

OM SRI SAI RAM

## GURU POORNIMA

*¿Hola hola cómo estas? ¡Buenos días!*  
(Hello, hello! How are you? Good day to you!)

Dear Brothers and Sisters from Ecuador,  
I'm very thankful to you. *Gracias* for your kind invitation. I very well remember my visit to Ecuador and the lovely family with whom I stayed. It was really an exciting experience. That visit is still lingering in my mind, very fresh and green in my memory. Thank you very much for being in touch with me.

I have come to know about so many activities that you are doing in Ecuador, thanks to Swami. Congratulations to all of you. You are really very, very much blessed by Bhagawan and so you have taken up so many projects. I wish that you should continue these projects and make all people happy, joyful, smiling and blissful.

I have been requested to give a brief message on Guru Purnima. Guru Purnima is an important festival all over this country. Guru Purnima is a celebration of gratitude, thankfulness to one's own *guru*. *Guru* in the ordinary sense in English is understood to be a teacher. But I am not speaking about those teachers. We are all teachers. But *Guru* is not merely a teacher.

Bhagawan Baba is *Sadguru*. *Sadguru* is a step higher. A teacher teaches us in a classroom. But a *sadguru* teaches us all the time, 24 by 7. A *guru* has a syllabus for eternity, whereas a teacher has a syllabus for examination. A teacher is time-bound, but a *guru* is for our lifetime for all of us. Therefore, do not take *guru* simply as a teacher. And *sadguru* is a step higher in the sense that He will make you see Him in you. We see people (everybody) outside. But we are not able to see them within us. But *Guru* will make you to see Him, to experience Him and to feel Him within you. He is *Sadguru*.

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is *Sadguru*. He is a world teacher or *Jagadguru* because He speaks on the unity of religions. He speaks of essential principles to the entire humanity.

So He is *Jagadguru*. *Guru*, *Sadguru* and *Jagadguru*. These are the three terms we are familiar with. To say this in a sentence: *Guru* used in the ordinary way means we take him as a teacher. *Sadguru* is the one who teaches lessons for eternity on immortality, on the purpose of life, while *Jagadguru* wants you to see Him within yourself.

On this occasion of Guru Purnima, I'll just share with you some of the ideas that Bhagawan said on earlier occasions. '*Guru*' means 'the one who takes you out of darkness to light'. What is darkness? What is light? Darkness is ignorance. Light is wisdom. What is ignorance? If I do not know who I am, if I think that I am only the body, if I think that I am only the mind, I am ignorant. That is ignorance.

In other words, identification with the body, the mind, and the intellect is ignorance. *Guru* will take you out of this ignorance from darkness to light. That is wisdom. What is the light you mean? That light which is deathless, immortal; the light that makes you aware of the vastness of the universe, that you are not limited to the body alone, that you are not local but you are global. You are not individual, but you are universal.

So, it is the expansion of the individual 'I' to the universal 'I'. Individual 'I' is a person. Universal 'I' is a phenomenon. That is the light of wisdom. The light of wisdom is deathless, eternal, immortality spread all over. Instead of limiting to oneself, instead of limiting to one body, we begin to feel that we are everywhere. That 'I' is the self, is *atma*, is the spirit, soul, consciousness, whatever name you may give. It is universal, all-pervading, immortal, blemish-less, eternal. So, *Guru* is the one who takes you from darkness and ignorance to the light of wisdom.

There is another meaning for this term *guru*. *Guru* will take you from form to formlessness, from attributes to attributelessness. Let us know the meaning of this. We know what attributes are. Ice is cold, fire is hot. They are the attributes. The quality, the trait, is an attribute or what we call *guna*.

We all have *gunas*, the three essential qualities. What are they? First, bestial quality, the animal quality; second, the human quality and third, the divine quality. What we call *sattva*, *rajas*, and *tamo guna*. These are three qualities: an animal, a human and the divine. *Sattva*, *rajas*, *tamo guna* are within us.

So, we are bound, controlled by these attributes or *gunas*. But a *Guru* will take you from this life of attributes to a stage of attributelessness, where there are no attributes at all - to that state. What is that state of attributelessness? In that there is no specific quality, nothing doing.

Air, what quality has it? No, no quality. Electricity, what quality has it got? So, without attributes, there is no quality at all. The vast space has what quality? Attributelessness (*gunateeta*) - *guna* (attribute) + *ateeta* (beyond attribute). So, from attributes (*gunas*) to attributelessness (*gunateeta*), beyond attributes or *gunas*. That is the job of a *guru*.

And the second duty of a *guru* is to take us from form to formlessness. Form is *roopa*, formlessness is *roopa varjita*. So, from form to formlessness. What do I mean by form and formlessness?

Bubble has a form, foam has a form, wave has a form, but ocean has no form. Cloud has a form, but sky has no form. Bulb has a form, fan has a form, fridge has a form but electricity has no form. So, from form to formlessness is the teaching of a *Jagadguru*. From attributes to attributelessness, from *guna* to *gunateeta* is the teaching of a *Jagadguru*. Our Bhagawan Baba, *Jagadguru*, speaks of all the essentials of Vedanta or philosophy to all of us in the simplest way ever possible.

I would also say a *guru* has three responsibilities: He is the Creator or Brahma; Brahma is the Creator. What is that He creates? He creates good feelings, good

sentiments, sacred thoughts, and good emotions. All these are created in our mind, in our hearts, by our *guru*. So He is Creator, Brahma.

And not only that, He takes care that you hold on to these good qualities you are blessed with. He will see that you'll maintain and keep up those spiritual qualities. He will see the seeds sown in your heart grow into beautiful plants that flower later. So, this care taken thereafter is what is called sustenance or Vishnu. Brahma is Creator, while the Sustainer is Vishnu.

And the third is this Annihilator, annihilation, or simply we can say Destroyer. What is it that destroys any evil action, any evil thoughts, any unnecessary emotions, any wickedness, cruelty, violence - all of them are destroyed by *guru*. Thus, *guru* is Shiva. So, *guru* has three aspects: Brahma, Vishnu, Maheshwara or Shiva. The Creator, the Sustainer and the Destroyer.

So *guru* is Creator of good feelings and thoughts, Sustainer of all the good spirit within you and maintains that, and third, Destroyer of all the evil qualities. That is the spirit of Guru Purnima celebrated by Sathya Sai Organizations all over. *Jagadguru* teaches that God is one. You may call Him by any name. You may call Allah as Muslims do, or Jesus as Christians, or Buddha as Buddhists, or Shiva or Rama or Krishna. Whatever name you may give, but God is one.

We have a number of jewels in every country. We have got rings and we got chains, which are all made of gold. Ornaments are many, but gold is one. Just think of that. Flowers are many, but worship is one. Cows are many, but milk is one. That essential unity, that basic oneness, is the teaching of Jagadguru Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba.

He speaks of the oneness of humanity, very particularly declaring there is only one caste, the caste of humanity. Only one caste - that is oneness. Bhagawan further says all religions speak good things, sacred things. It is the way you take it that brings all kinds of differences, the clashes and conflicts, which are because of lack of awareness, lack of understanding, and lack of experience.

So, we have to know the basic unity, the oneness. That is a wonderful, divine, spiritual quality that we have to develop within every one of us on this day of Guru Purnima. Guru Purnima wants us to follow the *Guru*, the Divine Master. We have to follow Him, not to question why, not to reason why because you are not simply a student to obey or disobey. You are not merely a disciple to follow or not. But you are a devotee, so you have got to follow Him.

Therefore, we have to follow our Master, follow the Master unconditionally. What is it that our Bhagawan Baba expects from us? Baba symbolizes the basic human qualities, the basic human values like:

***Truth - Sathya***  
***Dharma - Righteousness***  
***Shanti - Peace***  
***Prema - Love***

## **Ahimsa - Nonviolence.**

These are the five cardinal principles on which the edifice of the Sathya Sai Organization is built. The entire humanity has a bright future if it follows human values. Human values program is taken up in a big way by Bhagawan Baba. He simply puts it in His own inimical style, and nobody can imitate Him:

### **Satyadharmapremasantulu lekunna vidyalanniyu nerci viluva sunna**

*Without the human values, all the education that you acquire, all the study and the knowledge that you have, the value is nothing. Just a zero.*

### **Satyadharmapremasantulu lekunna bahuja satkarya labhambu sunna**

*Without these human values, you may undertake many good projects, many accessories. But if there are no human values, the result is a zero, that's all.*

### **Satyadharmapremasantulu lekunna padavulanelina phalamu sunna**

*Without the human values, you may occupy exalted positions, many high positions in society and the organization. If you have no basic human values, then all of them are in vain. They are useless.*

### **Satyadharmapremasantulu lekunna danadharmala sardhakata sunna**

*Accept charity (dana), Dharma following a liberate path, you will never reach the goal, you will never reach the end.*

Thus, Swami speaks very highly of human values. Therefore, this Guru Purnima demands from all of us to follow the five human values as taught to us, as gifted to us by Bhagawan Baba Himself. Throughout the life, He struggled and strove hard to uplift these human values.

And Guru Purnima also, as I said in the beginning, is an occasion of expression of reverence, respect, gratitude and thanks to our *Guru* for all that He has given us, for all His Divine messages that He has given us. So, this is the occasion to give at least a token of love. A token of Love: We should offer Him a gift on this occasion because we are what we are entirely due to Him.

What is that we can offer to Him today on this Guru Purnima? He does not expect your prayers. He does not expect your worship. He will never want your money. He doesn't care for your position. What is it that you can offer to Him? You have to offer all of your ego, all of your pomp, all of your show, all of your exhibitionism, all of your pride, avarice, anger, greed. Let all these bad qualities be given to Him. He is Lord Shiva, the destroyer of all bad qualities, as I said earlier. This is the gift.

And further on another occasion He said, "Don't drink, don't smoke and don't eat meat." Thus, He said it is better we don't smoke, don't drink and don't partake meat. That is what Swami wanted from us. It only means, not only did Bhagawan say like that, but it also ensures good health, a long life. Better we follow these principles.

Further, Bhagawan wants us to work for others, to live for others. Others first, you come last. You are the last. That is why Baba said sometimes, "What is the spelling of joy?"

**JOY:**

J - Jesus, the Lord

O - Others next

Y - Yourself last

It only means: God comes first, others come next, and you are the last.

This prioritization is the gift that we can offer to our Bhagawan Baba. On this day of Guru Purnima, let us determine to have a firm faith, unwavering faith, and strong commitment to Sai Mission and Message.

I really thank you very much for your kind invitation to send a message on this occasion. I very well remember each and every one of you, including your children. Please convey my greetings to all Sai devotees wherever they are, all over the country of Ecuador. And also, to all those Spanish-speaking people, wherever they are because they have showered their love on me. I was finding it very hard to leave the Spanish people. I may not be able to speak Spanish. I may not be able to understand Spanish, but the language of the heart, the language of the heart connected us and made this Divine connection. May our spiritual bond remain forever and ever more.

May Bhagawan bless you and your families!  
Thank you.

*Gracias. Adiós, adiós.*

(Thank you. Good bye, good bye.)

Sai Ram.