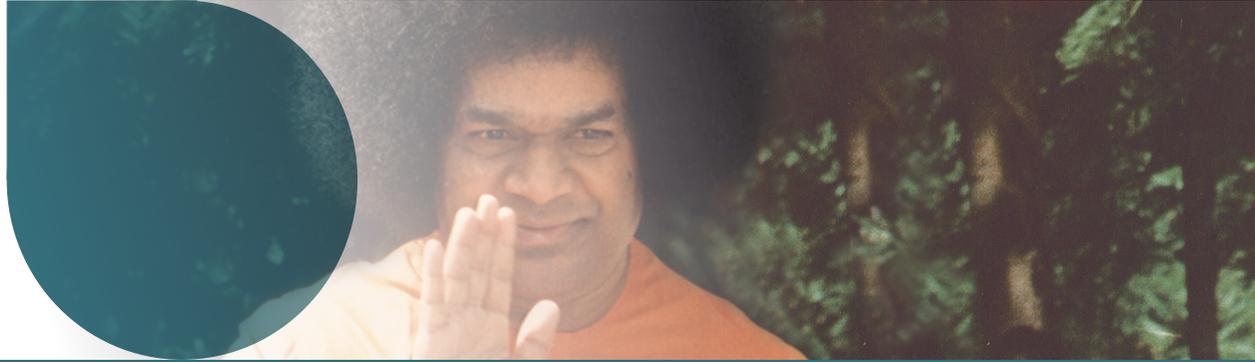


Sai Dharmam



Bhajan Corner

Divine Love

Prema Mayi Sai Ma
Jnana Mayi Sai Ma,
Jaya Ma Jaya Ma Jaya
Ma,
Shakthi Roopini Sai Ma
Mukthi Pradayini Ma,
Jaya Ma Jaya Ma (Jaya
Ma ...)

Meaning

O Mother Sai, the
embodiment of Love
and Wisdom. O
Mother, the form of
Shakthi (divine energy),
the one who gives us
liberation. Victory to
You!

When attempting the impossible task of trying to explain the glory of our Lord, the only word that comes to our mind is Love. Pure love. We hear this term all the time, in Swami's teachings, discourses, and even in our SSE classes. But what truly is love?

Swami says, "Human love is only a reflection of divine love. Love of this eternal divinity shines in every one, as a reflection of Him. But this divine love is not gifted to misuse it. You should make best use of it. Fill you heart with pure love and share it with others and make your country happy. This is the true nature of divine love. We did not send any invitation or ask anyone to be here [Prashanthi Nilayam]. It is this tender love that attracted everyone like a magnet. The magnet has the power to attract. Some may question, if this magnet has so much power, why is it no attracting

me? They don't understand the fact that iron filling which have dust and rust cannot be drawn to the magnet. Once you remove this dust and rust, then you will be drawn close to the magnet. What is this rust and dust? They are senses of pleasures, likes and dislikes, and jealousy. Once you get rid of these negative tendencies and cultivate pure love in your heart then, where ever you are, you will belong to Bhagawan and his Love".

Swami has shown his Divine Love in many instances. There are the major miracles (Mahimas) that are written in books, but he also has performed miracles to individual devotees. There once lived a lady in India followed Hinduism. She prayed every day and night. One day her relatives told her to visit Puttaparthi and experience the bliss of Sathya Sai Baba. Unfamiliar with Swami, she was one day called by him. That night, he came in her dream and she was suddenly transported into a state of

pure bliss, as though she was floating! She cried in her dreams to come in the form of the Hindu Gods she worshiped, and Swami transformed into a form which she always prayed to. Through this incident, swami showed her the power of his love. Love is the most powerful energy in the world. It is nurturing, compassionate, healing, and wise. Learn to live in this love, and you will become an embodiment of the Divine.



Devotee Speaks

Divine Love manifests itself when one prays with a sincere heart that does not desire to have any of its own problems resolved. That state of a pure heart is extensively hard to attain for prolonged periods of time. I would like to share one incident that is very dear to my heart and illustrates the extent to which Baba went to provide me with an answer. I was at a point where my faith in Baba was at an ultimate low. I was questioning the very validity of Baba's discourses, the very presence of God in my life and essentially whether God even existed. I questioned from a logical standpoint though. I did not question because some situational problem had arisen in my life. I simply could not make sense of God and His words. This continued for about a week or so. One night I was listening to a talk given by Dr.Sunder Iyer, a student of Swami, at a Sai Center. One thing he said that caught my attention was "when you ask for experiences, Swami gives them to you. As many times as you want he will give you proof of not only His divinity but the divinity inherent within you. You

need only to yearn for faith." As a result, a thought hit me. Before falling asleep, I prayed for Swami to give me an experience that I could hold onto and build my faith upon. It was a pure thought with no intention but the one to satisfy my hunger for Swami. That night as I slept, I had a dream of Swami in a life size photo in front of me. Both His eyes merged into one and that one eye opened in between His eyebrows. Red spark like structures started flowing out of this eye as the pupils dilated. I could feel my body start to burn. There was a moment of extreme heat after which this state vanished and I was left in darkness. I was lucid in the moment and I could remember exactly what I asked for before falling asleep. Swami had given me an incident to attach myself to. This is the extent to which the mother goes to help the son in need. So I say to you my dearest brothers and sisters; to experience Divine Love one must simply yearn with a pure heart. When you do such, He cannot hold himself back from you. He will give you more than what you desire; He will give you Himself.

How can we show divine love?

Swami says expansion is his love and that this is the highest spiritual practice. How do we show our divine love? Sacrifice, compassion, forgiveness, patience and control of desires are the main qualities of love. We should practice selfless love by integrating these qualities into our life. Swami reminds us that our love must be steadfast and unwavering. "One path, one goal" must be the attitude to earn God's love. True love is the sweet fruit that grows out of the fragrant flower of good deeds. Swami says, "When you come to me weighted with wants, prayers for boons and materialistic wishes, you stand the risk of losing faith and losing your moorings, for that faith is frail. Develop the love that asks for no return. Build faith on that basis". The meaning of this is when a person with such love for God is so immersed in God that he or she sees nothing but God in everything. The qualities are shown when a devotee's love for swami is with purity, detachment, determination, and total surrender. We can show our love for god by developing unity, thought, word and deed. There should be sweetness in our thought, word and deed. This is the true sign of a human being. By doing this, the devotees love shall be recognized by him. Utilize every second to purify your heart and fill it with love. You will then realize that God is yours and you are with Love. True devotion is the means to realize the divine. Love is the only path to god. No other path except love can take us to God. Develop love more and more. Swami says, "Love is the form of the Divine. Love alone can merge in Love. When one is filled

with Divine Love He or she can experience oneness with the Divine. Happiness arises from pure love which is also the source of Truth, Righteousness, Peace and forbearance". Prema (love) can be applied only to the total love towards the Divine. It is utterly selfless. Swami shows us different ways to expand our love and to become worthy of receiving Divine Grace. God is the embodiment of love. Love Him wholeheartedly. Do not superimpose your worldly love on God's love. His is the only true and eternal love. Focus your love only on God. God is present everywhere in the form of love. God dwells in the heart and should be sought there. We should close our mouths and open our hearts. Then we will experience the divine bliss. This is how we can show our divine love for swami. That is Prema. That is divine love.



President's Message

A very interesting train of thought was set about in the EHV class that was conducted at SSE. A devotee was wondering what exactly we mean when we wish 'Happy New Year!' Does it mean that the previous year was not so happy and that the New Year is going to bring happiness all of a sudden? We cannot wish good things to happen without doing something to make things happen; whether it is in our lives or in the lives of people around us. In this context, Swami has mentioned that 'Happiness is within; it is up to us to make each year a Happy New Year'.

I am reminded of a small verse written by a young poet with the title:

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

*"Turning to Krishna's idol,
I asked it to foresee,
To touch my crystal ball,
And here's what it told me..."*

*"My job's to play the flute,
Not the future to see,
But which tune you plan to toot,
Is up to you, not me."*

"All the joy you crave for is in you. But, like a man who has vast riches in the iron chest but who has no idea where the key is, you suffer. Hear properly the instructions, dwell upon them in the silence of meditation, practise what has been made clear therein; then, you can secure the key, open the chest, and be rich in joy."

Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume II.

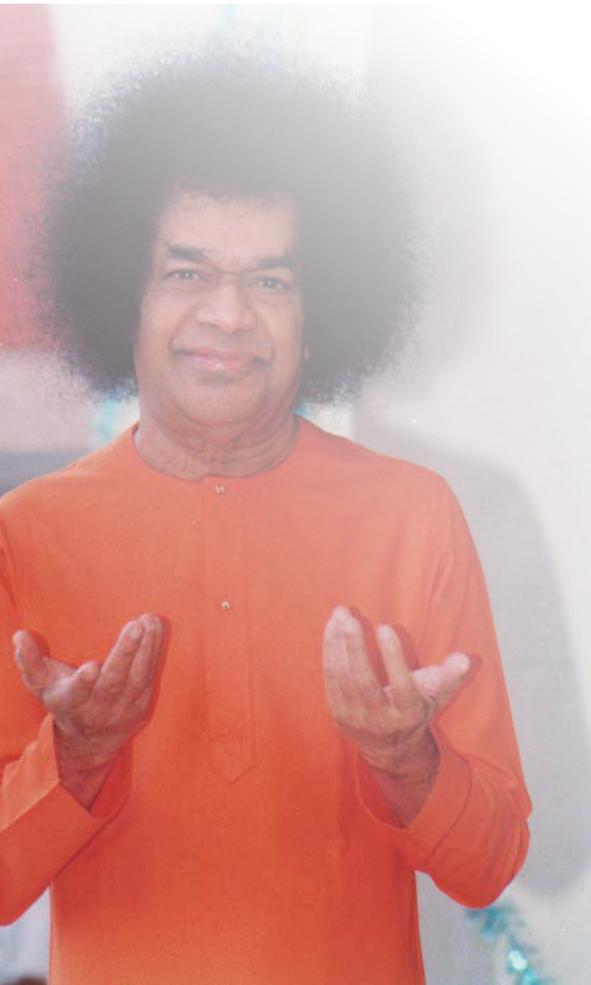
Game Corner

Divine Love Word Scramble! Unscramble the following words:

1. hFtia
2. eraPm
3. Doniovet
4. retenatiinDeo
5. eiviDn
6. tThguho
7. enctiPae
8. iulpSrita
9. tyPiru
10. Siawm
11. iUynt
12. eeSlslsf veLo
13. tnrealE
14. eDtcahtetnm
15. eedD

WORD BANK:

Spiritual
Divine
Thought
Devotion
Faith
Deed
Selfless Love
Purity
Swami
Determination
Prema
Unity
Patience
Eternal
Detachment



Upcoming Events

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Youth Bhajan 7:30-9pm	5 Universal Prayer 7:30-8:30pm	6 Bhajan Practice 12:15-1:30pm
7 Youth Bhajan 11-12pm	8	9	10	11 SSE Children Bhajan 7:30-9pm	12	13 Family Day No SSE
14 Youth Bhajan 11-12pm	15 Tapovanam Reading 7am-4pm	16	17	18 Study Circle & Bhajan 7:30-9pm	19	20 SSE 10am-12pm
21 Youth Bhajan 11-12pm	22	23	24	25 Gayatri Chant 7-7:30pm Bhajan 7:30-9pm	26 Ladies Meeting	27 SSE 10am-12pm Narayan Seva
28 Youth Bhajan 11-12pm Meadowvale Senior Home 3:30-4:05pm	29					