

# Sai Dharmam



*Bhajan Corner*

*Easwaramma*

## Bhajan

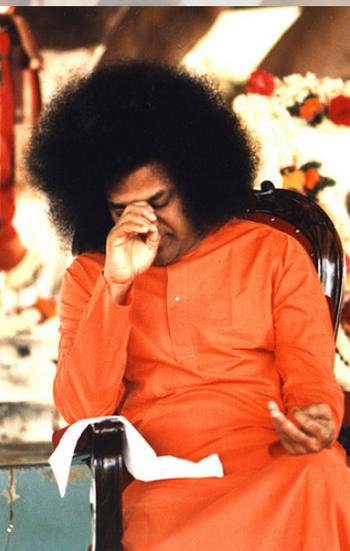
Aao Pyare Nayan  
Hamare Sai Hamare  
Aao  
Thum Bin Koi Nahi  
Rakhvale  
Thum Bin Kaun Sahare  
(Baba) (2)  
Aao Sai Pyare  
Sai Hamare Aao (3)

**E**aswaramma was the mother of all mothers, a role model to each and every mother out there. She defines what it means to be a mother, not just to Swami but also to many kids. In tribute and in honor of her immense compassion and love for children, we celebrate Easwaramma Day also known as Children's Day on May 6th of every year. Today, it is a celebrated worldwide and commemorates the anniversary of Easwaramma, mother of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Mother Easwaramma was divine effulgence with a sacred mission just like Kaushalya, (Mother of Sri Rama), Devaki (Mother of Sri Krishna) or Mary (Christ's Mother). She underwent similar agonies and ecstasies, fears and dilemmas, trials and triumphs, and ultimately experienced bliss just like the other divine mothers. Like Krishna, Swami was the eighth child of Mother Easwaramma and the turbulent times she went through before he took birth were akin to what Devaki experienced before Krishna graced her lap. None of Mother Devaki's previous seven children could escape from the heinous designs of the demon Kamsa. Easwaramma too suffered at the hands of cruel fate. She had four miscarriages in a row before the Light of the World descended as her Son. Mother Easwaramma had noble desires. She requested Swami to build a school, a hospital, and provide drinking water to everyone in the village. Before Easwaramma passed away, Swami

fulfilled all her three wishes.

Here's how Swami describes the last few hours before Easwaramma passed away. "The summer classes were on at Bangalore. In the morning at 7 am, breakfast had to be served to the students. They went round with Nagara Sankeerthan (street singing of spirituals) and returned at 6 am. I gave them darshanat as its close. Then, I went for my bath. Meanwhile, Easwaramma had finished her bath; she drank her coffee as usual quite happily and took her seat on the inner verandah. All of a sudden proceeding to the bathroom, she cried out, 'Swami, Swami, Swami,' thrice. At this, I responded, 'Coming, coming.' Within that period, she breathed her last. What greater sign of goodness is needed? She had no need to be served and nursed." "From the ground floor, she called, 'Swami! Swami!' I replied, 'Coming, coming' and she was gone. It was like the elephant's calling and the Lord proceeding to bless; the two wires achieving connection, the release happening instantaneously." Swami says that there are many noble mothers in this world, but Easwaramma was the chosen one. "I chose her to be my mother. That is the intimate relationship between Mother Easwaramma and myself."



# Devotee Speaks

**T**he story I'm about to share might seem a little silly to read, but it's an experience that showed me with a little snippet of the love a mother has.

I came back from university one weekend, and I was returning home after about a month. I was excited to see my family and spend time at home. The one thing about me is, I love chocolate. Almost a bit too much to shamelessly admit. So when I arrived home, after dinner I went looking for chocolate in the kitchen, and I couldn't find any. Totally upset that I didn't satisfy my sweet tooth, I went to bed. A couple of hours later, before my mom went to bed, she found a box of chocolate almonds in the cabinet. The first thing she does, she comes upstairs, wakes me up, and with the biggest and most loving smile she told me she found chocolate for me. Such a simple gesture, but when I woke up and saw how happy my mom was to make me happy, a surge of overwhelming love and gratitude came about.

Mothers are the epitome of selfless love. There is no example greater, to even try to express or quantify the importance of a mother is an impossible task. So, if mothers are so great, how do I show gratitude?

As we grow up, our mothers are growing older. The best way to show appreciation is to start taking care of our mothers, the same way they took care of us. It is our time to give back. For me, that means taking care of my mom when she's sick. That means helping to clean out the kitchen when she finishes cooking. That means coming home from school/work and spending time with my mother. The love they showed us, if even half reciprocated, a mother's heart is overwhelmed.

## Swami and Mothers

**M**any demand proof of God, so I tell them dazzling tales. Tales of hero-men who could change their size and leap over entire oceans to reach an island fortress, messiahs feeding thousands of disciples with only five loaves and two fish, ancient princes who renounced everything for enlightenment and to end universal suffering. There are many stories of deities and avatars that will do anything for those they love. Even today, both Allah and Sri Sathya Sai Baba remind us 'if you take one step towards me, I will take ten steps towards you.' The moral is 'God is powerful and God is Love'.

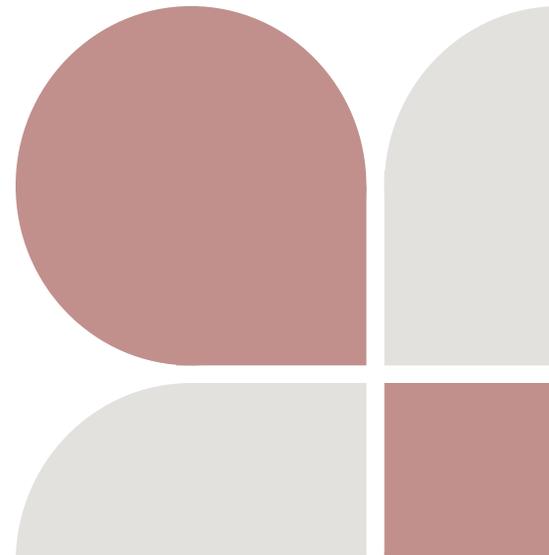
"There is no love greater than mother's love in this world. It is imbued with immense power." And, the first of her physical sacrifices is what gave us our body. Swami said that God has given us mud and water but pots are made by potters, not God. In the same way, it is our mother who molds our body and our minds, with help from our father who provides the life force.

As such, Swami says it is the foremost duty of children to fulfill the wishes of their mother to the best of their ability and make her happy. We should always be disciplined, dedicated and devoted when interacting with our mothers. We must respect our parents, whoever they may be and in whatever condition they may be. Also, we should be pure, patient, and preserving towards our parents.

Swami says the proof of God is our mother. She is the

first teacher who teaches us about right conduct, morality and devotion. So when listening to all those other stories, remember: 'Rama's divinity blossomed under Kaushalya's loving care. Lava and Kusha achieved name and fame only because of the tender feelings and austerity of Sita. Fostered with the love of his mother Putlibai, Gandhi became a Mahatma. The loving care of Jijibai made Shivaji a great warrior.' In these heroic tales of great men and their accomplishments, don't forget to read between the lines to recognize the mother who provided them with the foundation for their successes.

"matru devo bhava" - There is a living God.



# President's Message

**S**wami's Aradhana Day at Cooksville Sai Centre was so memorable that one finds it difficult to transcend into another day... another month. If there is anyone who can wake us up from this trance, it is only the Mother of our Lord, Easwaramma.

The Lord, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba chose Easwaramma as His mother not only as a reward for her past deeds but also, as Prof. Kasturi noted, "in appreciation of what she was capable of in this life." It was mother Easwaramma who inspired the Lord into 'selfless service'; and to think that this mother Easwaramma performed padapuja to her 'priya tanaya'. This reminds us of what Kapila, who was born as Narayana gave brahma gnyana to his mother Devahuti.

Mother is respected the foremost in all religions.

A man once consulted the Prophet Muhammad about taking part in a military campaign. The Prophet asked the man if his mother was still living. When told that she was alive, the Prophet said: "(Then) stay with her, for Paradise is at her feet." (Al-Tirmidhi)

Sri Ramakrishna took it one step ahead by seeing God as his mother. He worshiped the divine mother Kali as a protective and benevolent deity. This is illustrated by Ramakrishna describing God as a mother who cooks fish differently for her children according to their tastes, temperaments, and their ability to digest different types of foods. For Ramakrishna, God is both the mother of the universe and of individual souls who are her children. In India, a mother is often idealized as one who sacrifices herself for her children and goes to great lengths to satisfy them, and bring them happiness. God, as a Mother, therefore makes different religions and belief systems according to each person's needs and tastes.

The Mother always knows what is best for her children, and will eventually do what is right for them.



## Game Corner

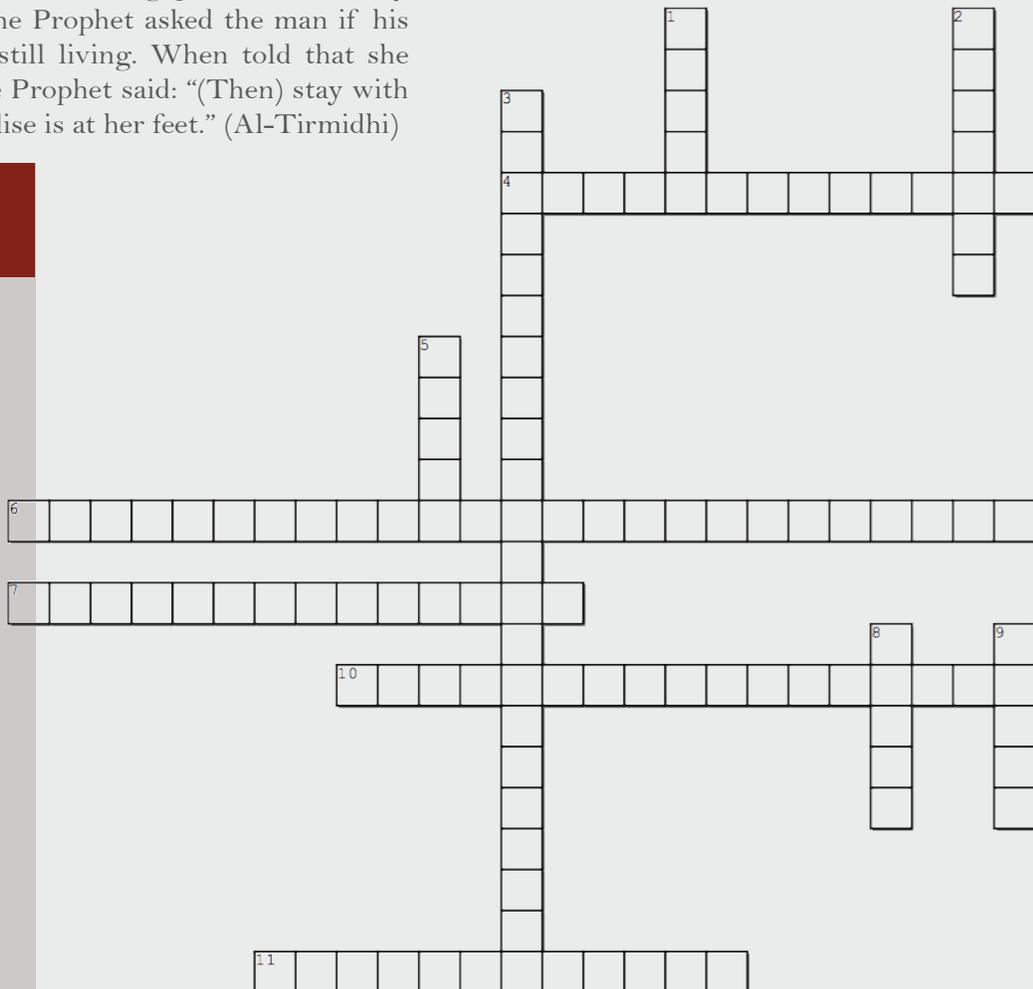
### CROSSWORD

#### Across

4. What does Easwaramma mean?
6. What was Mother Easwaramma's second wish?
7. What is Easwaramma Day also celebrated as?
10. Who is Swami's beloved mother?
11. What is Easwaramma's name given by her parents?

#### Down

1. How many wishes did Easwaramma ask Swami
2. Who is Easwaramma often compared to?
3. What is the name of Easwaramma's chairty?
5. What was Easwaramma's last word
8. When is Easwaramma Day celebrated?
9. \_\_\_\_\_, Pitha, Guru, Deivam



# Upcoming Events

## May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Youth & Grp 4 Bhajan 7:30-9pm	6 Ladies Wing Meeting 7:30-9pm	7 SSE 10am-12pm Eashwaramma Day
8 Youth Bhajan 11:30-12:30pm	9	10	11	12 SSE Children Bhajan 7:30-9pm	13	14 SSE 10am-12pm
15 Youth Bhajan 11:30-12:30pm	16	17	18	19 Bhajan 7:30-9pm	20	21 SSE 10am-12pm
22 Youth Bhajan 11:30-12:30pm	23	24	25	26 Study Circle & Bhajan 7:30-9pm	27 Universal Prayer 7:30-8:30pm	28 SSE 10am-12pm Narayan Seva
29 Youth Bhajan 11:30-12:30pm	30	31				