

SAI DHARMAM

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA CENTRE OF COOKSVILLE



DEVOTEE SPEAKS

After having been in SSE for 14 years and now a YA for a handful of years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in many birthday offerings to Bhagavan.

I have participated in plays on the lives of avatars like Swami, Jesus, Rama, and Krishna; some that were focused on Swami's teachings such as the 9 paths of devotion and the interconnectedness of all religions; and some on simpler yet profound messages like "Be Happy". While I don't recall each lesson I learned in every single play, I think I did learn something that was more valuable to me and aligns to Swami's teachings perfectly – soft skills!

Each offering has been an opportunity to foster skills such as communication, teamwork, resourcefulness, and self-confidence, just to name a few.

With an offering as grand as the one we execute yearly, it comes with devotees differing in opinion and ideas. What better way to practice empathy and to force yourself to see God in everyone, than diving into these differences in opinions to truly understand the other person's point of view, and acknowledging their skills and experience. Doing this promotes unity towards a common goal.

Plays allow us to think outside of the box. I have been able to learn audio and video editing software that I would have never learned how to use elsewhere. I have learned to make a hut from plumbing pipes and grass skirts, and to make a tree from wire and paper maché. I have even learned how to turn a unicorn costume into a horse costume using just a needle and thread.

Above all of this, I have gained the ever-developing skill of self-confidence, the foundation of self-realization. Each offering has been an opportunity to step far outside of my comfort zone. From crying in pre-SSE because I did not want to perform in front of everyone, to being in a narration role and even an MC.

I believe that more than a beautiful performance put on by the SSE children – an even greater offering to Bhagavan is the fact that so many people from all wings of the Sai Centre have worked together to make it happen under a disciplined, loving, and dedicated manner.

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Happiness is union with God. If you want to be happy, join God. Then you can be happy.

SATHYA SAI BABA



SELF-CONFIDENCE AND EQUANIMITY LEAD TO DIVINE BLISS

“What does the word 'Bhagavan' mean? 'Bha' represents effulgence. 'Ga' signifies the one who radiates effulgence and 'Va' symbolises the power to propagate effulgence. Therefore, 'Bhagavan' is one who spreads the shine of effulgence everywhere. He has no form of any kind. 'He is subtler than space and the atom.' How can you attribute any form to such a One? He fills the entire universe, but is not attached to anything. 'Brahma' - God is in you and you are in 'Brahma.' Since we see duality in such non-dualistic principles, we suffer many sorrows. Though He has no particular form, all forms are His.

When I was coming here this morning, everyone wished me "Happy Birthday"! I am always happy. You have to wish a Happy Birthday to one who does not have happiness. I do not need it. If you want to attain happiness, you should understand that happiness is union with God. Every human being imagines that happiness is somewhere outside him and strives to attain it through various activities. How did the ancient sages adore God? They worshipped Him with the flower of sacrifice and offered their love to Him. They welcomed God as the embodiment of truth. They believed in love, kindness and oneness. They offered Him the throne of their hearts. Only through such sublime adoration, they attained Divinity. Therefore, even today's man is ought to install God in the altar of his heart and adore Him there.

You have the fortune today of enjoying bliss in the Divine presence. You must have done many lives of penance, performed many sacrifices and undertaken varied spiritual austerities in order

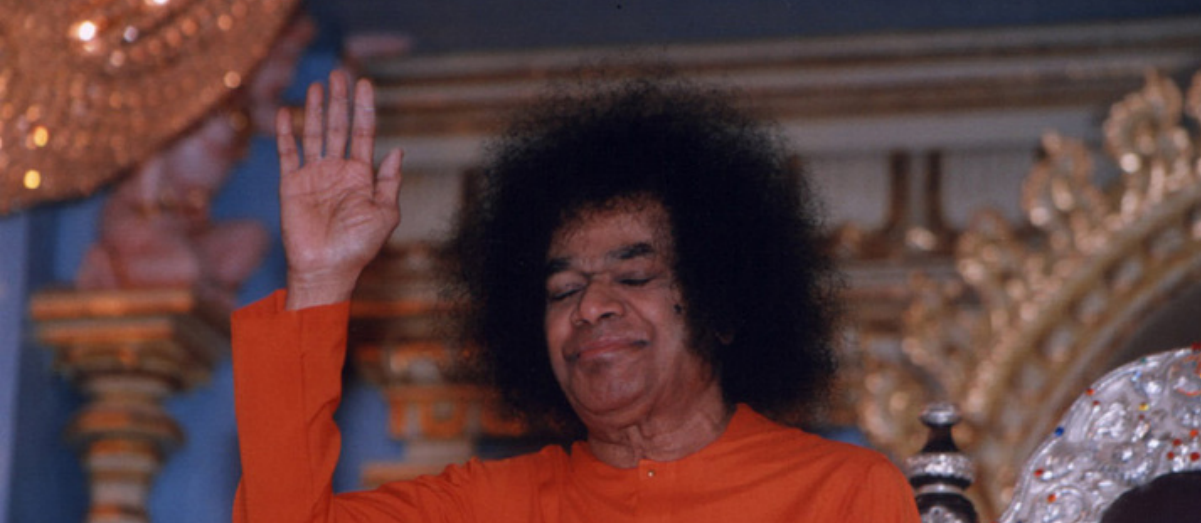
to secure this divine bliss. It is My love which attracts so much love from others. Therefore, do not hurt anyone with your harsh words and do not enter into any evil paths. Recognize the truth that God pervades everything from microcosm to macrocosm. This truth dwells in you but you are not aware of it. That is your mistake. You are the embodiment of 'Bhavani Sankara' - 'Sraddha' and 'Viswasa' (sincerity of purpose and faith). With self-confidence, you can achieve anything in the world. You need not undertake any difficult spiritual practices to attain Divinity. You need not fast or do any chanting or meditation. Love Him from the depths of your heart. Devotees want to offer many types of service to God. These are the characteristics of faith. When you have such faith, you should not sully your sacred body by partaking in the wrong food. Gradually, you should intensify your love for God, fear of sin and morality in society. Morality rules the society only when people have love for God since fear of sin follows it.”

Divine Discourse: November 23, 2001 -

<http://www.saidarshan.org/baba/docs/do11123.html>

Reflection Questions:

1. Bhagawan said “to attain happiness, happiness is union with God” and in order to be happy, it comes from within, not from performing sacrifices or spiritual activities. What are some ways you can express your happiness without materialistic items?
2. Our devotion and love to our dear Lord is exemplified in different forms, yet we forget the simplest measure to express our love to Him. How will you show your love to Him and expand that love to others in your everyday activities?



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sairam and Happy Birthday to you All!!

During his Divine Discourse for his 70th Birthday Celebrations, Swami said:

“It is the 70th birthday of this body. You have to know one important thing. Swami does not need anything. He does not expect any dress. Swami belongs to you. Swami is not separate from you. You are not separate from Swami. That is the intimate relation between Swami and you.

Right from this day our organization should expand and spread all over the world. We should forget individual differences and keep in view the welfare of society. The welfare of society is our welfare. Let it be in any village, region, or country, we should participate in all activities”.

In the above message, Swami talks about the relationship between Swami and you. The purity and the simplicity of it. It is important to remember that Swami does not expect anything from us for his birthday. He only expects us to develop love within ourselves, recognize all as the children of God, bear no ill will or hatred toward anyone and to not hurt anyone's feelings. The above discourse underlines one of the foundations that Swami's mission was built on: service. For the occasion of Swami's Birthday, let us also try to undertake and participate in more acts of service.

November is a busy month for our centre. On November 19th, Ladies Day will be celebrated. The Ladies Wing is organizing an event on Saturday, November 19th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. It will have prayers, songs, dance and bhajans! We welcome all to attend the festivities!

Bhagawan's Birthday Celebrations will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd. There will be a morning session and an evening session. The morning session will be held from 5:30am to 8am. The morning session will include Suprabhatam, Nagarasankeertan, Veda chanting and bhajans. The evening session will be held from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. It will involve a musical offering by the members of the centre. The theme of the musical is “Tvameva Mata Cha Pita Tvameva”. The songs offered will emphasize the relationship with God. We invite all members to join us and celebrate Swami's life and his message!

The SSE children have been working hard on the play this year, “Do Good, See Good, Be Good”. It will be a virtual offering this year as well. Audio and video recordings are taking place now. On Saturday, November 26, SSE students and parents will be invited to watch the play video at the centre. It will also be simultaneously broadcasted live via YouTube. Please join us in supporting them!

More details will follow soon through email and announcements during Thursday Bhajans at the Centre. We welcome all! Please feel free to bring your family and friends to be a part of these blissful moments. Thank you all for your love and kind support from the bottom of our hearts.

Sairam!

Like the lightning
in the heart of a
cloud, wisdom
should illumine
your hearts. That
wisdom will reveal
the Divine in you.

SATHYA SAI BABA



GAME

Click on the link to take you to the game. <https://interacty.me/projects/e6ae110746a7dc17>.

BHAJAN

Govinda Krishna Jai Gopala Krishna Jai Gopala Pala Pala Bala Radha Krishna Jai
Krishna Jai Krishna Jai Krishna Jai Krishna Krishna Krishna Krishna Jai [Govinda ...]
Gopi Kamala Haari Pyaari Maayi Meera Man Vihari Madana Mohana Muralidhari Krishna Jai
Krishna Jai Rama Krishna Jai Radha Krishna Jai Bala Krishna Krishna Krishna Krishna Jai
Krishna Jai Krishna Jai Krishna Jai Krishna Jai Krishna Krishna Krishna Krishna Jai

Meaning

Victory be to Krishna, the Lord of Radha; Victory be to the beloved Lord who wears the garland of the Gopis; Victory be to the one who dwells in the heart of Meera; Victory be to the Lord of Love who enchants our hearts and who plays flute.

Sai Tutorial Link: https://archive.sssmediacentre.org/journals/vol_18/01AUG20/Govinda-Krishna-Jai-Bhajan-tutor.htm

