

PODCAST 76: "LOVE IS THE WAY"

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Welcome to Prashanti Sandesh, 76th Episode. The talk today will be on Compassion.

We should earn Swami's Grace by all means. There are so many religions, so many practices that we follow and adopt in our lives. There are so many saints and seers, noble people, seekers who have prescribed so many methods to attain immortality or to earn Bhagwan's mercy.

These are all several methods suggested. Whatever [method it] may be, one thing can be said truly: no penance, no recitation, no scholarship, no exalted position, no external insignia or marks on the body, no austerity will ever bring or will ever confirm immortality. Impossible!

If at all we have to attain, if at all we have to experience God, the only way is that we should strive for, we should struggle to earn His grace, compassion, *daya*. When once we have got that compassion, *daya*, mercy of Bhagwan, everything else will be fulfilled. All will follow automatically. Be doubtless about this.

It is Bhagwan's mercy, Bhagwan's *daya* or compassion which is most important, more than anything in this world. Be that any religious path, be that any scriptures, spiritual text, be that any [other], above all, it is only compassion, Bhagwan's grace that's most important, that will redeem our lives, that will grant us that stage of immortality, that state of non-dual experience.

Well, how to earn His grace? How to be the recipient of His mercy? The answer is Love. Bhagwan Himself said, "Love all, Serve all, that is the way to God." Through love, by following love, by serving everybody with love, we can certainly earn His grace, we can certainly receive His mercy, with which we can face this world easily. At another time He also remarked: "Start the day with Love. Spend the day with Love. Fill the day with Love and End the day with Love. That is the way to God," further He added.

Therefore, it is most necessary that love is only way; [it is the] only path to be worthy enough to receive His boundless grace and mercy. That is the only way; that is the only thing. I should be the recipient of His compassion: 'Oh Lord, my Dear Bhagwan, be kind to me, be merciful to me, shower Your grace upon me my Lord,' should be our prayer. All practices should be directed in this way alone.

Further He said: "Love is God, God is Love. Live in Love." What more we want? On record, if we just refer to the pages of history, you will never come across anybody in the past, till now, who could convey in a such a simple lucid way how to earn God's grace and mercy like our Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He conveys His message in the simplest way ever possible.

I would like to quote what Bhagwan said in this direction. I will also give translation:

Ceta dhan'yulu kavalera entativaru

*You can redeem your life,
you can attain that state of immortality or non-dualism
only by His grace, nothing else.*

Asurudaina bhusurudaina akhanda telivigalavadaina

*You may be a demon,
you may be a king or an emperor,
you may be a great intellectual.
What if it's only compassion, the mercy of the Lord,
that is required.
That is only essential in this life.*

Further Swami says:

***Vidya nerci vadadinagani padyamulento padina gani
Kondaguhhalalo nundinagani kurcuni japamulu cesinagani***

*You may be extremely knowledgeable,
you may a great scholar and you may also prove your scholarship
by participating in several debates.
Or you may be a great poet, compose and recite poems, what if?
Or you may determine to undertake severe penance, sitting in a cave
or you may believe in repeating God's name mechanically.
Well, that won't help you.
It is only Swami's grace, His compassion, that will come to your rescue.*

That's what Bhagwan says.

See that how clearly He said:

***Yogabhyasamu cesinagani bhagavatadulu cadivinagani
Baguga geddamu pencinagani pattenamamulu pettinagani***

*Some people think they are really spiritual by having a long beard
and some people also will have external marks like vermilion or vibhuti
they wear on their forehead.
But remember, it is the mercy of Bhagwan,
It is the grace of Bhagwan, which is most essential,
not this show, not this exhibitionism.
Let us be very, very clear about it as Bhagwan said it.*

Further He says:

***Mukkumusi japamacarincina mukkucu бага nilaciyandina
Vekkivekki edcinagani moralidinanu niku karugadu manasu***

*I may hold my breath in the name of Pranayama, a breathing exercise.
I may repeat God's name which is what you call Japa
or I may try various postures, various methods in prayer.
I may sob, cry bitterly.
But it is impossible, it is impossible to be redeemed.
We should pray sincerely until God melts.
Meet, melt and merge should be our sadhana, which is most important,
that is to be kept in our mind all the time.*

***Kasaya vastramu vesinagani kanthamala dhariyincinagami
Gadagadamani japamala tippina kadaku niyoddaku ravale baba***

*I may try to be spiritual and look like I am spiritual in the sight of others
by wearing ochre robes, or you may have rosary beads around your neck.
Today we find so many people having such rosary beads around their neck.
Some also would have on their wrist also today.
I may go on counting the beads and think that I am thinking of God,
that I am in deep penance or japa.
But it is mercy which is most important.
I may pray for Baba to come near to me.
That is only possible when Baba showers mercy on all of us.*

***Bhaktito mim'mu golicanagani, puttapartike vaccingani
Pujalu baga cesinagani pudamiyantayunu tiriginagani***

*I may extol, I may praise You, Swami with all my devotion.
With determination I may visit Puttaparthi regularly
to pay my respects, pranams and fall at Your feet
and I may follow several ritualistic methods, austerities and worship you.
And I may visit so many pilgrim centres.
I may go on pilgrimage.
But it is only with compassion that can one become glorious.*

You can become glorious only with compassion. That's what Bhagwan said in this beautiful hymn composed by Him. It will make you happy. Why? If I repeat it, I know that.

***Ceta dhan'yulu kavalera entativaru
Asurudaina bhusurudaina akhanda telivigalavadaina
Vidya nerci vadadinagani padyamulento padina gani
Kondaguhhalalo nundinagani kurcuni japamulu cesinagani
Yogabhyasamu cesinagani bhagavatadulu cadivinagani
Baguga geddamu pencinagani pattenamamulu pettinagani
Mukkumusi japamacarincina mukkucu baga nilaciyandina
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***Kasaya vastramu vesinagani kanthamala dhariyincinagami
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Bhaktito mim'mu golicanagani puttapartike vaccingani
Pujalu baga cesinagani pudamiyantayunu tiriginagani***

I am sorry if I have taken your time by repeating it. It is only to give you a flavor of the language of Swami, to give you a taste of the original composition. Do not mistake me. I gave English translation also [for your benefit]. Now you will appreciate what it is.

He said that Love is the only way to reach Him, to earn His grace, to enjoy Him and to experience Him.

What does He say here?

Prema daivambu jagam'malla premamayamu

Love is God and the whole world is full of love.

Prema rupammu gomivacci permimira

He came as a form of love. "Love is my form," said Swami many, many times. Just recall that song composed and rendered by Bhagwan:

"Love is form, Truth is my breath, Bliss is my food."

So, Love is His form.

Prema sudhalu cindinci premagurpu

*He showers love on all and He adds love to our lives.
He spreads love, He is love and He will make you filled with love.*

Prema avatara! Sri Krsna prema trsna

*Krishna's form is love. The incarnation of Krishna is full of love,
and we should develop that pining, yearning for that love.
That Lord Krishna today is in our midst as Sai Krishna.*

Further, another moment Swami said:

Prema rupamu brahmambu premamayamu

Love is the true form of God and God is filled with Love.

That's what Bhagwan says:

Love is God, God is Love, Live in love.

Prema premato sandhimpa nimamagunu

Love connects with love and causes a synergy.

That's what He said. The contact and the connection between you and God is Love to Love and Heart to Heart. Then only it is possible to melt and merge in Him. That's the only connection that we have to understand.

Kana premanu purtiga kaligiyunna

Therefore, if we have all that Love in its entirety, wholeness, completely,

Advitiyamu nondanga nar'hudagunu

Then what happens?

*Worshipping that form of love, understanding that is love,
establishing the connection with love, and if you are filled with love then
it is possible to enjoy that non-dual state, Advaita Ananda,
the bliss of dual state, Advitiya ananda,
the bliss without the second,
Navyananda, the ever fresh, the new blissful state.
Navyananda, Divyananda, Advaita Ananda,
Chidananda, that Ananda the bliss of awareness,
Sadananda, that eternal bliss.
All this is possible only through Love.
Love is God.*

That's what He says.

Another occasion He mentions this:

***Premamayundu sridharudu
Premaye atani divyarupamun.***

God is the embodiment of Love.
Love is His Divine form.

Then what does He say:

***Premaye sarvarupamula
Pritiki tarakamantramattidau***

Ah! Ah! Ah! How beautifully He has said it!

*Love is the endearing mantra for all forms of life
and that has got all the power to redeem our lives.*

***Prema ravathayaina viva
Rimpagaleka jagambunandu ta
Tkamimita satpadardhametu
Gancaga nerturatayya manava!***

See how nicely He has put it!

*If you are unable to express even a little love in this world,
if you don't have that love, even a speck of it,
How can you achieve your desired good outcomes?
How can your desires be fulfilled?
How can you attain your goals?
How can you have accomplishments, achievements in this life?
Wherever you search for them, oh human, you may search anywhere.
Only way is God. Only way is God
And that we should fill our lives with that Divinity
And share that love with everyone in the community.
That's what it is.*

So, the topic of the day is, "The Only Way" or you may call it, "Love is the Way."

Sai Ram.

We will meet again.