



Sabka Maalik Ek

SAI SANDESH

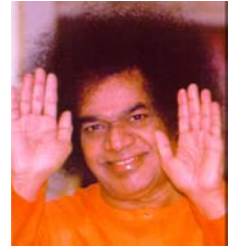
The Monthly Newsletter of Om Sai Mandir

December 2005; Volume 2, Issue 12

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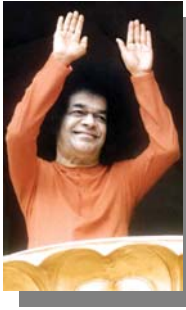
Love All, Serve All

Christmas Special Issue



PURE LOVE WILL ALWAYS WIN

*A heart without love is lifeless;
Can you call that life Merely because there is
Breath in the body? It is just a pair of bellows.¹*



In all of Swami's discourses you will find one four letter word being consistently repeated: LOVE. In fact Swami extols selfless love so highly that He acknowledges His essence as being nothing but pure love. Vedas and millions of seekers over billions of aeons have not been able to fathom the glory of God, but with great ease describe Him as being

love. Swami goes a step further and addresses not just Himself, but all of us as "premaswarupa" (embodiments of love).

What is love? The hallmark of love is "thyaaga" (selfless sacrifice). Love seeks nothing from anyone, nor does it bear ill-will toward anyone. It is utterly selfless and pure.¹ Feelings directed selflessly toward humanity and toward God constitutes the real definition of pure love, the rest being mere attachment. The question that quickly comes to mind, then, is: Do I have love in my heart? The answer is, yes. We are all living embodiments of love. We may not recognize this fact because our love is enveloped with endless layers of desire, stress, and undesirable qualities. Everyone loves something. Some may love money, others their relations, some others their possessions, and almost everyone, themselves. So we all have love in our hearts. Only the direction of love needs to change toward God, instead of worldly possessions. Selfless love is such a powerful magnet that God Himself will get drawn to it, almost effortlessly. In fact, all forms of "sadhana" (spiritual exercises) have as their aim the discovery of this pure selfless love that is already present in each one of us as the very core of our being.

Four types of love. Love of the Divine is of four kinds. One is *Svaartha-Prema* (love based on self-interest). The second is *Samanjasa-Prema*; the third, *Paraartha-Prema*; and the fourth, *Yatharthartha-Prema*. *Svaartha-Prema* is like a lamp kept in a room. The lamp illumines only the room. This kind of selfish love is confined to a limited group and does not extend to others. *Samanjasa-Prema* may be compared to the light from the moon. This moonlight is visible both outside and inside. It is, however, not very effulgent. The light is dim. This kind of love extends to a wider group but

is not very intense. The third is *Paraartha-Prema*. It is like sun-light. It illumines both inside and outside with brilliance. But it is not continuous in the sense that the sun is not visible at night. But this is not a permanent absence, because the sun rises again. Actually, the sun is always there. Likewise, this selfless love may appear to be absent some times, but it will appear again. The fourth one is *Yatharthartha-Prema* or *Aartha-Prema*. This love is present always, inside and outside, in all places at all times, and under all circumstances. This is Divine Love. It is imperishable, eternal, and immanent in everyone. When this love is manifested by a person, he achieves the peace that passeth understanding.

The power of love. One may question the practicality of love in today's world, a world that is filled with fear,



hatred, and terrorism. Speaking of terrorism, an incidence comes to mind. Once two devotees (husband and wife) of Swami were traveling by air. Unfortunately, the aircraft was hijacked by terrorists. Within a few minutes of takeoff, the travelers became victims of a torrent of bullets, rained

mercilessly. Fear enveloped the environment. In the midst of the death dance, however, the Sai devotees remained absolutely firm in faith, constantly contemplating on the divine name. The power of the name was such that none of the bullets could hit the two devotees.

As the terrorists approached the Sai devotees, the wife fervently prayed to Swami for His grace and intervention. Sai Maa's response was immediate; He telepathically spoke to the devotee, ordering her to look at the perpetrator with pure love. She followed Swami's instructions and looked at him with a heart filled with intense love and compassion. The effect of the loving glance was so powerful that the terrorist could not stand still; he immediately lost balance and succumbed to his knees, dropping his gun. Such was the power of love; it overcame hatred instantly. They ultimately made it back home very safely.

How to manifest divine love? Mere repetition of God's name will manifest the qualities of love and compassion. The repetition, however, must be continuous. Divine love is the only panacea for all troubles and miseries arising from insatiable desires and

frustrated ambitions. God's love is a lighthouse beacon, showing you the right path. Divert the boat of life toward the lighthouse. You are then sure to gain the shore of bliss. You do not need any special type of penance. Meditate on love. Fill your mind with love. Even while attending to your daily chores, regard all of them as offerings to the Divine. Let love grow in the heart like the waxing moon. Divine love will not wane. Let such steadfast love be enshrined in your heart. As Tukaram said, *Dhil me Ram, haath me kaam* (chant the divine name, while hands engage in work). With love of God you can secure anything. Without that love, you will only be steeped in misery.²

Royal road to secure God's grace. In the Dwapara Yuga, Krishna was being weighed in a balance. All the jewels of Sathyabhaama could not balance His weight. Rukmini then came and declared that the mere chanting of the name of Krishna would be equal to His weight. By the additional offer of a leaf, a flower or a little water, the scales will be tilted. So saying, she placed a *tulasi* leaf on the scale. Lo! It went down. The *tulasi* leaf carried the full weight of Rukmini's boundless love for Krishna. All the jewels of Sathyabhaama were of no avail, but Rukmini's invoking the name of Krishna and offering a *tulasi* leaf with a love-filled heart tilted the scales. Such is the power of the Lord's name and a love-filled offering. God is not swayed by wealth or scholarship, power or position. Love alone can move Him. Tukaram declared that Raama cannot be realized by any other path except the path of love. This is the inner meaning of, "Love is God and God is Love".⁴ Love is Divine. It is like mariner's compass. Wherever you may keep it, it points the way to God. In every action in daily life manifest your love. Divinity will emerge from that love. This is the easiest path to God realization.³

Supreme example of Vibheeshana. Vibheeshana, the younger brother of Ravana, submitted himself to many indignities at the hands of Raavana. All out of the love he had for Raama. In the battle against the demons, Raama and Lakshmana destroyed many great Raakshasa warriors on the first two days. On the third day a formidable warrior stood before them. Vibheeshana told Raama, "If you conquer this warrior, the whole of Lanka will be yours. He is a greater warrior than even Raavana." Raama fought with this mighty Raakshasa the whole day, and was on the point of giving up the battle for the day. At this stage, Vibheeshana, who was behind Raama, said, "This is not the time to give up the fight. You must rally all your strength and destroy the enemy. You should not miss this chance." Egged on by Vibheeshana, Raama continued the fight and destroyed his opponent.⁵

The formidable warrior fell on the battlefield. The moment he learned that the warrior was dead, Vibheeshana also collapsed on the ground. Recovering himself after chanting the name of Raama, Vibheeshana got up and confessed to Raama, "Svaami! This is a mark of weakness on my part. I should not have succumbed to such weakness. Having filled myself with your love, how could I succumb to such weakness?" Raama observed, "Why did you collapse so suddenly?" Vibheeshana replied, "Svaami! This happened because of bodily attachment. It was due to parental affection. That mighty warrior was my son." He was Vibheeshana's son! See what Vibheeshana did. To ensure the victory of the Lord, Vibheeshana did not hesitate to get even his son killed in battle.⁵ Such was the divine love in Vibheeshana. He could bear none to stand in opposition to the Lord, not even his son.

Divine Love as glorified by the Vedas. The *Shruti (Veda)* declares, "It did not originate from the firmament. It did not grow from the earth. It has no birth and death. It is all-pervading. It emerges from the heart when the knots of ignorance are broken." This is how the *Vedas* glorified Divine Love. Even Narada, the author of the *Bhakti Sutras*, could not describe the nature of Divine Love. He described in various terms the state of mind of the devotees filled with love of the Lord, but he could not describe *prema* (love) itself. He compared *Prema* to a priceless gem. Likewise Tulsidas also referred to Raama's name as a precious gem. Where is this love to be found? It can be got only from God Himself, the very embodiment of love.⁵

Love is the panacea. Baba has declared that the root cause of all diseases is the mind. Stress, constant pressure, imaginary fears, and feelings of intense hatred and anger—all release toxic chemicals in the body and cause diseases such as blood pressure, heart diseases, depression, etc. Love is the most potent remedy to overcome all these ills. The person whose heart is filled with pure love enjoys perpetual bliss and fears none. He becomes a worthy receptacle of God's grace and a living truth for all mankind to follow. When asked for the secret behind drawing millions to Him, Swami always says that His pure and selfless love attracts millions of devotees to Him. He is the living example of the power of love, a love that transforms, heals, and ushers all toward the goal of liberation. It is His love that forms the key to the governance of the entire universe. The gist is aptly described through Swami's gospel: Love All, Serve All.

1 Discourse in Sai Kulwant Mandap on 20-6-1996.

2. Discourse on 23-11-1996 in Sai Kulwant Mandap.

3. Discourse on 5- 7-1996.

4. Discourse at Prashaanthi Mandir on Easwaramma Day, 6-5-1985.

5. Discourse in Sai Kulwant Mandap on 27- 7-1996.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2005

Thursday, December 15: Datta Jayanti

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Celebrations

Saturday, December 31: New Year's Eve Celebration

OM SAI MANDIR'S DAILY ACTIVITIES

DAILY ARATIS:

Kakad Arati	8.00 A.M.
Madhyana Arati	12.00 P.M.
Dhoop Arati	6.00 P.M.
Sheja Arati	8.00 P.M.

SPECIAL BHAJANS:

Every Thursday	7.00 P.M. – 8.30 P.M.
Every Sunday	2.00 P.M. – 3.00 P.M.

SAI NAAM JAP (CHANTING BABA'S HOLY NAME):

Last Saturday of Every Month 8.30 A.M. – 8.30 P.M.

STOTRAS (CHANTING SAHASRANAM, BABA'S 108 NAMES, ETC.): Daily.

ANNADAN [FOOD SERVICE]: Daily at the Temple

ANNADAN [FOOD SERVICE] FOR HOMELESS

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Every Saturday at 1 p.m
29th and 1st Ave. For more info, call (718) 461-0454.

PUJA SPONSORSHIP

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Abishekam.....	\$51
Satyanarayana Vrata.....	\$81
Vahana Puja.....	\$15
Annadan.....	\$251

To sponsor pujas, call: (718) 461-0454.

SABARI'S SADHANA

Sabari had a very compassionate heart. How she came to Matanga Rishi and stayed at his hermitage is a very interesting story. Her parents arranged her marriage, and as was the custom among the Adivata, a goat was to be offered to the tribal Goddess, on the night previous to the ceremony, in order to win Her grace for the couple. When Sabari came to know about this slaughter, she wept and fell at the feet of her parents, prying them to save the goat. She asked, "How can our married life be happy, when the dying bleat of this goat is the prologue?" But, the father pushed her aside and proceeded with

the cruel rife. That night, Sabari stole out and hid herself in the depths of the jungle that was not far off. When day dawned, her parents as well as the groom's party were plunged in grief and anxiety; they combed the area, even where she was lying low amidst the thick bushes, and went back, saying among themselves, "She could not have gone to the hermitage, for no woman would be given asylum there." She heard those words and concluded that the hermitage was the safest place.

Matanga espied her and gave her permission to be in his habitation. He told her that God in the form of Sri Raama was coming to the hermitage some day, since he had been exiled into the forests for 14 years and He was eager to save the monks and the seekers from the ravage of the demonic enemies of peace! Rama, he said, was proceeding from one region to another, with His consort Sita and His brother Lakshmana. From that day Sabari had no other thought than of Rama, no other desire than the desire to have the Darshan of Rama, the chance to touch His Feet, and the opportunity to speak with Him. Her heart was saturated with the Ramarasa, the sweetness of the Rama principle. She had no other spiritual exercise. She spent her time, preparing for the visit of Rama; just as she cleaned the paths, she cleaned her heart too. Pebbles and thorns disappeared from both. She walked through the under-growth and removed overhanging creepers and briars, for she imagined Rama would not have combed His hair and it might get caught. She broke lumps of earth, for she feared the tender soles of Sita would be hurt when she walks over them. She gathered fruits and tubers from the jungle trees and plants and kept them by every day, for no one knew when Rama would arrive! She took no risks.

She tasted every fruit, whether it was bitter, sour or sweet, so Rama could eat the best. She smoothed the surface of all stoners that lay by the side of the tracks in the jungle for she expected Rama, Lakshmana or Sita to sit on one of them when they got tired of walking. She hoped that one of them would rest awhile on one of the rocks she polished with great care. Thus, her heart became Rama Hridaya! Sabari was so immersed in Rama that the ascetics lost all awareness of her gender; they allowed her to remain in the hermitage. Matanga also left this body and gave the hermitage to Sabari, saying, "you alone deserve to be here when Rama arrives!" The Sadhana that Sabari did to earn the bliss of serving Rama, we can do by serving Sai Rama in the poor. By this service, we can realize the Self of Rama.

- Adapted from Oka Chinna Katha

DEVOTEES' EXPERIENCES

Mr. A Rangaiah (58), a dealer in shahbad stones, relates a few of his experiences of the Divinity of Bhagavan in his own words.

'My mother was admitted in the Osmania Hospital in 1975 for some ailment. Then some people came and gave her vibhuti. 'This is the vibhuti of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba' they told us, 'it will be beneficial to you not only in healing, but in many other ways.' That was the first time I heard about Bhagavan. Then I did not pay any attention to it. My father, Mr. Gundaiah was a spiritual master administering mantra-deeksha to his devotees. In 1988, some of his devotees took him to Prasanthi Nilayam for the darshan of Bhagavan. While returning, he brought a photograph of Bhagavan and placed it in the shrine.

'Why did you put this photograph in pooja?' I asked my father, 'you are yourself a spiritual preceptor. Why do you require others?' My father smiled and said 'worship Him. He throws around many diamonds of His teachings. Take them and make use of them. If we ignore diamonds thinking that they are some glass pieces, we are the losers.' So, I began worshipping Him.

In 1989, a bhajan mandali was started by some Sai devotees in our village. We used to conduct bhajans in various houses by rotation. Soon, Sri Sathya Sai Samithi also was formed. I visited Prasanthi Nilayam in 1990. It was my first visit. There I had darshan of Bhagavan for the first time. Earlier, in November 1989, we conducted akhanda bhajans in a rented hall. As usual, we placed a chair for Bhagavan. One Mr. Manikyappa, a priest from a nearby village, came to us for some work. He was not a Sai devotee. He sat with us as bhajans were going on. 'When will Swami come again?' He asked. 'He is in Puttaparthi', I replied 'he won't come here now.' 'But He was here when I came' Mr. Manikyappa told me, 'He was sitting in that chair there.' We were amazed. 'We place a chair for Bhagavan' I told him 'because we assume that He will attend the bhajan to bless us. We are happy to hear what you tell us. You are blessed by Bhagavan with His darshan.'

From 1992 to 2004, we set apart the upstairs portion of our house exclusively for Swami. Bhajans as well as Samithi activities used to be conducted there. Later, a new mandir was constructed. While a bhajan was being held in the house of one Mr. J. Srimantha Rao in Tandoor, vibhuti emanated on February 26, 2001, from the photograph of Bhagavan. We were all excited. It was emanating like that for about two years. A

fortnight before the bhajan was held in his house when vibhuti came first time, akshatas fell under Bhagavan's photograph. Mr. Rao collected them and kept aside. When some devotees wanted to see them, he opened the packet. To his surprise, there were more akshatas than he had originally placed in the packet. They grew in quantity like that for some days.

My son Kiran Kumar got admission in Engineering in a private college and I paid Rs. 30,000 as fees. But he did not like to burden me with his study in a private college. This was in 1995. He went to Prasanthi Nilayam for seva. In those days, Swami used to give padanamaskar to all sevadal at the end of seva. My son asked Swami, 'Swami, I want to study Engineering with a free seat.' Swami said, 'manchidi' and blessed him. On return to Tandoor, he was told that the earlier counselling results were cancelled and that he had to appear for counselling again. In the re-counselling, he got a free seat owing to Swami's grace.

My eldest son Mohan Kumar had a health problem. Doctors diagnosed it as epilepsy. We tried Allopathy, Ayurveda and Homoeo—all in vain. He came to Prasanthi Nilayam. He sat in darshan line with a letter. Swami took the letter. From that day he has had no fits till now. He has been cured completely and miraculously. My second son, Sanjiv Kumar came for seva two or three years back to Prasanthi Nilayam. He got seva at Swami's residence. One day Swami called some students and was distributing money. My son stood at a distance in his allotted place. Swami called him signalling with His hand. When he went near, Swami asked him, 'have I given you?' My son said, 'Swami! I am sevadal.' Swami smiled and gave him Rs. 500 currency note. We had it framed and preserved in our house." -- Mr. A. Rangaiah.

Source:

<http://www.vedamu.org/forum/ExperienceoftheDivinityofBhagavan/MrARangaiah.asp>

**DEVOTEES ARE
REQUESTED TO
CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES,
EXPERIENCES, STORIES,
ETC. FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE FORTHCOMING
ISSUES OF SAI SANDESH**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Faith is essential for human progress in every field. Knowledge, and hence, wisdom can be earned only by means of faith and effort. Equipped with these, man can scale great heights and emerge victorious. However, one has to be warned against cultivating too much faith in things that are merely material. One has to root it deep in the eternally valid Truth, God. Faith is power. Without faith, living is impossible. We have faith in tomorrow following today. That is what makes us take up activities that extend beyond this day. People with no faith cannot plan; they court misery by their want of faith. - Baba



Sai Sandesh, on behalf of Om Sai Mandir, wishes all its devotees and readers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous Year Ahead. May Swami's blessings be with all of you, always.

TEMPLE JOURNAL

AKHANDA BHAJANS FOR WORLD PEACE (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005)



TEMPLE JOURNAL CONTINUED
SWAMI'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS (WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2005)



AN APPEAL

Devotees are requested to generously contribute toward the development of the temple. Devotees can make their checks payable to: **Om Sai Mandir**

CONTACT INFORMATION/DONATION FORM

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