

Sai Dharmam



Bhajan Corner

Sarva Dharma

Bhajan

Sarva Mangala Sai Janani
Parthi Niwaasini Parama
Shivaani
Sarva Mangala Sai Janani
Devi Saraswathi Durga
Lakshmi
Jagadeeshwari Jagan-
maatha Bhavani
Jagath Janani Jaya Lakshmi
Narayani

Meaning:

Our most auspicious mother Sai who dwells in Puttaparthi is none other than Parvathi the supreme Goddess and consort of Lord Shiva. She is also Saraswathi (Goddess of learning), Durga (The Goddess who vanquished the demon Mahishasura), Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth), Bhavani (another name for Durga), Narayani (Consort of Narayana). She is the supreme Goddess and Mother of the universe. Victory to Thee Mother (in Your task of redeeming mankind).

Religion is a cultural system of behaviours and practices, world views, sacred texts, holy places, ethics, and societal organization. Different religions may contain various elements, ranging from belief in spiritual beings and the divine and faith.

A common tenet of Hinduism is “Sarva Dharma Sambhava”, which literally means that All Dharmas (truths) are equal to or harmonious with each other. In recent times this statement has been taken as meaning “all religions are the same” – that all religions are merely different paths to God or the same spiritual goal. The original Sarva Dharma symbol was drawn on the back of an envelope by Swami in 1972.

[Hinduism] Listen to the primeval Pranava Aum resounding in your heart as well as in the heart of the universe. One who performs his duty without attachment, surrendering the results unto the Supreme Lord, is unaffected by sinful action, as the lotus leaf is untouched by water. [Christianity] Cut the 'I' feeling clean across and let your ego die on the Cross, to endow on you Eternity.

[Islam] Be like the Star which never wavers from the Crescent but is fixed in steady faith.

[Judaism] Honour your father and your mother, that you may long endure on the land

which the Lord your God gives you.

[Buddhism] Go into all the lands and preach this gospel - Tell them that the poor and lowly, the rich and high are all ONE.

[Zoroastrian] Offer all bitterness in the sacred Fire and emerge grand, greatly, and godly.

Swami Says:

There is only one religion, the religion of Love;

There is only one language, the language of the Heart;

There is only one caste, the caste of Humanity;

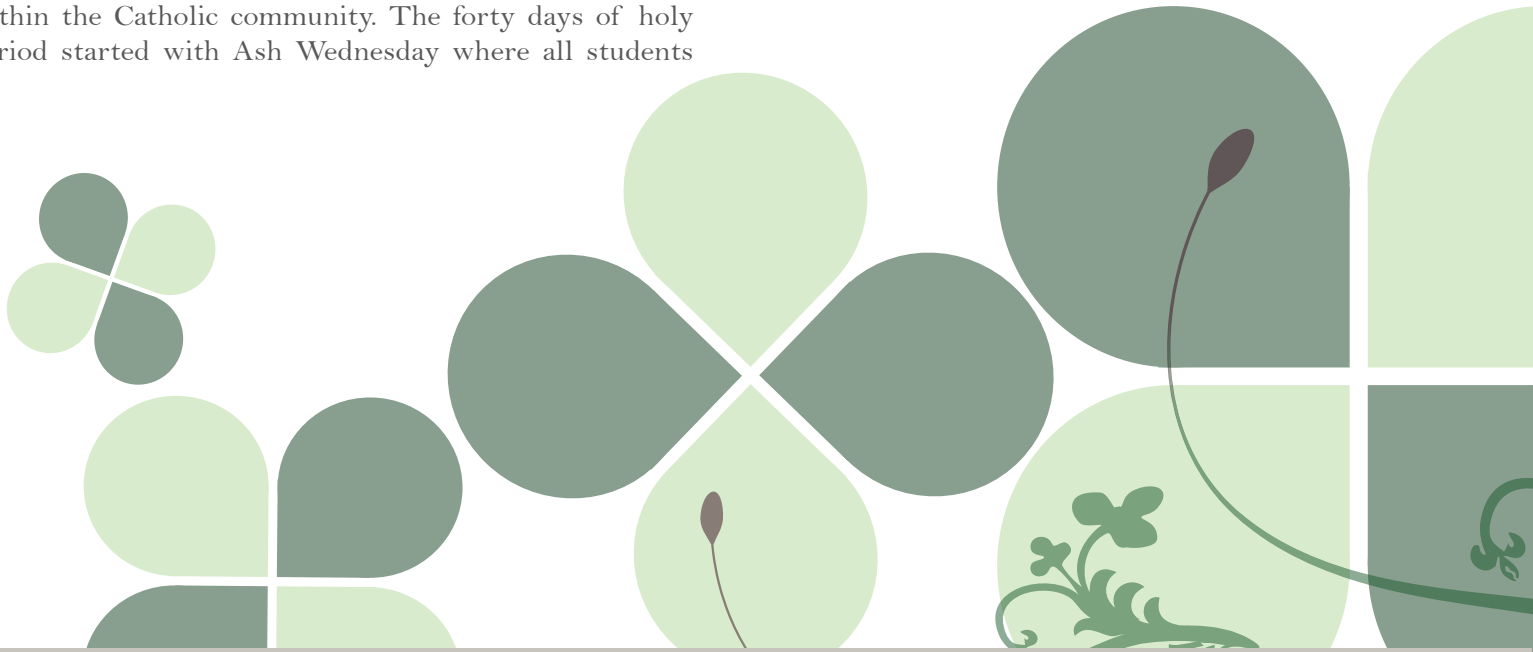
There is only one law, the law of Karma;
There is only one God, He is Omnipresent.



Devotee Speaks

Being fortunate to live in Canada- a land known for its diverse culture, I had the great opportunity of experiencing and taking part in many different cultural and religious events. However, during my four year of attending a Catholic high school, I have come to know and be a part of the various religious sacraments and events. I vividly remember Lent being a very important and sacred time within the Catholic community. The forty days of holy period started with Ash Wednesday where all students

went to the chapel to say prayers and in return were marked with a black cross on their foreheads. Although I was greatly exposed to the Catholic religions, I never failed to practice and celebrate my religion. This was mainly done by keeping my relationship strong with God by making weekly visits to the temple on Friday nights.



Swami and Mothers

In general, religion is a specific fundamental set of beliefs and practices generally agreed upon by a number of people or sects. It is a cultural system of behaviors and practices, world views, sacred texts, holy places, ethics, and societal organisations that relate humanity to “an order of existence”. On the other hand, spirituality in general is defined as the quality or state of being concerned with religion or religious matters; or the quality or state of being spiritual. In brief, religion is a set of beliefs and rituals that claim to get a person in a right relationship with God, and spirituality is a focus on spiritual things and the spiritual world instead of physical or earthly things. The true value of spirituality is that it points to the fact that there is something and someone beyond this physical world to which we need to connect. As religion refers to following a specific ideology or a set of rules, spirituality simply lets you follow your heart, it encourages you to listen to your intuition and do what is right for yourself and others around you. Another main thing about spirituality is that spirituality sees the truth in all religions and unites them because the truth is same for all of us despite our differences and uniqueness. It focuses on the

quality of the divine message they share and not on the differences in details of the story they speak. Sri Sathya Sai Baba says “spiritual progress is right living, good conduct, moral behavior”. Baba also says “People have three chief instruments for uplifting themselves: intelligence, mind, and senses. When the mind gets enslaved by the senses, you get entangled and bound. The same mind, when regulated by the intellect, can make one aware of one’s reality (Atma). The mental power gained from spiritual practice must be directed to turn the mind away from wrong paths. Direct your senses using the principle of intelligence (buddhi), and release them from the hold that the mind has on them. The mind (manas) is a bundle of thoughts, a complex of wants and wishes. As soon as a thought, desire or wish raises its head from the mind, the intellect (buddhi) must probe its value and validity — is it good or bad, will it help or hinder, where will it lead or end. If the mind does not submit to this probe, it will land itself in deep trouble. If the mind obeys your intelligence, your spiritual progress will be accelerated” (Sutra Vahini, Ch 1).

President's Message

The emblem of our Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the 'sarva dharma' symbol. Our beloved Swami embraced all religions. Belief in one God is the corner-stone of all religions. All religions are fundamentally equal. They seek the same God and proceed from the same God. They seek the same Truth, there is truth in all of them. I read an interesting article of Mahatma Gandhi on the 'Sarvadharm Sambhava'. Gandhi's religion was a synthesis of the best in all-major religions. To a question; "would you say, then, that your religion is a synthesis of all religions?" he answered, "yes, if you will". But he hastened to add that he would call that synthesis his Hinduism, and for a true Christian, that synthesis was Christianity and for a Muslim that was Islam. Have we not heard the same message from our Swami, 'if you are a Hindu, be a good Hindu, if you are a Christian, be a good Christian and if you are a Muslim, be a good Muslim'. To continue Gandhi's perspective on the existence of several religions, he says that he does not foresee a time when there would be only one religion on earth in practice. In theory, since there is one God, there can be only one religion. But in practice, he says that

no two persons have had the same and identical conception of God. Therefore, there will, perhaps, always be different religions answering to different temperaments and climatic conditions. People in various parts of the world conceived and organized their own religions because they were necessary for the people to whom they were revealed. But Gandhi proceeded to add that he could foresee a time when "people belonging to different faiths will have the same regard for other faiths that they have for their own. I think that we have to find unity in diversity..... We are all children of one and the same God and therefore, absolutely equal." The soul of religion is one but it is encased in a multitude of forms. The latter will persist to the end of time. Wise men will ignore the outward crust and see the same soul living under a variety of crusts" The advice of Gandhi is to do a reverential study of the scriptures of other faiths with a view to imbibing what is good in them so that we may improve ourselves as a true believer of our own faith and thus make it better and nobler. The need of the moment is not one religion but mutual respect and tolerance of the devotees of different religions.

Game Corner

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Om Tat Sat Shri _____ Tu
_____ Guru Tu
Siddha _____ Tu
Skanda Vinaayaka _____ Paavaka Tu
Brahma _____ Tu
_____ Shakthi Tu
Eshu _____ Prabhu Tu
Rudhra _____ Tu
_____ Tu
Rahima _____ Tu
Vasudeva _____ Vishwaroopa Tu
_____ Hari Tu
_____ Tu
Akaala _____ Aatmalinga Shiva Tu

