

GRAND DECLARATIONS

— Study Guide 1 —

Aradhana Mahotsavam
April 24, 2021



“

I have a "*Task*": To foster all mankind and ensure for all of them lives full of ananda (bliss). I have a "*Vow*": To lead all who stray away from the straight path again into goodness and save them. I am attached to a "*work*" that I love: To remove the sufferings of the poor and grant them what they lack. I have a "*reason to be proud*", for I rescue all who worship and adore me, aright. I have my definition of the "*devotion*" I expect: Those devoted to me have to treat joy and grief, gain and loss, with equal fortitude. This means that I will never give up those who attach themselves to me.

Sathyam, Sivam Sundaram Vol.2/Ch.2
<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/resume-1926-1961>

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Sri Sathya Sai Baba

PRASANTHI NILAYAM P.O.

ANANTPUR, DT. (A.P.)

PHONE NO. 130

There was no one to know who I am :
Till I created this world at my pleasure
with one word. immediately mountains rose up.
immediately rivers started running. earth below
and sky over its head oceans, seas lands and
watersheds Sun, moon and desert-sands sprang
up from on where to prove my existence
came all forms of human beings man and
beasts and birds flying, speaking hearing
and all powers were bestowed upon them
under my orders. The first place was granted
to mankind and my knowledge was placed
in (his) mind.

Come one come all Let us not be
ungrateful called. Let ^{us} ~~us~~ faithfully serve (SAI)
Him and Love Him Love Him Love Him

With Blessings

Sri Sathya Sai

Pamela

Who is Sai?

There was no one to know who I am ... (Letter to Devotee)

There was no one to know who I am till I created this world at my pleasure with one word. Immediately mountains rose up. Immediately rivers started running. Earth below and sky over its head. Oceans, seas, lands and watersheds. Sun, moon and desert sands sprang up from nowhere to prove My existence. Came all forms of human beings, mankind, beasts and birds flying, speaking hearing and all powers were bestowed upon them under My orders. The first place was granded to mankind and My knowledge was placed in (his) mind. Come one, Come all. Let us not be ungrateful called. Let us faithfully serve (SAI) Him and Love Him, Love Him, Love Him.

With Blessings

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

From: Divine Whispers – Compilation of letters

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I have come to light the lamp of love ...

I have come to light the lamp of love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added luster. I have not come to speak on behalf of any particular religion. I have not come on any mission of publicity for any sect or creed or cause; nor have I come to collect followers for any doctrine. I have no plan to attract disciples or devotees into My fold or any fold. I have come to tell you of this Universal unitary faith, this *Atmic* principle, this path of love, this religion (*dharma*) of love (*prema*), this duty of love, this obligation to love.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.8/Ch.22: 4 July 1968

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/message-i-bring>

I am in you; you are in Me

I have no wish to draw people towards Me, away from the worship of My other names and forms. You may infer from what you call My miracles, that I am causing them to attract and to attach you to Me, and Me alone. They are not intended to demonstrate or publicize; they are merely spontaneous and concomitant proofs of Divine Majesty. I am yours; you are mine, for ever and ever. What need is there for attracting and impressing, for demonstrating your Love or My compassion? I am in you; you are in Me. There is no distance or distinction.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.8/Ch.45: 23 November 1968

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/give-giver-gift>

My life is a commentary on My Message

I eat as you do, move about as you do, talk in your language, and behave as you can recognize and understand, for YOUR sake---not for My sake! I turn you towards the Divine, winning your confidence, your love, your submission, by being among you, as one of yourselves, one whom you can see, listen to, speak to, touch and treat with reverence and devotion. My plan is to transmute you into seekers of Truth.

I am present everywhere, at all times; My Will must prevail over every obstacle; I am aware of the past, present and future, of your innermost thought and carefully guarded secrets. I am Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient. Nevertheless, I do not manifest these powers in any capricious manner or merely for display. For, I am an example and an inspiration for whatever I do or omit to do. My life is a commentary on My message.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.10/Ch.30: 11 October 1970

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/commentary-message>

The wicked will not be destroyed, they will be transformed

Rama, Krishna and other Avatars had to kill one or more individuals, who could be identified as Enemies of the righteous (*dharmic*) way of life, and thus restore the practice of virtue. But now, there is no one fully good, and so, who deserves the protection of God? All are tainted by wickedness, and so, who will survive, if the Avatar decides to uproot? Therefore, I have to correct the intellect (*buddhi*), by various means; I have to counsel, help, command, condemn and standby as friend and well-wisher to all, so that they may give up evil propensities and recognizing the straight path, tread it and reach the goal. I have to reveal to the people the worth of the Veda, the scriptures (*Shastra*) and the scriptural texts, which lay down the norms.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.4/Ch.30: 23 November 1964

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/karma-and-karuna>

My main task is the re-establishment of Vedas

My task is not merely to cure and console, remove individual misery. It is something far more important. The important task of the mango tree is to produce mango fruits. The leaves, the branches, and the trim of the tree are useful, in their own way, no doubt; but the main aim is the fruit. So also from the plantain tree, the fruit is the main gain. The leaves, the edible core of the stem, these are all incidental. So too the removal of misery and distress is incidental to My Mission. My main task is the re-establishment of Vedas and scriptures (*Shasthras*) in the heart of India (*Bharathavarsha*) and the revival of knowledge about them in the people. This task will succeed; it will not be impeded by any obstacle. It will not be limited or slowed. When the Lord decides and wills, His Resolve (*Sankalpa*) cannot be hindered; it will not be hindered.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.4/Ch.49: 17 December 1964

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/no-srama-aashrama>

Ask and get what will save you, not what will bind you

You have come, most of you, to get from Me tinsel and trash, petty little cures and promotions, joys and comforts. Very few of you desire to get from Me the thing I have come to give, viz. liberation itself - and even among these few, those who stick to the path of spiritual practice and succeed are a handful. Many are drawn away by the outer signs of sainthood, the long gown, the beard, the rosaries, the matted hair; they keep track of many such who move about in this land and follow them into the wilderness. It is very difficult to demarcate clearly the manifestation of the Lord, so I am announcing Myself and am Myself describing My mission, the task, the characteristics, the qualities that mark out the Avatar from the rest. Do not hunger for comfort or riches; hunger for bliss (*ananda*). If you have faith, and if you keep the name of Rama as constant companion, you are in heaven (*Vaikuntha* or *Kailas*) all the time. These are not distant regions that have to be reached by tortuous travel; they are springs of tranquility that are in your own heart. You cannot have this chance of the nearness of the greatest of all sources of joy in any other place. Here, it is so near, so easy to attain, so full of grace. If you fall back, you will seldom get the chance again. Ask and get what will save you, not what will bind you. You ask from Me a thousand things of the world, but rarely do you ask for “Me”.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.3/Ch.3: 4 February 1963

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/ask-me>

Questions

- How is Swami’s Mission different from the previous Avatars of Rama and Krishna?
- Swami says that He came to light the lamp, of love. What is Swami expecting from us as part of this task?
- What should we ask from Swami?

Gratitude

The worship I like most

Manasa bhajare guru charanam

Dustara bhava sagara taranam

I called on all those suffering in the endless round of birth and death to worship the Feet of the spiritual preceptor (*Guru*), the *Guru* who was announcing Himself, who had come again for taking upon Himself the burden of those who find refuge in Him. That was the very first Message of Mine to Humanity. *Manasa bhajare* - Worship in the mind! I do not need your flower garlands and fruits, things that you get for an anna or two; they are not genuinely yours. Give Me something that is yours, something that is clean and fragrant with the perfume of virtue and innocence and washed in the tears of repentance! Garlands and fruits you bring as items in the show, as an exhibition of your devotion; poorer devotees who cannot afford to bring them are humiliated and feel sorry that they are helpless; they cannot demonstrate their devotion in the grand way in which you are doing it. Install the Lord in your heart and offer Him the fruits of your actions and the flowers of your inner thoughts and feelings. That is the worship I like most, the devotion I appreciate most.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.1/Ch.1: 17 October 1953

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/worship-mind>

Expression of gratitude is itself a prayer

Why does one need to chant the Name of God? Why should one pray to God? Isn't it our duty to express gratitude to God, who has created this vast world and all the living beings in it and provided them with food to eat, air to breathe, and water to drink? Not only that, but He has also provided everything for all living beings to carry on their life sojourn on earth.

If your handkerchief falls down and someone picks it up and gives it to you, you thank them. Even for a small help like this, you say thanks. Then isn't it your duty to express gratitude to God, who gave you so much?

Expression of gratitude is itself prayer. What does prayer do? It awakens the inner Divinity of a person, which is immeasurable, invisible, and transcendental.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.29/Ch.34: 17 August 1996

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/be-ever-grateful-god-alternative-translation>

Take up the Name and dwell upon Its sweetness

Do you know how much I feel when I find that, in spite of My arrival and teaching and spiritual instruction, you have not yet started this spiritual discipline? You simply praise Me and strew compliments; that I am the Treasure-house of Grace, the Ocean of *Ananda*, etc. Take up the Name and dwell upon Its sweetness; imbibe It and roll It on your tongue, taste Its essence, contemplate on Its magnificence, and make it a part of yourself and grow strong in spiritual joy. That is what pleases Me.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.1/Ch.35: 28 December 1960

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/dangers-doubt>

Offer pure heart to the Lord

Remember, the person who goes beyond the externals wins the victory. The Lord is not pleased with externals; He searches for the feelings, the internal urges. I do not want the flowers and fruits and miscellaneous packets that you bring in your hands when you come to Me. Come with your hands empty, saying “What can I give You that has not come from You Yourself? When You gave me this heart, it was clean and pure; now, after preparing in that vessel the food for life so far lived, I am offering it to You, as clean and as pure as when You gave it to me, after removing all traces of the impressions or smells of the things cooked in it.” Say that and offer that heart.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.2/Ch.22: November 1961

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/sweet-abode-lord>

Improve your character and conduct

How do you give Me *Ananda*? By taking to heart what I say and putting it into daily practice. Deciding to move high but attracted by the low, you betray yourself. Improve your character and conduct; when your feelings become cleansed and your impulses pure, you can see My Form in its Reality. I shall tell you the thing in a nutshell: Make the intellect that has to understand Me free from crookedness; let it become straight and sharp. I have now fallen into your grasp, the very Treasure that you have been searching for, because our relationship is *Atmic*, not secular or trained.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.1/Ch.31: 29 September 1960

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/sathya-sai-gita-iii>

Rely on Me

Do not count and calculate what the Puttaparthi Sai Baba gives. I do not give in order to attract you to Me; I give only to fill you with bliss (*ananda*). Showering *ananda*, that is My task. I do not want you to extol Me; I shall be satisfied if you rely on Me.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.1/Ch.30: 29 September 1960

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/sathya-sai-gita-ii>

Questions

- What should we be grateful to Swami for?
- Sometimes we face difficult challenges as devotees. How can we continue to feel grateful to Swami?
- What does Swami expect from us?

Assurance

The Golden Age will occur

Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that life for all will be happy and full of joy, that the Golden Age will ever recur. Let me assure you that this Righteousness personified (*Dharmaswarūpā*) has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon Humanity.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.5/Ch.11: 3 March 1965

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/aspire-nobler-role>

Believe it or not, in the next 25 to 30 years, the entire human race will become one. People of all religions like Hindu, Muslim, Christian, etc. will be united. There will be complete unity in the world. It is from India (*Bharat*) that the spirit of devotion for God will spread to all other parts of the world. Treasure this truth in your heart.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.41/Ch.8: 31 May 2008

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/seeing-unity-diversity-true-spirituality>

The four legs are truth, compassion, austerity, and giving (*satya, dayā, tapas, and dāna*). A person with all four can be said to be in the Golden Age (*Kritā-yuga*), whatever the age in the calendar. If truth is not steady but one has the other three qualities, one is in the *Tretā-yuga*. If truth and compassion are absent but austerity and giving persist, one is in the *Dwāpara-yuga*. If only giving remains out of the four, it is as if dharma is standing on one leg, and the person sticking to giving, in spite of everything else having disappeared, is in the Iron Age (*Kali-yuga*) - even if it is chronologically the Golden Age.

The ages (*yugas*) change only with the change in dharma, not with the mere passage of time. The wicked Hiranyakasipu and the pure-hearted Prahlada lived in the selfsame chronological yuga; the same yuga saw Dharmaja, the personification of righteousness and peace (*shanti*), as well as the arch cheat Duryodhana. So, *dharma* is what makes the *yuga* for each; one can always be in the Golden Age (*Kritā-yuga*), if only one has all four qualities of *dharma*. The conduct of man makes and mars history and changes the Golden Age to the Iron Age.

Dharma Vahini Ch. 9

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/all-may-seek-spiritual-wisdom>

All the powers I have are for you

You are My treasure, even if you deny Me. I am your treasure, even if you say No. I shall be affectionate to you and attach Myself to you; I shall take all the trouble to keep My property safe in My custody! That is to say, in the custody of the Lord, by whichever name you may be calling upon Him. All the powers I have are for you: I am just the store, keeping them ready to be given to you, whenever you ask for them. I shall give love (*prema*) even if you do not ask, for it is your right to share in it. Some complain that I did not give them this or that, but that is because their vision is limited to the immediate future or the present; whereas I know what is in store, so I have to safeguard them from greater grief. They even blame Me and heap abuses, but I will not give them up. I am not influenced by anybody, remember. No one can change My course or affect My conduct to the slightest extent. I am the Master overall. But let Me tell you this. I speak harsh words and “punish” some persons because I have love (*prema*) toward them and am eager to correct them and make them better instruments. If they were not Mine, I would have given them up and not cared to take any notice of their lapses. I have a right to chastise those who I feel are Mine. I also know that they still value My Word and that they will feel sad at My being displeased with them. It is due to your wayward mind that you are easily wafted away from Me by some silly persons’ irresponsible words

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.1/Ch.31: 29 September 1960

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/sathya-sai-gita-iii>

Claim Grace from Me

Treat Me not as one afar but as very close to you. Insist, demand, claim Grace from Me; do not praise, extol, and cringe. Bring your hearts to Me and win My Heart. Not one of you is a stranger to Me. Bring your promises to me and I shall give you My Promise. But first see that your promise is genuine, sincere; see that your heart is pure; that is enough. .

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.2/Ch.15: 10 October 1961

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/limits-and-progress>

My Grace is ever there

I have no hate or anger in My composition; My Life blood is love. I am the repository of compassion. Understand Me and My nature right. The shadow of the moon in the depth of the lake seems to quiver and shake because of the waves, but look up and you see the moon, steady as ever. I am always steady. My Grace is ever there. To the outward eye My action is magic, miracle; to the inner eye, it is all a divine play (*leela*). Well, the Hand that creates is the Hand that gives — there is no keeping back. It is always for you, and you alone. That is My truth; know it and be happy.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.2/Ch.18: 21 October 1961

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/hands-and-feet-everywhere>

The Lord will never give you up

It is not right to reject the Lord, who is eternally related to you, and to be misled by this world with which one is related for just two days! As already written, The relatives come up to the outer gate, or maybe up to the burial ground, but your real relative is the Lord, beware!

The Lord will never give you up. Considering the number of births, you have had, you have had countless mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, sons, daughters, friends, and enemies. Do they subsist today? Do they remember the relationship? You are no one to them, and they are nobodies to you. But you and they have the Lord in common as the unchanging relative. He subsists throughout all the births; He is eternal. He watches over you from birth to birth. What greater tragedy can there be than forgetting such a Lord?

Dhyana Vahini Ch.8

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/one-pointed-attention-essential>

I will come to you wherever you are

Only those who are immersed in the Divine are dear to Me and are My dear friends. If you want to be dear friends of Swami, conduct yourself in the Divine manner. In such a case, you do not need to come here; I will come to you wherever you are. I will come there, wherever you stay. I am with you, in you, around you and behind you. I am not separate from you. I and you are one.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol.32/Ch.29: 21 November 1999

<https://saispeaks.sathyasai.org/discourse/seek-god-within>

Questions

- How do we know if we are making spiritual progress?
- Can Swami's Grace overcome effects of our past actions?
- How can we make our faith stronger without asking for experience?
- What does Swami say about the unity of humanity?



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