

Professor Anil Kumar has presented this talk as an extra satsang. He has selected important messages Baba has imparted to the students gathered around Him during the afternoon sessions on the veranda at Prashanti Nilayam. These talks will continue.

## **ANIL KUMAR'S SATSANG: BABA'S CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS**

### **“Sai Pearls of Wisdom” Part Eighteen**

**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

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

**Sai Ram  
Pranams to the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Today we will go over the material published in the February 2001 Telugu *Sanathana Sarathi*.

#### **PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2001 TELUGU SANATHANA SARATHI INTERVIEW TO THOUSANDS**

We know Swami's darshan has a wonderful impact on everybody. The moment we see Swami, we feel energetic, enthusiastic and we turn dynamic. So also with the absence of physical *darshan* for a prolonged period of time, we feel the pangs of separation. We feel very lonely, isolated and even physically weak.

When Swami talks to students and teachers every evening on the veranda, we can think of it as a 'mass interview'. He is giving an interview to thousands at a time. All of you see Him, thousands will hear Him, and all are benefited. Isn't that right? It is more or less, a mass interview indeed!

#### **KNOW HIM IN SPIRIT**

By listening to Swami's private conversations of this kind, apart from His public discourses, we have the benefit of knowing Him in spirit. We will understand Him spiritually, which will ultimately help us experience Him spiritually.

Therefore it is necessary for all of us to know our God, our dear God to whom we pray. If we just pray to Him without knowing Him, then it is only mechanical and routine. However, if we know Him, understand Him and then pray, we will experience the fruits thereof. That is what the Sage Thyagaraja said long ago: One has to know the God whom one worships.

#### **SLAVE TO TASTE - LIFE IS WASTE**

That evening Bhagavan chose to speak about health. He said that we should be slim and trim. We should not feel heavy. We should be able to get up immediately after eating our food and not feel like we are dragging our body. Furthermore He said that some people have a very hefty body, but thin legs. Their legs are thin, while their body is very well built. Baba said such a body is like a building with weak pillars: the building may collapse at any time. Such poor legs cannot bear

the heavy weight of the body and that sometimes causes arthritis and bone problems. So, people should take care not to be heavy-bodied, or give way to obesity.

Swami said, "If we become a slave to our taste, then life is a waste."

Then Bhagavan started speaking about the past. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, Bhagavan used to visit the East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Actually He visited every village in that district.

Swami said, "You know in those days I travelled everywhere by car. The car had to pass through so many towns and, in spite of the long journey, believe it or not, I didn't eat a thing along the way. I didn't eat and I didn't drink."

And further Bhagavan talked about Rahim, a driver He once had. Swami said He used to give fruits to Rahim, and sing songs for him. He would also tell him stories so Rahim wouldn't fall asleep while driving at night.

Swami said, "I used to joke with him: 'Oh driver Rahim, you are in the front seat while I am in the back seat. As the car speeds up, all the jolts come to Me - not to you.'"

### **VISHWAMITHRA REQUESTS PROTECTION FROM RAMA AND LAKSHMANA**

And then Bhagavan started talking about the *Ramayana*. You know Rama and Lakshmana are two brothers in the story. Sage Vishwamithra wanted the two brothers to follow him into the forest to protect the *yagna* he had decided to perform. The forest was full of demons who always attacked the saints and sages who performed the rites. Vishwamithra wanted Rama and Lakshmana to help him, not because he could not defeat those demons himself, but rather because a person who performs a *yagna* should not kill anybody. That was the discipline. So, Vishwamithra went to Dasaratha, the boys' father, to request permission.

He asked the king, "Oh Dasaratha, send your two sons along with me."

Dasaratha started crying, "I cannot send them along with you. These children were born only after a very, very long period of waiting and penance and I cannot part with them."

Vishwamithra replied, "Oh King, you made a promise that you would do whatever I asked. Now you cannot break that promise."

Dasaratha said, "Oh Vishwamithra, please leave my two children alone. They are young children - tiny ducks. I cannot live without them. I will follow you. I will protect your *yagna*."

Then Vishwamithra said, "Look here Dasaratha, you belong to a lineage where people lived and died for truth. Now you want to break your promise?"

In this way, Vishwamithra insisted that Rama and Lakshmana be sent along with him.

And further Vishwamithra added, "Oh King, I don't know what kind of attachment you have. You think that Rama and Lakshmana are your sons; but you don't know who they are. They are actually Divine. Rama is God Himself. So, why do you worry? Why do you think that they are just *your* children?"

Speaking thus, Vishwamithra ultimately succeeded in taking the two boys along with him to the forest to safeguard and protect his *yagna*.

After some hard travelling and with evening approaching, Vishwamithra had the two brothers come close to him. He said, "Look here, Rama and Lakshmana, night is fast approaching and there will be demons around. They may try to kill you. You will need to stay awake throughout the night in order to keep the demons away from this place."

"You are princes, children of a great king, so you are accustomed to eating costly and delicious food, which is not available in this forest. Therefore, my dear boys, I will teach you two forms of knowledge: one is *Bala* and the other is *Athibala*. These two forms of knowledge will allow you to get along without sleep and you won't have to eat either, because you will lose your appetite. Don't worry."

## **DELUSION OF VISHWAMITHRA**

Then Bhagavan said, "See how Vishwamithra was deluded? Earlier he said to Dasaratha, 'Why do you think they are your sons? Rama is God.' Then later, the same Vishwamithra told the boys that there were demons in the forest who might attack them, so he would teach them these two forms of knowledge. On the one hand, he said they were Divine, while on the other, he had forgotten this. He took them as ordinary boys and wanted to instruct them."

So, delusion is so powerful that even saints and sages are also carried away by it. Similarly, at times we may feel that Baba is God. Yes. But, after some time we think, "Does He know that I am suffering? Does He really know my problems? Does He know that my visa is going to expire soon? Does He know whether my return tickets are confirmed or not?" We start to doubt Him. But later, He is God again: "He appeared in my dream; He told me this and that, and everything happened as He showed." So these are the effects of illusion or delusion.

## **DISCIPLINE YOUR FOOD HABITS**

Bhagavan continued, "Rama ate figs from the forest. There were a few fruit trees available there, so He ate the fruits He wanted, and gave the rest to the birds and other animals present. Like this, boys, you have to discipline your food habits. You should not eat too much."

"Swami, is it possible to exercise any discipline with regard to food at this age?"

What I meant was that I am not prepared to discipline my food habits. I like spicy food, the Andhra pickles, hot, hot stuff, chillies and all that, and I am not prepared to give them up. So I asked this question in this way: "Is it possible to exercise discipline in our food habits at this age?"

Swami said, "It has nothing to do with age. If you have a strong determination, then you can certainly regulate and discipline your food habits."

## **WORDS WAIT TO BE USED BY HIM**

Now I pass on to another episode. Bhagavan told us that there were two poets in Andhra Pradesh who were known as '*Tirupathi Venkata Kavulu*' - very popular in Telugu literature. Most people know their poems, as they are famous. Those two poets visited Baba fifty years ago.

I asked out of curiosity, "Swami, what did they say? What did they say?"

Bhagavan said that those two poets told Him, "Swami, we pick words to compose poems, whereas words *wait* to be used by You for composition. Words wait there; the literature waits there to be composed into poems by Your Divine Hand. But we ordinary people collect some words and write poems. That is the difference."

Then Bhagavan mentioned the name of another great scholar, Ramakrishna Rao. He was a governor and an expert in twelve Indian languages. He was the first translator of Bhagavan's discourses. Once when in Bombay, he translated Bhagavan's discourse into the Marathi language. At the end of the discourse, the entire audience started clapping and cheering Bhagavan's talk.

The translator, Ramakrishna Rao, got up and said, "Gentlemen and ladies, please understand that these are not my words; this is not my speech. It is only my translation into Marathi. The original talk was given by Baba."

After hearing that announcement, people started clapping even more, for a prolonged period. That is the nectarine beauty of Bhagavan's Divine discourses.

## **NEVER DISTRIBUTE ROTTEN FRUITS**

Now we move onto another episode. You know the small-size fruits that Swami distributes to all students and devotees? One day He asked the boys to distribute these small fruits, which look something like berries.

He called one boy to Him and said, "Boy, see that you only distribute good fruits; never distribute rotten fruits. It is a sin if you distribute spoiled fruits. You should never do it because you will have to pay for it later. Therefore, select the best fruits for giving away to people."

Then all the boys started distributing fruits. But our Bhagavan, as you know, was carefully watching to see how they were distributing them.

Finally He said, “Arre boys! You are M.Sc. degree students. You only know how to read and reproduce the information at the time of examination; but you have no common sense and general knowledge. You don’t know how to distribute fruits! Why have you forgotten this group? You have not distributed fruits to the last of row of devotees there. What kind of M.Sc. boys are you?”

### **RESPECT YOUR TEACHERS**

And further He said, “Arre, some of you boys, as you were walking, I saw your feet touch your teachers. You should respect your teachers; that is not the way you should behave. You students should have obedience and humility. Only then can you learn well.” That is what Bhagavan said.

Suddenly Swami turned to one student and said, “Tell me one thing. Who is the best teacher in your college?”

‘Who is the best teacher?’ It is very difficult question! The boy did not answer. Swami insisted.

The boy finally said, “Swami, all are good teachers -- no Swami, all are the *best*.”

Then Bhagavan said, “I know all are good people, all are good teachers. However, some teachers may be harsh towards you. This is for your own good - you should know that.”

### **CHILDREN TRANSFORMING THEIR PARENTS**

Now I go to the next episode. It was a time when Bhagavan had completed interviews. He started talking about a couple who were privileged to have been granted an interview with Him. After they came out of the interview room, Swami started talking about them. But they didn’t know as they had already left.

He looked at us and said, “See -- do you see that boy?”

“Ah Swami, we see.”

“You know, I said to that boy, ‘You tell your father to give up that bad habit. Tell him that it is not good for him.’”

Then the boy went home and started crying.

The father asked, “Arre, why are you crying?”

The boy said, “Dad, stop your bad habit or else I will cry. I won’t take food. Promise me that you will give up that bad habit.”

The father said, “What is that bad habit?”

“Smoking, Dad - you smoke. Don’t smoke anymore.”

Then the father decided not to smoke again. What a transformation Bhagavan is bringing about among the parents through their children. The children are transformed in His Presence and through them the parents are reformed. This is a wonderful thing that is going on in the present Incarnation.

### **YOU CANNOT HIDE ANYTHING FROM HIM**

At that time Bhagavan started telling everybody, “Boys, I will tell you something that happened at Brindavan. Anil Kumar knows about it.”

It was during a summer class time and the boys had enjoyed a very good lunch and evening tea. Swami started moving towards the auditorium for the evening Divine discourse.

Suddenly He stopped, looked at one boy and said, “Boy, don’t do that! This is not the place for such things. Stop that.”

The boy said, “What, Swami?”

He said, “Don’t do that. “

“What is it, Swami?”

Immediately, by the wave of His Hand, Baba materialised a photograph showing this fellow smoking, under a tree behind the college building. This is something that Bhagavan Himself mentioned. So it means that we cannot hide anything from Him. You cannot keep anything a secret so far as Baba is concerned.

### **I HAVE NEVER TASTED COFFEE, CHOCOLATE OR CAKE**

Somehow the discussion turned towards me and He said, "Anil Kumar, are you eating properly?"

"Swami, I am eating normally."

"Are you happy with your pickles and hot stuff?"

"I am very happy, Swami."

"Why do you eat those pickles continuously like that?"

"Swami, in between I will have soup and dal; but pickles are continuous."

"Huh! You are always like that."

And then, pointing to Himself He said, "Believe it or not, I have never tasted coffee or tea. I don't touch oily stuff. I have not tasted biscuits, chocolates or cakes. You know, in My school days, I used to carry with Me a small preparation made out of corn."

### **I BELONGED TO A POOR FAMILY - I HAD TO EAT IN SECRET**

With that corn stuff, a hard circular preparation is made called *jonna rottelu*. *Jonna rottelu* means 'out of corn'. Swami used to carry these circular eatables with Him to school.

Then I said, "Swami, those must have been so hard -- too hard to eat. How could You eat them?"

"No, no, no. If you just sprinkle some water over them, they will become soft. Then you can easily eat them."

Then I thought to myself, 'Swami, You alone could do that; I could not.'

And then Bhagavan said, "While all My classmates were having their usual food, I ate only that little preparation made out of corn. Because others should not feel embarrassed that I belonged to a poor family, I had to eat in secret. I could not afford the rice and other stuff that My classmates were eating, and I did not want to embarrass them."

How shall we take it? What Himalayan simplicity it is! What openness it is. Bhagavan's life is an open book.

With that, I conclude that month's report.

### **PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2001 TELUGU SANATHANA SANARATHI: EPISODES FROM JUNE 2000**

Now I pass on to the next month's topics, published in the March 2001 Telugu *Sanathana Sarathi*. I am so glad that Bhagavan has given me this opportunity to make all this material available to those who understand English. I am so grateful to Swami because I was feeling so badly that all the material in Telugu was not available to the English readers. So, while we are grateful to Bhagavan, I am also thankful to you for this chance.

Well, what did Bhagavan say?

This episode starts with Bhagavan returning from Bangalore after the summer course. Usually He comes in the month of June, but my report was published in the month of March 2001. This was because the episodes are from previous years.

As I told you earlier, I give the *Sanathana Sarathi* group a bunch of episodes. However they can only publish a few of them at a time, depending upon the availability and allotment of pages -- because the whole magazine is not meant for me alone. All should have chances to submit articles, and Bhagavan's discourses must be printed. So, the month these episodes were printed in is not the same month when they originally happened. Is that clear?

## **BHAGAVAN RETURNED TO PUTTAPARTHI TO A GRAND WELCOME**

So, Bhagavan was returning from Bangalore, and the whole village of Puttaparthi was jumping for joy. All the streets were well decorated. All the villages after the by-pass road were decorated. In addition, about 60 to 70 people - local villagers and shop people - came with motorcycles to receive Swami at the outskirts of town, and they escorted Him to Prashanti Nilayam. I am reminded of those days of the *Bhagavatham*. Lord Krishna must have been received like that when He came to Mathura from Brindavan. So Bhagavan Baba was received like that, with all festivity and gaiety.

We learned that on the way Swami had stopped in a village called Muddenahalli. Muddenahalli has a school that was founded by Baba. This school has over one thousand students, in addition to a number of committed, dedicated teachers, who are all bachelors and highly qualified. Well, in spite of the journey, the stop-over in Muddenahalli and a discourse there, Bhagavan reached Prashanti Nilayam looking very, very fresh. He didn't look tired - no sweat on the forehead - simply very fresh. That is the quality of Divinity.

So Bhagavan was received here with a tumultuous welcome. Boys chanting the Vedas greeted Him. There was a band playing, and people were singing and dancing. And Swami, though He reached here at 2.30 in the afternoon, was ready for *darshan* by 4 o'clock. See that? It is only possible for Bhagavan to act like that! It is impossible for anyone of us. We get tired just looking at His schedule, leave alone following the schedule. But He looked very fresh. It was really wonderful.

## **PATIENTS EAT THE DAY AFTER THEIR OPERATIONS**

Swami came there at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and spoke to the boys as usual. He talked about the Super Specialty Hospital in Bangalore.

Baba said, "There in the Super Specialty Hospital, within ten days of its inauguration, hundreds of people visited and a number of operations were conducted. Most of the patients happened to be very, very poor, and there were also children."

He also said, "Do you know that the specialty in our hospital is that the patient starts eating the very next day after his operation."

The very next day after the operation, the fellow will start eating *idlis*! That is the specialty there.

And further He said, "I visited the hospital and suddenly I saw a young girl eating *idli* and smiling at Me. She was doing *namaskar*. The doctors told Me that the child had been operated on the just the previous day, but she was doing *namaskar* and looking so fresh, as if nothing had happened. That is how things take place in our hospital."

## **INNER HAPPINESS COVERED BY THE IDEA OF SEPARATION**

Then I said softly, "Swami, during this period of Your absence, the charm of Puttaparthi was lost. It was a deserted village. This place becomes a 'godforsaken' place. We felt very, very lonely."

Baba replied, "Why do you talk like that? I may not have been here, but all of you were here. Why do you say that the village was deserted? You all were here. Why do you say that?"

Then I said, "Swami, I am sorry to comment. See the happiness around now? See the smiling faces now? Earlier it was 'caster oil faces' -- no one was happy; everyone was morose and serious."

Then Baba said, "No, no. You are wrong. The happiness is *within* you. It is only *within* you."

Then I said, "Swami, excuse me. If happiness is within me, then what happened to it when You were not here? How is it that happiness came out only *after* You have come back here? It maybe within me, but it only came out when *You* arrived. I didn't know its existence in Your absence. How is that? Please explain."

Bhagavan said, "No. You are the embodiment of bliss. Happiness is within you, but that feeling of absence - the very idea of the absence of Swami - covered that inner happiness within you. The inner happiness was covered by the idea of separation, by the thought of the absence of Swami."

How true it is. We have forgotten our true nature. We are the embodiments of truth, peace and love, but our true identity was forgotten a long time ago. Our wrong thoughts have covered our true nature. So, the mistake lies with our thoughts, not with our true nature.

## **GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE**

Then the conversation slowly shifted to the Gujarat earthquake. This was around the time of the Gujarat earthquake. Before Swami came back to Puttaparthi, He had given instructions. He sent lorries and lorries of blankets, foodstuffs and utensils to the victims of the earthquake.

Then I said, "Swami, we have come to know that You sent so many things to those earthquake victims when You were there in Bangalore."

Baba immediately said, "I don't publicise what I do. I do not advertise what I do. You tell everybody. Why? Because you think that you are helping somebody. No one is 'somebody else' to Me; all are *My* people. All belong to Me. So, why should I publicise? I am helping *My* own people, so there is no need for advertisement."

What a wonderful idea it was. Bhagavan sent about 75,000 sarees, clothes for adults and children, utensils, bags of rice, wheat, oil tins, *shamianas* (cloth shelters), and around 2000 tents to Gujarat. Along with these materials, 50 volunteers went from Prashanti Nilayam, accompanied by elders who were asked to go supervise the distribution to the victims, and to supervise the relief operations there. Truly, it was really unbelievable.

Then I said, "Swami, I cannot express the extent of the help You are offering those victims."

Baba, turning back towards me, said, "I don't consider it 'help' at all. Do you think that you are helping your wife and your children? No. It is your responsibility to take care of them. All are *My* children. Therefore, it is *My* responsibility to care of them. So no one needs to know, thank or recognize this."

All right, this was the right time to ask a question.

"Swami, You are God. Why did You allow that earthquake to happen there in Gujarat? You could have prevented it all by Yourself. Why did You allow it to happen and then organise a relief camp like this? Why? Why should You make the child cry and then caress the child later? Why make the child cry and later sing a lullaby to him to make him go to sleep? Why should there be any earthquake at all?"

## **I WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH NATURE**

Please note this point:

Baba said, "Everything that happens in the world happens according to the laws of Nature. Nature is the creation of God. It operates by its own discipline and it will never cross its limitations. And, I will not interfere because it is *My* creation. Therefore I don't allow any transgression of the laws of Nature. So earthquakes, fires, floods, etc. all happen as per the laws of Nature. But, to go to the help of the poor and needy is Love for man. So, what happens in the world is the law of Nature. What a man should do is to have this idea of 'Love of man' towards those that suffer -- the poor and the needy."

## **WHY DO EARTHQUAKES, FIRES AND FLOODS HAPPEN?**

"Why should these earthquakes, fires and floods happen? Why?"

I want our friends to carefully note these points, so that we all come to know the main cause behind these natural calamities.

Swami started explaining, "Today, man has limitless desires. He has become very greedy and he is exploiting Nature. He keeps extracting metals from the fathomless depths of the earth. He digs deeper and deeper, thousands and thousands of feet, to extract ores and metals out of Mother Earth. Then, he also goes deep into the ocean to extract kerosene and petrol. As a result, the balance of earth is gone. When earth's balance is gone, then there are floods. When there is shallowness and hollowness in different parts of earth, it leads to earthquakes. So, the earthquakes and floods are of man's making. God has not done anything. All of these things are a sort of reaction to man's atrocities -- his exploitation of Nature, his greediness and miserliness, which are due to limitless desires."

That is what Bhagavan has said. Thus He explained the reason for these natural calamities.

### **IS IT BAD TO HAVE DESIRES?**

"So, Swami, is it bad to have desires?"

Swami smiled compassionately and said, "You can have desires, but only a limited number of desires -- not too many. When you need some water to drink, a tumbler of water should be enough; you don't have to bring the whole river here. So also, if a man has limited desires, then he will not exploit Nature, which causes the natural calamities. After all, if you work with both of your hands, if you work hard, can't you feed a single stomach? Can't you feed your single belly? But man does not work, and he has become highly selfish and full of limitless desires. And today, as science improves day-by-day, control over the senses is lost day-by-day. That is a cause for all these tragedies."

### **EPISODES FROM JANUARY 2000**

We also came to know that while in Bangalore, on January 31st, Bhagavan visited a place called Alike in the State of Karnataka. Swami told us, "You know, I spoke completely in Kannada only, not in Telugu. All the people in the audience were very happy because I spoke in their Mother tongue."

### **ARJUNA HAD TWELVE TITLES**

Now I pass on to the next episode. Bhagavan spoke about the *Mahabharata* that evening. He talked about so many stories, like Prameelarjuneeyam, Gograhanam, Abhimanyu and the story of Parikshith. The way He related every episode made us feel as though the events were happening right then. All the stories were narrated in such a way that we felt a graphic, photographic, panoramic, dramatic picturisation of the whole event, which is possible only for Bhagavan to do, and no one else.

He mentioned one important character in the *Mahabharata* named Arjuna. Bhagavan said, "Arjuna had twelve titles - the highest titles."

Then I said, "Swami, twelve titles? How did he get these titles? Did he obtain them because of his expertise in archery? Were they given in recognition of his courage, or in recognition of his victory, or perhaps in appreciation of his triumph over the evil forces?"

Swami said, "No, no, no. He earned twelve titles because of his sense control and because of his spiritual discipline and penance. He won the Grace of God and therefore he was rewarded with so many boons."

Swami praised Arjuna in this way.

### **WAS ARJUNA GREATER THAN BHEESHMA?**

Well, I am not a silent man. I knew of another character in the *Mahabharatha*: Bheeshma. Bheeshma was a senior man, an elderly man, a man of peace, a man of tranquility, a man of expertise and a man of sacrifice -- the like of whom you won't find anywhere.

"Swami, do You think Arjuna was greater than Bheeshma?"



Bhagavan understood my thoughts and replied immediately, “Bheeshma, no doubt, was a great man. He was undoubtedly a senior person - a wise man, a man of penance, a man of discipline, a man of sincerity and an excellent devotee. But he was in the company of bad people. He supported the wicked Kauravas. On the other hand, Arjuna was never in bad company. Though comparatively younger than Bheeshma, Arjuna was quite good because he kept the company of good people. Therefore, Arjuna was greater than Bheeshma.”

### **ABHIMANYU’S DECISION TO FIGHT**

And then Swami narrated the story of Abhimanyu. Abhimanyu was the son of Arjuna. It so happened that Abhimanyu was challenged by the enemies to fight. So he had to go to the war and fight them. He died there, when still a very young man.

“Swami, Abhimanyu was a young man. He was married and his wife was pregnant; his father, Arjuna, and his uncle, Krishna, were both away. Poor Abhimanyu! He was such a young man to die on the battlefield. What a pity! Swami, I heard that Abhimanyu disobeyed his mother, Subhadra.”

His mother told him, “My dear son, don’t go. Your father is not here; your uncle is not here; and your wife is pregnant. Don’t go.”

“Swami, was it proper for Abhimanyu to disobey his mother and go like that?”

I thought that I could point out some mistake in Abhimanyu, but our good God does not allow for any such misunderstandings.

He said, “Look here, Anil Kumar! When enemies come and challenge, it is the duty of every warrior, *Kshatriya*, or community of warriors to go to the war field immediately. They should not escape. They should not find an excuse.”

“So, Abhimanyu disobeyed his mother because his enemies challenged him, and he was a true warrior. Had he not gone, when his father returned home, what would his father’s feelings have been? His father would have felt ashamed of him. He would have thought, ‘Is this my son who stayed back at home? I am a great warrior and my son should also be like me. What a shame it is that he stayed back at home when he was challenged by our enemies.’ That would have been his father’s feelings.”

“Abhimanyu would never have wanted that to happen. Therefore he faced the challenge. He faced his enemies single-handedly and ultimately had to die, as per the Divine ‘Master Plan’. Abhimanyu knew that Dronacharya devised the entire war strategy. He also knew pretty well that he was alone against hundreds of people, senior people, but he didn’t mind dying to uphold the name, prestige and the dignity of his family and his father.”

That is what Bhagavan said.

### **WHAT IS KSHATRA?**

Then I asked, “Swami, I have one question. What is a *kshatra*?”

This is a Sanskrit word, but we understand it in English as meaning ‘courage’. I asked Swami this question because He is known for giving us new definitions and new interpretations.

“Yes,” Swami turned back and with a smile and said, “The valour and courage that always stand by morality, character and integrity is called *kshatra*.”

We should understand, my friends, that to kill another man may be an act of courage; but is not *kshatra*. Do you understand? To beat a person may be an act of courage, but it is not *kshatra*. To maintain your character, to be ready to die and to fight to keep your character, that is *kshatra*. That was the definition given by Bhagavan.

Society today has to recognize that such *kshatra*, righteous anger, is required when we fight agitations and disturbances. Arson and violence are everywhere, but in no sense can we call them courage. Those actions are all rowdiness, restlessness and lawlessness. What we need today is bravery -- bravery, valour and righteous anger.

May Bhagavan bless you. Thank you, Sai Ram.

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

***Asato Maa Sad Gamaya  
Tamaso Maa Jyotir Gamaya  
Mrtyormaa Amrtam Gamaya***

***Om Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu  
Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu  
Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu***

***Om Shanti Shanti Shanti***