee sat under a peepal tree and did hard penance, hoping to have the grand vision of Lord Vishnu. One day the celestial sage, Narada, came by lost in singing the name of the Lord. The devotee pounced on the opportunity; falling at the blessed sage's feet he submitted to him, "Oh holy one! I have given up hearth and home with the single purpose of the Lord's Darshan fixed firmly in my mind. You are the fortunate one who can walk into the Divine Presence at will. Beg, plead on my behalf the Lord and ask Him when I will be blessed with His vision?"

Narada was moved by the man's devotion. He could sense his sincerity and gauge the purity of this devotee. Promising to carry the prayer to the Lord, Narada left for the heavens immediately. He was all excited to tell the Lord about this devotee and his pining, but the Lord was planning a play of His own. When Narada entered the chambers of Lord Vishnu, he saw that the Lord was resting on His bed.

Narada could not wait, he prayerfully accosted the Lord and said, "Swami, I met a very pious soul on earth and I have to speak to You about him." The Lord showed little interest, but Narada could not contain his excitement. "Please Lord", he continued, "You must hear me out. This devotee has been doing sincere penance for years seeking only Your Darshan and nothing else. He wishes to know when his prayers will be answered. Tell me Lord, when will You grant him Your darshan? Please Lord, he is waiting for me to convey Your answer to him." At this, Lord Vishnu pretended to be very annoyed. With a frown on His face the Lord said, "Tell him it will take as many years as there are leaves on the tree he is sitting under!"

Narada's heart was filled with pity at the recollection that the man sat under a tree with a huge canopy of leaves. But the Lord had declared, and nothing can be done.

With a heavy heart he returned to the devotee who was waiting eagerly.

With a downcast face Narada said, "My dear man, you should've chosen a smaller tree, or at least a barren

one." "What is with the tree?" the perplexed devotee asked, "Tell me oh great one, when did the Lord say He will grant me a vision?"

Then Narada explained what Lord Vishnu told him, and he had barely completed his sentence when the devotee began dancing in joy, tears of bliss streaming down his face. Narada was befuddled with this reaction, but what happened next was even more unexpected. The very next moment there was a flash of light right before them and the Lord appeared in all His glory, adorned with resplendence and the most beatific smile. The vision was granted and the devotee went into raptures and was lost in that moment. Narada was filled with surprise, happiness and even a sense of being betrayed.

He turned to the Lord with questions writ all over his face and the lord responded, "I know Narada what you wish to ask. How can I go back on the word I myself uttered? How can I grant My darshan now, when I had to only after the passage of many many years? Narada, when you conveyed to this devotee what I had said, the very thought that he would be blessed with My darshan filled him with so much joy, that time could be no barrier to his bliss. His love for Me was so intense! Do you think for such a devotee, My grace will find time as a barrier? I could not hold back Myself, even if it meant going back on My own words!"

The pursuit of truth will lead to right action: right action promotes peace: peace enables one to love, and love expands into non-violence



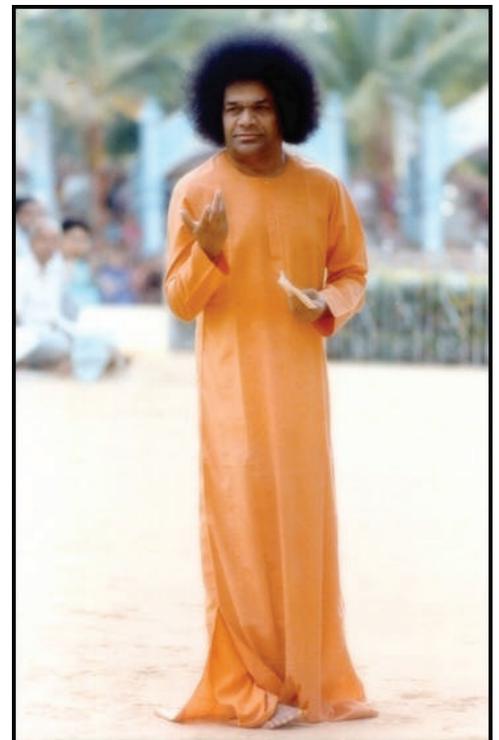
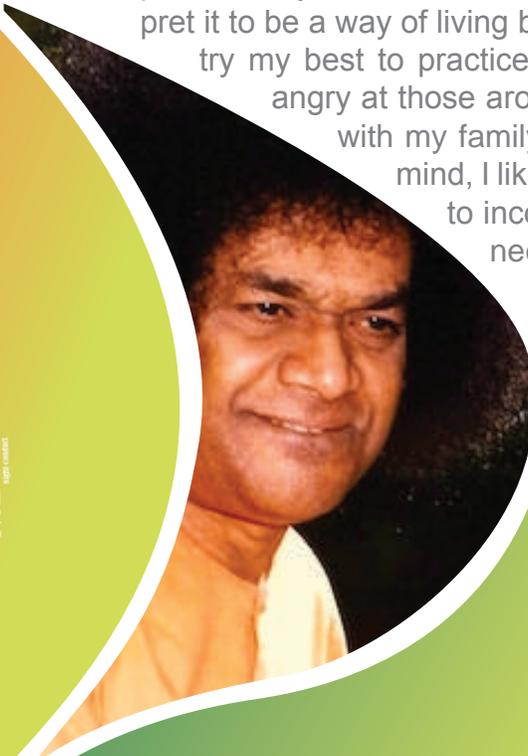
ONE HUMAN VALUE

Various religious and spiritual texts, tell humans of different ways of being a great human. Some of these way meditation, praying, and reading holy scriptures. These may work for some, but it might not work for all. Children and those who do not follow a particular faith may find these to be difficult to do. However, Swami has simplified how humans should behave in five simple words: truth, right-conduct, love, peace and non-violence.

When just one of these values is practiced well, one will realize that the others start becoming habitual too. Swami says, “wherever Truth is followed, there lives Dharma.” He means that when we live a life of God, we naturally live a life of good conduct. With right-conduct there sprouts non-violence , peace and love for all beings. This is how all the human values are connected together.

DEVOTEE SPEAKS

Bhagawan has given us five humans values to follow. However, these human values can be interpreted in many ways. For example, truth can be practiced by a child when they try not to fib. Where as, an adult may interpret it to be a way of living by dedicating their actions to God. As an adult, I try my best to practice non-violence and peace, by not trying to get angry at those around me. I practice love by spending more time with my family. Some times to practice a calm and peaceful mind, I like to take long quiet walks. There are many ways to incorporate these values into our lives, but we just need to learn which way works best for us.





A D E I U N Q Y W X Y G A Q H
 M O C E X A C L O V E U Y N I
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 P C L P Q G M C N L A C A H G
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 D R G U T W V B S R A X Z Y R

SATHYA
 DHARMA
 SHANTHI
 PREMA
 AHIMSA
 TRUTH
 NONVIOLENCE
 LOVE
 PEACE
 RIGHTCONDUCT

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 - Healing Prayers & Namasmarana 7-8:30pm	2
3 - Youth Bhajan Session 11am-12pm	4	5	6	7 - Youth Bhajans 7:30-9pm	8	9 - SSE Re-opens 10am-12pm
10 - Youth Bhajan Session 11am-12pm	11	12	13	14 - Swearing in Ceremony of New Office Bearers - Bhajans 7:30-9pm Thai Pongal	15	16 - SSE 10am-12pm
17 - Youth Bhajan Session 11am-12pm	18	19	20	21 - Study Circle 7:30-815pm - Bhajans 8:15-9pm	22	23 - SSE 10am-12pm
24 - Youth Bhajan Session 11am-12pm	25	26	27	28 - Bhajan 7:30-9pm	29	30 - Narayana Seva - Sandwich Project - SSE 10am-12pm - SSE bhajans 12-12:30pm
31 - Senior Home Session 3:30-4:10pm						