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*The Sunday Talk Given by Prof. Anil Kumar*

*“84<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba”*

*November 10, 2009*

*OM...OM...OM...*

*Sai Ram*

*With Pranams at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan,*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

#### *THE REAL BIRTHDAY*

First, let me greet you on the eve of the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Avatar of our Golden Age. May Bhagavan shower His choicest blessings on you! I particularly pray for those who will be visiting the website [saiwisdom.com](http://saiwisdom.com), to view Baba's message on video online, made especially for the occasion. I have chosen excerpts from Bhagavan's discourses, certain of Bhagavan's poems. These poems are relevant to the celebration of His holy birthday.

My friends, God has no birth or death. So, you may ask, what is the fun of celebrating Baba's birthday? It only means that it is our birthday; we are celebrating our own birthday. It is an occasion to see God within ourselves, and to see how our lives have been completely drowned in worldly affairs. It is so we may turn inwards and reflect on the God within. That is the real birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

#### *THE SEARCH FOR GOD*

Now I would like to quote directly from Swami's literature. I know that you don't follow the Telugu language, but I will first quote the original poem, followed by the English translation as well, to facilitate your understanding.

What is this birthday? What is its meaning to me individually? What does He want me to do? What does He expect of me? How shall I mould my life? What are the resolutions I should take on this birthday? Those are some of the points I would like to share with you presently.

We see in front of us God, but we are not able to identify Him. We are not able to recognise Him. We are not able to enjoy Him. We have not completely benefited by God's presence in human form, in our midst today, in the name and form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

*Edutunna Swamini Erugangaleka  
Devudundunani Tiruguchundhuru  
Venna Vidichi Neyi Vethukaladinatlu  
Venna Vidichi Neyi Vethukaladinatlu  
Vunna Maata Telupuchunna Maata!*

Here Baba says:

*You have butter, but you are in search of ghee elsewhere.  
You can heat this butter and make ghee for your use.  
Why are you searching elsewhere, when it is readily available?"*

*Edutanunna Swamini Erugangaleka*

*Though God is in front of you, you are not able to know it.*

*Devudundunani Tiruguchundhuru.*

We often say that we are in search of God. Why search? Isn't that a waste of time, a waste of energy, a waste of resources, when God is available to you, right now, in front of you? Having come to this place, Prashanthi Nilayam, to see Him, to experience Him, and to experience the bliss within ourselves, we should have an understanding of Prashanthi Nilayam, the benefits it confers, and the blessings it showers!

*PEACE AND BLISS AT PRASHANTI NILAYAM*

I put it in Baba's words:

*Dhanamu Raasigaa Posinanu Kanagaraani  
Aanadamita Meedha Andukonudee*

*Even if you accumulate piles of coins,  
You will not achieve the kind of happiness you have here.*

"Even if you accumulate piles of coins, or heaps of money, you will not achieve the kind of happiness you get here." My friends, why do people come here? Lots and lots of rich people, industrialists, businessmen, men of authority, men of power, and men of position come here. Why do they come here?

This place has two things which are not available outside. What are those two things which are not available anywhere else? Those two things are peace and bliss. Peace and bliss are present here, readily available to you in abundance.

*Theerthayatralu Enno Tiriginan Kanaraani  
Anandamita Meedha Andukonudee*

People go on pilgrimages to different places. In India, a pilgrimage is a spiritual ritual. They go to different places of worship, and they go to different towns. They pass through many ordeals and spend so much money because a pilgrimage is a holy ritual. But Prashanthi Nilayam assures you of this:

*Theerthayatrafu Enno Tiriginan Kaani*

*You may go to a number of pilgrimage centres and places of worship.*

*Anandamita Meedha Andukonudee*

*More than any other place, this place gives you bliss and joy,  
It offers more than any other pilgrim centre and more.*

*Vidyallaniyu Vallavesinan Kanaraani*

*Anandamita Meedha Andukonudee*

We have gone through many scriptures. I know the *Bhagavatham*, the story of Lord Krishna. I know the *Ramayana*, the story of Lord Rama. I know the *Bible*, and the entire teachings and life of Jesus. So we know the scriptures, since we have gone through them. Some people even know them by heart, and can repeat them verbatim. For what is all that? It is for the memory, for collecting information in the form of knowledge. All scriptural knowledge will find its fruition, its manifestation, and its content in this holy place, Prashanthi Nilayam. Therefore, scholarship will not give you as much bliss as this place is ready to offer you.

*Pranamul Bigabhattina Kaanagaraani*

*Anandamita Meedha Andukonudee*

## *YOGA*

Today, people everywhere, all over the world, are very enamoured with yoga. They say, "I have an idea of what yoga is! What shall I do?" Some even say, "I am doing yoga," and some say, "I practice breath control." Some say, "I follow *Kundalini yoga*." There is a lot of attraction to yoga. People clamour for *yogic* practices.

I am not denying yoga; I am not opposed to yoga. I am not opposed to *pranayama*, or breath management. But more important than yoga is understanding that the correct perception of reality, the actual real experience of reality, is here in Prashanthi Nilayam, in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

*PRASHANTI NILAYAM IS FREE*

*Kaasu Kharchu Ledhu Khaya Kastamu Ledhu*

We may have to spend a lot of money to go to different places. Where money is demanded to see an idol, you have to pay the money in order to see it. To enter into some temples, you may have to pay money; and in some places, you may also have to pay money to worship. So, money, money everywhere! Even *prasadam*, the sacred offering or sacrificial food offered in the

temple, is not free. You have to pay for it. But Prashanthi Nilayam is the place where everything is free. You can have *darshan* for free. You can have entry into the ashram for free. You don't have to pay money, not even a single *pie* (Indian coin) is necessary. You don't have to break coconuts, you don't have to offer flowers, and you don't have to offer fruits either, no!

*Kaasu Kharchu Ledhu Khaya Kastamu Ledhu*

*There is no exertion, there is no strain.*

You don't feel under strain, because all of you can go into the auditorium and be seated. Then God Himself comes to you and grants you *darshan*. You don't have to go to Him and stand in long queues. He comes to you. And you don't have to pay any money. So, you don't have to pass through stress and strain, no, no, no!

*Ledhu Chaduvu Sadhanadhi Bhadha*

Educational qualifications are not required. You can be an illiterate, or a topmost literate, or a scholar. No *sadhana* or spiritual practises are required. You need not say, "I did this, I did that. I did penance, I did worship." No, no, no, absolutely not! It is not a prerequisite; it is not a condition. Money is not a barrier. The absence of spiritual practise is not a barrier. You can come straight in and have His *darshan*.

### **EARNING BHAGAVAN'S GRACE**

To earn His Grace, your practise, your money, your position, your power, wealth or possessions are not required. Nothing doing! What do you need to get His grace?

*Manasu Okantha Sai Kada Icchi  
Manasu Okantha Icchi Sai Kada Vuna  
Andaraani Phalamu Pondudayya  
Andaraani Phalamu Pondudayya!  
Manasu Okantha Sai Kada Icchi*

*After all this, what can you offer?*

*What is to be offered?*

*What is expected from you on this holy birthday?*

What are the gifts that we can offer Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on this birthday? The gift of your mind and the gift of your heart. If you offer your heart and your mind as a gift to His Lotus Feet, that is called surrender. It is enough to earn His blessings and grace. That is what Bhagavan says in this declaration.

### **SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS**

Further, I would like to draw your attention to other important features that Bhagavan mentions about this occasion. Yes, my friends, we all undergo certain times which are testing times, troubling times, or challenging times. What shall we do during such times? That is our next question. The birthday message tells you the solution to your problems. Problems are everywhere, but solutions are not everywhere. Solutions to problems are given to you by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

This birthday should be an occasion to find out solutions, to take stock of all the solutions for our day-to-day problems, so that life should not be burdensome. Life should not be heavy, life should not be serious, and life should not be a torture. Life should be a celebration. Life is full of smiles and happiness if we know the solutions to our problems.

### *SEEK GOD'S HELP TO ESCAPE SENSUAL PLEASURE*

On this birthday, let us look at the solutions to our problems, as explained by Baba Himself.

*Vishaya Vaasanalu Ninnu Ventaadutatarineni  
Noretthi Saieesha Saranamu Anumu*

What a good statement it is! My friends, we must confess that we have become slaves to our senses. Our senses have total control over us. Instead of becoming masters of our senses, we have become slaves to our senses. We seek sensual pleasure. In spite of my determination, each time I am not able to stay away from sensual pleasure. Therefore, I compromise at one stage or the other. How can we rid ourselves of the desire for sensual pleasure?

My friends, let us understand clearly that we cannot escape sensual pleasure without God's help. Human effort is not adequate. Human will is not enough, unless it is supplemented and supported by God's grace. We cannot totally escape sensual pleasure. It is not that easy. Therefore, it is clearly said, "Pray to Him with a full-throated voice. 'Oh, my Lord! I surrender to You! You are my only refuge. I want You to help me, so that I can escape sensual pleasure.' "

### *NEVER FORGET GOD*

The next problem in life:

*Kasta Paramparul Kalduvvinappudu  
Karametthi Saieesha Kaavu Manumu*

It is said in English: "Fortune or misfortune doesn't come singly, it comes in battalions." Yes, luck comes in battalions. Bad luck is also like that. Life is a combination of both. When I am struggling hard to come out of the difficulties of life, when I am not able to leave the troubles, worries, and anxieties of my life, when I am totally frustrated because of problems in life, what shall I do? Let me join both my hands in prayer, "Oh God, protect me! I want you to protect me and safeguard me." That is the solution.

*Samsara Tapamul Sangatillinappudu  
Manasara Saieesha Maruva Nanumu*

We are all householders, so we have family problems. Moreover, today, in the name of the generation gap, we find youngsters turning against elders. Many parents complain, saying, "Here is my son, who won't listen to me. Here is my daughter, who is not prepared to hear me." We all have family problems. Sometimes the boy wants to get married to a girl who is not acceptable to the parents. Or the girl wants to marry someone who is not acceptable to her parents. What should you do if you have family problems? How to get rid of them? Wholeheartedly, with your whole mind, pray to Him. "I won't forget you, Lord! I will not drop You

from my memory. I will never leave You, My Lord! I will never forget You in the midst of my family problems.” That should be our attitude.

### *PRIDE AND EGO*

*Madhini Durahankaram Odaginappudu  
Talavanchi Saieesha Daasudu Anumu*

We are poor mortals, mere human beings. Therefore, any simple, positive result in our life will make us bloat with ego. We feel proud, and we are highly egoistic of any simple achievement, of any little recognition, of any minimal attainment. Therefore, pride and ego are already there, waiting. They will dominate us and take full control of our life at that moment in time. So when we are prone to be egoistic or feel proud, we have to bend our head and offer prayer in all humility. “Oh Lord, I am Your servant. I am the servant of Your servants. See that ego will not overpower me, that I will never feel proud at any point of time.”

### *SURRENDER*

And now:

*Sathya Bhashi Ayi Saieeshu Sakshiganumu*

“Oh Lord, on this birthday, let me decide to speak the truth, feeling You as an eternal witness within me.” Sai is the eternal witness within me. As He is my witness, I cannot betray Him, nor can I cheat Him. I cannot deceive Him when He is the witness. “Oh God, let me feel Thy presence as my eternal witness.”

*Mokshamaasinchi Saieeshu Mrolamanumu*

Liberation, heaven, paradise, *nirvana*, or whatever it may be called, is possible only if only we surrender to God, which can bring *moksha* or liberation. We have to recognise the fact that we are in bondage to our family life; we are caught in its whirlpool. We have drowned, and are deeply immersed in worldly pleasures. So, how to be liberated? How to attain that state of heaven which is within, as stated in the *Holy Bible*: “The kingdom of heaven is within you.” How am I to reach that heaven within me? It can be reached only by an act of surrender, and not in any other way.

*Vishwa Mohanaganammu Veenulalo  
Alapinchina Shyamudee Athadu Nammu  
Vishwamohanaganammu*

### *THE MUSIC OF NATURE*

Have you ever noticed the melodies in Nature? As the wind blows, leaves flutter. That is a beautiful sound. As the river flows, there is a melody. As the wind blows, there is music. As waves surge, there is music. There is music, yes, silent music, soundless sound, if I may say. There may not be amplifiers and mikes, but there is music in this life. There is music in Nature. Life is music and melody. Who is that musician? Who sings for you a melody in the correct beat? Who is that Divine musician? God Himself! Lord Krishna! Lord Krishna, the Divine

musician, is here right now in Prashanthi Nilayam. May we all recognise that today, as we celebrate His birthday!

### ***DON'T WASTE TIME***

Then, let us not waste time. Let us decide to make every moment of life useful, purposeful, meaningful, fruitful, and blissful. Most of us waste our time in entertainment, socialising, or by drinking at cocktail parties. Or by gossiping, we waste time.

Life is flowing like a river, and our span of life is also getting shorter day-by-day. As I celebrate this birthday, I should also know that my last day is also approaching. Therefore, when we are nearing the tomb, should we still be wasting our time? Is it for that purpose that God has come in human form? What should be our firm resolve on this birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba? We shall not waste our time; we should follow the path of devotion.

Baba guarantees in this stanza what He wants to confer, what He wants to give us:

*Kalamanthayu, Kalamanthayu Uraḱa Gaḁapanela?*

*Why do you waste your time, my boy?*

*Sarva Jana Samathamagu Bhakṭi Margamu Konudu.*

*The path of universal acceptance is shown to us  
By all religions, by all prophets, by all avatars  
Saints, sages, seers, seekers of all times,  
All through history to this day.  
Let us follow the path of devotion—bhakṭhi yoga*

*Sarva Jana Samathamaina Bhakṭi Margamu Konudu.*

*Follow the path of devotion, which is acceptable universally.*

*Ihaparamul Icchi Ihaparamul Icchi Sathyammuga mimmu Saakunu Sai Baba*

*Sai Baba gives you all the blessings  
For your happy life here on earth.  
He will take care of you hereafter.*

Here, now, there and thereafter, He will take care of you. *Sathyamuga*: it is a guarantee, it is a vow that the *avatar*, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, has taken—to come to the rescue, to grant liberation to all those who follow the path of devotion, or *bhakṭhi marga*. That is what I want to tell you.

### ***DO NOT DOUBT GOD***

My friends, on this birthday, let us not doubt God. Let us not entertain even a trace, even an iota, of doubt any longer. Let us be firm, let us confirm, and let us reaffirm our faith in Him. Why? He gave you a guarantee. What kind of guarantee is it?

*Sri Puttaparthi Nilayudu Kaapadunu Nineppudu Karunakarudayi*

*The compassionate Lord of Parthi,  
The Lord of mercy of Prashanthi Nilayam will protect you.*

*Cheppati Ninnu Brochunu  
Ye Pattu Na Viduvaka Yelunu Ninnu.*

*He will catch hold of your hand,  
He will lead you forward.  
Onward you can march ahead  
Without hesitation, without suspicion.*

### **GOD IS STEADFAST**

He will catch hold of your hand and will take you along.

*Ye Pattuna Viduvaka Elunu Ninnu*

*Understand that He will not let go of you.*

A lot of your friends and relations may be ready to drop you at any moment. When you are out of power, no one will look at you. When the pocket is empty, no one will say, "Hi, how are you?" "Bien, gracias (I am well, thanks)." No one would say that because you have no money, you have no position. But here God is always with you. He is in you, above you, below you, around you, everywhere.

*Ye pattuna viduvaka Elunu Ninnu*

*He will never drop you at any moment of time,  
He will take charge of your life.*

### **PLEDGE TO BE TRULY HUMAN**

What a kind assurance or guarantee He has given! We have to remind ourselves of it everyday, beginning from this day of Bhagavan Baba's birthday.

Bhagavan also tells us certain important points for all of us to cultivate. My friends, are we human? Can we call ourselves human? No, my friends, no! If food and shelter are the criteria, the birds, beasts, and insects also eat, also procreate, and also have their own shelter. In what way are you different from the animal kingdom? Are you really a true human? Let us make a decision today to be human.

Taking advantage of Baba's birthday, each one of us should live as a true human being, not simply live the life of a human being. The life of a human being is the same as the pattern of any animal. But a true human being is different. The thinking, the quest, the search, the feeling is not

there in the rest of the beings. Awareness or consciousness is not present in the rest of the beings.

Is it not time to justify our title of 'true humans'? First, let us be human. That should be our decision on this day of Bhagavan Baba's birthday. Further, let us cultivate the basic human values. The value of gold depends upon its weight. The value of any object depends upon its quality. The value of a human being depends upon the human values which he follows, the human values which he adopts, and the human values which he practises; or else he is just a human in form, but not in reality.

Are we actually just humans in form? Should we not be true humans? Should we not cultivate human values? Avatar Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is celebrating His 84<sup>th</sup> birthday by reminding us and instructing us to cultivate human values, to improve the quality of life. It is most important today.

If you watch any TV channel or read any newspaper, you find hatred increasing, anger on the rise, and rivalry, conflict, and war everywhere. The absence of human values is the cause. While feeling very sorry for not leading the life of human till now, at least from now on, from the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday of Baba, vow to be a human being. Cultivate true human values; otherwise everything is just a zero.

*Sathya Dharma Prema Shantulu Lekunna  
Vidhyalanniya Nerchina Viluva Sunna*

*Without Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence,  
All education is of no value.*

*Sathya Dharma Prema Shantulu Lekunna  
Padavulanu Yelina Phalamu Sunna*

*Without human values,  
All our positions of authority and exalted positions are useless.*

*Sathya Dharma Prema Shantulu Lekunna  
Daana Dharmala Sardhakatha Sunna*

*You may say that you donated, that you are a man of charity,  
But it is nothing if you don't have human values.*

*Sathya Dharma Prema Shantulu Lekunna  
Bahula Satkarya Laabhambhu Sunna*

*All good deeds, all the good that you do, and all that you claim  
Are useless if you do not have the basic human values  
Of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence.*

*Ee Sanathana Dharma Harmyambu Niluva*

## *Ee Nagulu Punadhi Godalapaa*

### *PILLARS OF HUMAN VALUES*

For this mansion of humanity, for this multi-storied building of humanity, human values are the pillars. Human values constitute the foundation on which the mansion of humanity rests. Therefore, my friends, I sincerely appeal to every Sai devotee to think of these basic human values, adhere to them, and practise them from now on, in the name of religion, or in the name of any country for that matter!

We all say that we have our own procedures. Some say they pray daily. Good, why not? Some say they meditate. Very good, please continue! Some say they do *yoga*. By all means, continue! Some say they go to church on Sunday. Good, God bless you! Some say they go to the mosque every Friday. Please do it!

We do these things as spiritual *sadhana*, but that is not all. That is only ritual: mechanical, routine, robot activity. Bhagavan Baba says that the spirit of a ritual is to be spiritual, not ritualistic. The spirit of the ritual makes you spiritual. It is not enough if you follow a ritual like your parents or grandparents; that is only ritualistic. Why do you go to the church? My father goes, therefore I go. Why do you go to the temple? My mother goes, therefore I go.

### *AWARENESS OF THE PURPOSE OF SADHANA*

It should not be that way. We should have awareness. That is what Baba says here:

### *Sadhanachesi Phalamemi Shramamu Lekha*

You may do any ritual; but if you do not have control of your senses, if you don't have control of the mind and the body, for what are all these rituals? Some people do *yoga* for some time, some people do *dhyana* or meditation for some time; but immediately after that, they shout at everyone. They go on shouting at everyone because they are full of anger. Then why meditate? Why practise *yoga* if you are angry and furious after *yoga* or meditation practises? Therefore, all spiritual practises will be fruitful only if we have control over our mind and body.

### *DEVELOP PATIENCE AND PEACE*

### *Yogamulu Pooni Phalamemi Orpu Lekha?*

If you don't develop patience, why practise *yoga*? Someone may say, "I attended *Suprabhatam* this morning. When am I going to attain *moksha*?" Oh, you attended *Suprabhatam* this morning, and you want immediate *moksha* or liberation? We should have patience. Patience is the first quality of a devotee. To get a degree, we study for three years; to get a post-graduate degree, we study for two years; for a Ph.D. three more years. For worldly, secular education we spend years and years studying. For spiritual attainments, for spiritual achievements, should we not spend some time? If we don't have patience, what practise *yoga*? It is useless.

### *Japamulunu Narinchi Phalamemi Shanti Lekha*

Some people say, "I recite God's name, and I sing *bhajans* everyday." Good, do it! But the outcome of the repetition of God's name lies in your state of peace. The more peaceful you are, the more you benefit. With a very serious face, with the face of trouble and worry, I say I do so much penance . . . why? Peace is absolutely necessary. Without the qualities of patience and peace, how can self-control appear?

### *UNDERSTAND GOD IS IN EVERYONE*

*Savithi Bhoomini Dhunnina Sarani Kaadhe*

"Would anyone cultivate a barren land, a useless land? A barren land is unfit for cultivation." (The translation is something like that.)

Again, we should also know on this day what Baba tells us. Clearly He said one point, my friends. Some people say that they have been coming to Prashanthi Nilayam for ten years, fifteen years, or twenty years. But for what? Some people say they have read all His books. Okay, read, continue to read. But Baba said the essence of all religions, the essence of all books, can be said in one sentence. What is it? The consciousness in you is very much the same as the consciousness in anyone. God is one in everyone. We should understand that.

*Sarva Vedantha Grandhala Saaramella*

*Okā Vakyaṇa Cheputhu Okāsari*

That is what Baba says: "Come on, listen to Me. I put the essence of all philosophy in one sentence."

*Akila Bhootamulandunna Atma Neevu*

*Okāti Ani Manasuna Vundavalayu*

That consciousness, the spirit within you, is very much the same as the consciousness or the spirit in anyone and in everyone, because consciousness is the only one Supreme, which is uniform in all. That should be the message of this holy birthday, which we have to carry home from this important function.

### *HEAVEN IS WITHIN*

I would also appeal to you, my friends. So many people ask, "Why are you spiritual, being so religious?" What do they expect? Some say, "Oh! I expect to be happy in heaven. Yes, I expect to be in paradise. I expect to go to Kailas. I expect to live in Vaikunta!"

My friends, it is ridiculous! Is there heaven anywhere? An American astronaut named Armstrong went into space, but he did not see heaven there. He might ask, "Where is heaven? I have searched all over space, but I have not seen it anywhere. Where is heaven?"

"The kingdom of heaven is within you," says the Lord. Paradise or *swarga* or heaven is in you. Let us enjoy the heavenly bliss on this holy day of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. What does He say?

*Swargamanaga Veru Swarlokamuna Ledu*

Heaven is not a place where angels are present. It is not a separate plane of angels; it is not a different world, no!

*Narula Lokamandee Amari Yundu*

It is here right now. Heaven is here, right now on earth. It is not a separate planet, no,no,no!

*Sadgunambulundi Sari Nadaka Ayiyunna*

*Adhiee Swargamavvu Avaniyandhu*

### *A VIRTUOUS LIFE CREATES HEAVEN*

Actually speaking, if you have virtues, good qualities, and good behaviour, yes, that is heaven itself. John Milton, a great poet of English literature, said, "It is the mind that makes heaven out of hell, or hell out of heaven. Heaven is right here." You don't need to search for it anywhere. The day you are virtuous, the day you are peaceful, is heaven itself. The day of misery, the day of torture, and the moment when you are sorrowful, is hell. Hell is not a separate place; it is the moment when we are not happy. That is the message we should understand on this birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Then, my friends, I would also appeal to you to realise the value of life. The value of life does not lie only in the personality. I may be very tall, I maybe very handsome, of that height, of this weight, of this chest width. Those are all physical measurements. The tailor may care about that, because he has to stitch garments for me. After all, what is this body? The true analysis will tell you that the body is an iron safe, similar to an almirah (cupboard-style closet). It is like an iron safe; but inside the safety locker there are jewels and there are diamonds. So the jewels, the diamonds, are the consciousness within. The body is an iron safe, but the safe is of less value than that of the diamonds or the jewels, the consciousness within. Understand that!

*Viluvaleni Inupapette Yandhu*

*Like the iron safe that has no value,*

*Viluvaina Nagalu Pettinatlu*

*But valuables are kept inside,*

*Dehamandhu Atmadevudu Vundunu Sumi*

*In this body there is consciousness, which is totally Divine*

*Let us try to realise this.*

## *FACE YOUR INNER ENEMIES*

Let us try to experience it for a moment. Let us try to question ourselves. How far from this conflict, this challenge, are we? How near are we to experiencing this Divinity, this reality within ourselves, asks Bhagavan. We also feel we want to dominate everyone, and that we want to control everyone. 'Yes, he is my enemy. Let me finish him off. He doesn't like me, so let me avoid him.' My friends, we have enemies outside, we have critics outside. We are always immersed in thoughts about our enemies. We are always immersed in thoughts about those who are critical towards us.

Where are the critics? Your conscience gives you the correct assessment; your conscience gives you a one hundred percent correct assessment, because the consciousness is Divine. The conscience is reality, the conscience is a witness. It lets me know that my enemies are not outside; my enemies are inside.

Who are my enemies? My anger is my enemy. My lust is my enemy. My greed is my enemy. Avarice, possessiveness, and attachment are all enemies within me. My enemies are not outside. It is foolish to think that our enemies are outside in this world; our enemies are within us. If I cannot kill an enemy within me, how can I attack an enemy outside me? Is it possible to attack an enemy outside, without killing the enemy within?

On this birthday of Baba, let us identify our enemies within us, like anger and lust. Identify them and try to uproot them. Let us try to face them and attack them. That is the call of Bhagavan on this birthday.

*Loni Satruvulaku Loginpoyinavaadu*

*One who has become a victim to his inner enemies,*

*Bayati Vipulanu Etlu Pattagaladu*

*How can he be a victor in the outer world?  
How can he be victorious in killing the outer enemies?  
It is not possible.*

*Tatvameriginantha Dhanyudau Ilan  
Tatvameriginantha Dhanyudau Ilan Narudu*

If you know the essence of this, your life is redeemed. Your life is fulfilled. This should be our goal, our main *sadhana*, which we have to undertake from Baba's birthday onward.

## *LIBERATION FROM EGO*

My friends, I also bring to your attention that we find many people going to many *gurus* today. They visit many *ashrams*. Where are you going? "Oh Sir, from this place I am going to see some other *guru*!" Oh, I see! "I am going to some other *ashram*." Okay, go, there is nothing wrong in it. Go to as many *gurus* as possible. Go to as many *ashrams* as possible, as long as you can afford it. But no one can save you, take it from me. Unless that 'I'-ness is gone, unless the ego is dropped, unless the ego is gone, you cannot be liberated and you will not attain

liberation. *Moksha* is a far distant goal, so what is to be done now? The goal is not to run after people in order to be egoless. The lack of ego is the main quality we have to develop from the day of His birthday onwards.

*Mukthikoru Narudu Mukkotti Devathalanu  
Veduchundunu Kaani Vethalu Teerabovu*

Go to different temples, go to the Hanuman temple, go to the Shiva temple, the Vishnu temple, the Durga temple, the Mata temple, the Kali temple, good! But problems are not solved that way. Problems are not with gods. Problems are with the ego.

*Tanadhuloni Ahamuthaa Champukunna  
Mukthi Yela Thaanu Mukthi Kaada*

If I kill my ego, is it liberation? I am the very name of liberation. Minus ego, I am liberation. I don't say I am liberated. I am the liberation. So it is the ego that is the problem which you have to face. This you have been facing for the last several lives. We should put an end to it, at least now, as Baba calls us to face this hurdle in life: getting rid of ego.

### *UNITY OF THOUGHT, WORD, DEED*

Then Bhagavan talks about one more important point, my friends. It is a very serious problem. On this birthday, let us at least do it. Let us do it. Let us determine to do it. What is it? Harmony, or unity of thought, word, and deed. How unfortunate it is that many say something, but act in a different way. Many act in a different way, feel something else that is opposite to what they say. There is no unity of thought, word and deed.

The basic quality of a religious man, the fundamental quality of a spiritual man, should be harmony. When there is no harmony, when there is no unity of thought, word, and deed, how do you expect him to improve? How do you expect him to advance on the spiritual path? Therefore, on this birthday let us cultivate unity and harmony. At least be an example of unity of thought, word, and deed, which is a beginning for our spiritual journey.

*Manavathwamanaga Manasu Maata Kriyayu  
Anni Okatigaane Athikiyundu*

Baba says you are a true human only if you have unity of thought, word, and deed. He put it in a refined way. "Three 'H's," He said. The first 'H' is the heart, the second 'H' is the head, the third 'H' is the hand. In heart, head, and hand, there should be unity of thought, word and deed. That is what Bhagavan said.

*Manasunandu Veru, Matayu Kriyayunu  
Veru Verulayina Viluvadhemi*

When I am in disharmony, when word and heart are in divergence, when my thought and word shows proof of dichotomy, how can I be a true human? Therefore, oh Bhagavan, help us on this 84<sup>th</sup> birthday to place importance on the basic, noble quality of maintaining unity between thought, word, and deed.

### *MOTIVES, NOT DEEDS, ARE IMPORTANT*

Then Bhagavan makes another point my friends. We are business-minded. I am sorry to say that. We wonder what we will get if we do something. If I talk to you, what do I get? If I do a favour, what do I get? Life has become a business. This is very unfortunate. Our whole life cannot be a commercial contract. It cannot be a financial bargain, no, no, no!

God doesn't look at your deeds. God does not look at your actions. God looks at your inner motive. What is it that makes you do it? What do you have in the background, which made you do this? Are you doing it to make a name for yourself? Are you doing it for the sake of your reputation? Are you doing it for publicity? Are you doing it for position? What is your motive? That is important for God, not what you do. The motive is much more important than the action. Bhagavan, let our motives be pure hereafter.

Help us to have good motives that prompt good actions. If there is a good motive, there will be a good action which will bear good results. If there is an evil motive, there will be wrong actions, leading to failure eventually. That is what says Baba said.

*Manasuloni Bhavambhu Manchidaina*

*If there is a good idea, a good motive in mind,*

*Kaligiteerunu Phalasiddhi Karyamandhu*

*There is bound to be success in your attempt.*

*Manasulonunna Bhavambhu Malinamaina*

*If your motive is bad and if your motive is wrong,*

*Phalamukooda Aa Reethiga Malinagunu*

*The results are also tainted.*

The results will be a total failure if the motive is not good. That is what Baba said.

### *HAPPINESS COMES FROM GOODNESS*

On this birthday, we have to remind ourselves of another point that Swami made. "Oh devotees, you want Me to make you happy. You want Me to make you blissful. How is it possible? How do you expect Me to make Me happy. Why? There is no goodness in your words, there is no goodness in your thought, and there is no goodness in your actions."

How do you expect Sai to make you happy? Impossible! This is the question asked straightforwardly by Baba to His devotees on one occasion.

*Manasunandu Manchi*

*Goodness in the heart,*

*Matalandhuna Manchi*

*Good words, sweet talk,*

*Nadathalanadhu Manchi*

*Good behaviour,*

*Podamakunna*

*When all these are absent,*

*Sai Mimmu Mecchi Santhoshamuletulicchu?*

*How do you expect Baba to confer happiness,  
To make your life joyful and to make your life blissful?*

*Chepparayya Meeru Oppukundhu*

*Do you blame Me?  
Am I at fault for not making you happy?*

No! "Your words are not good, your heart is not pure, and there is no goodness anywhere. Then how do you expect to make you happy?" asks Bhagavan.

### ***UNITY OF RELIGIONS***

On this day of Baba's birthday, let us also observe the unity of religions. This is very important! In certain countries, importance is given to Hindu rituals. No, my brothers and sisters, if the gathering comprises Christians, let us sing Christian hymns. If the gathering comprises Muslims, let us read excerpts from the Quran. Unity of religions is very important. Let me not impose my Hindu ritual, and let me not impose my Hindu texts, on those people. Let me not require that everyone learn Sanskrit. That is not necessary. Why should they waste their time? God knows all languages. He is the Mother of all, and all mother tongues are known to Him.

Here is a simple anecdote to make you happy. There were two friends: one was British and the other was German. In World War II, the Germans lost and the British won. These two friends prayed to God every day. The German asked his friend, "Oh, my friend, you pray and I also pray. Why did we lose and why did you win?" The Brit immediately asked, "In what language do you pray?" The German answered, "We pray in the German language." Then the Brit said, "That is your mistake. God knows only English. He follows only English prayers." Ridiculous!

So to think in another religion, and to speak the language of some other religion which we do not know, is nothing but foolishness. Let us follow our own religion. Let us think from the viewpoint of our own culture. The Spanish language is rich enough. Spanish countries have their own culture. Germany and Japan have their own cultures, as do all other countries all over

the world! Let us follow our own culture. Let us follow our scriptures, because unity of religions is very important. No religion can ever dominate other religions. Why?

*Mathamullani Cheri Manchine Bodhinche*

*All religions teach only good things.*

*Telisi Melaga Velayu Thelivi Thoda*

*It is for your intelligence to understand,  
Your intelligence should grasp all that is good in every religion.*

*Mathulu Manchivaina Mathamemi Cheddadhi  
Vinudu Bharatiya Veera Suthudha*

*If your mind is good, then the religion is good.*

If your *mathi* (mind) is good, then *matha* (the religion) is good. Which religion is bad? It is not the religion that is bad. There must be something wrong with your *mathi* (mind). That is what Baba says.

### ***SPEND YOUR TIME WITH SPIRITUAL PEOPLE***

My friends, let this birthday remind us that we have to spend our time in the company of noble people, pious people, good people, and spiritual people, not with any wayside, roadside Romeo or rowdy. Baba says every time, "Tell me your company and I shall tell you what and who you are." Therefore, good company is very important for a spiritual life. Let us strengthen that, let us struggle to maintain that, and let us run away from bad company. That is what Baba says.

Iron in the company of dust gets rusted. Iron in the company of fire loses that dust and rust. Similarly, man is the iron. In the company of dust, meaning bad company, man gets rusty and turns bad. But in the company of fire, meaning noble people, man will also shine brilliantly.

*Mattitho Chera Inumunaku Pattu Thuppu*

*The iron is rusted because of dust.*

*Agni Tho Chera Inumuna Aduvu Thrupu.*

*When you put it in the fire, there is no more rust.*

*Saaha Charyambhu Gittula Sambhavinchu.*

*It is only the company that shapes you.  
Let us not entertain any bad company hereafter.*

## *EQUANIMITY*

May this birthday help us to develop equal-mindedness or equanimity, a balanced state of mind when there is pleasure or pain. Whether there be pleasure or pain, let me be balanced. Let me not lose my balance. That should be my attitude. That should be my decision on this 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### *Kastasukhamulu Okā Reethigaanchavalayu*

Pleasure and pain have to be viewed alike, because a shadow follows me if I am experiencing pleasure. My shadow is the pain. Both have to be accepted.

### *Kalimilemulu Viddateesi Gaduparaadhū*

Profit and loss are not separate. Plenty, prosperity, and poverty are not separate. A poor man may be rich tomorrow; a rich man may be poor the day after tomorrow. They go together.

### *Keerthi Apakeerthi Okkamurthigaane*

One may praise you, while another one may condemn you. Do you dance because you are praised, or get depressed when you are attacked? No! Praise or blame will not affect me. That should be our determination.

### *Bhavamandunchi Melagute Bhakṭhipadamu*

True devotion is a balanced state of mind, where you are beyond pleasure and pain, where you are beyond praise and blame, where you are not affected by these pairs of opposites.

## *GOOD AND BAD IN EVERYTHING*

Finally, my friends, on this birthday let us be reminded of what Baba has said: let us not condemn anything as good, nor let us brand anything as bad, because in God's sight there is nothing good or bad. Both are His creation.

It is only a matter of time before good turns into bad. For example, the food we eat today is good, but tomorrow it is bad excreta. The same excreta can be used later as manure, which again leads to good things and causes good things to happen. So there is something good in bad, and bad in good. Let us not condemn, let us not judge, because both are in God's creation.

I think I have brought to your attention sufficiently well the many views of Bhagavan for improving the quality of our lives, in order to be worthy devotees of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

May this 84<sup>th</sup> birthday bring all the joy possible! May it bring all the happiness possible! May it make everyone dance! Let us celebrate the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday joyfully.

May Bhagavan be with you forever and ever more. Jai Sai Ram!

*Asato Maa Sad Gamaya  
Tamaso Maa Jyotir Gamaya  
Mrt'yormaa Amritam Gamaya*

*Samastha Lokā Sukhino Bhavantu  
Samastha Lokā Sukhino Bhavantu  
Samastha Lokā Sukhino Bhavantu*

*Om Shanti Shanti Shantih*

*Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Babaji ki Jai!  
Jai Bolo Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Babaji ki Jai!  
Jai Bolo Bhagavan Shi Sathya Sai Babaji ki Jai!*

*Thank you. God bless you.*

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