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Talk Given by Prof. Anil Kumar

“THE NEED OF THE HOUR”

Oct 24, 2019

SAI RAM EVERYBODY

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NEED OF THE HOUR

Thanks to Swami for making this possible. I hope and trust that you will follow the whole talk and come forward with your own suggestions and comments. Thank you very much for your time.

Well, my friends, we are at a time right now totally confused. We have with us a new generation that has not been exposed to Swami at all. They didn't see Swami. Most of them have not gone through His literature either. And the senior people — many of them who had intimate contact with Swami — either they have left or are far away from us. So the new generation with us today is confused.

And we have another category of devotees who are in a dilemma as to what to do, as well as what not to do. "To be or not to be", that is the question with this group. And the third category of devotees are those who are simply silent. Their attitude is to let things go: "Let sleeping dogs lie. We are not worried." So I call this the 'indifferent group'.

There's a section of devotees staying here because of their children who are studying in the educational institutions. The composition of devotees in Prashanti Nilayam is, by and large, mostly students, staff, and hospital and paramedical staff. But the students come and go. Soon after they complete their studies, they go.

At present, we cannot rely on educational institutions to impart the Sai message to students. We need to motivate the teachers so that they'll be charged with Sai devotion and the Sai message to disseminate to the students. They can then inspire the students to be true messengers of Sai in the future.

As it is, I don't find any such motivational talks or courses guiding faculty members of the university to focus attention on Swami. Anyway, not to my knowledge. This has to be taken up as early as possible.

WHOM CAN WE HELP?

The devotees who are indifferent, who are not mindful or bothered about what is going on — we can't help them. And then there are those not interested in the Sai mission, interested only in their studies, or their children. They are not bothered about what is happening. Just as these devotees are all indifferent, we can't help but be indifferent to them in turn.

But we can help the confused people, the confused section of devotees who are in a dilemma, not knowing what to do or not to do, what is correct or what is not correct. And we can also help the new generation that has been visiting Prashanti Nilayam and Sai centers from all over the world. We can inform and appraise them on what Baba said on different topics. Keeping all this in our mind, we would like to share with our viewers certain points of immediate interest. Therefore, my friends, the topic for this talk is the "Need of the Hour".

What is the need of the hour? Let us question ourselves. Well, I will try to epitomize and put as briefly as I can the aims and objectives of what Baba said to us, and the certain qualities that we are supposed to have. He said a lot of things, but for the moment I want to share with you just a couple of them.

DISCRIMINATION

The first and the foremost: God has given us intellect. What for? Intellect is a decision-making instrument given to us. It is judgmental. It is gifted with the power of discrimination. We should know what is right and what is wrong. So let's all exercise our intellect and discriminate to know what is right and what is wrong. Baba said this in the month of August, on the 28th, 1996, I tell you — not today.

He spoke of the intellect and that we're not aware of the intellect within us. We remain as we have been. Therefore, my friend, WAKE UP, come on! Wake up! Let us make our intellect alert and try to discriminate between right and wrong.

As Baba puts it, what is ephemeral and what is eternal? What is ephemeral, transient, senescent, momentary, mundane or worldly — and what is eternal, everlasting, immortal? That's what Baba wanted us to know. Therefore, discrimination has to be especially exercised, today.

IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT ASSOCIATION AND VIBRATIONS

And then in this process, I want to warn EVERYBODY, devotees in general and youngsters in particular, what Baba said: that we should be very careful in respect to our association. We cannot move with everybody. Those who are against our principles, those who are against our norms, those who are against the teachings of Swami — we

cannot mingle with them. So we should exercise our choice, and run away from bad company. As Baba said, "Run away from bad company!"

Then you may ask me: What is good company and what is bad company? Good company is that which agrees with Sai principles, the Sai way of life and Sai teachings. This is what we call *satsang*.

Bad company is that which will take you away from this right path, which will make you ultimately weak. "Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are," Baba said many times. Therefore my friends, everybody will have to be careful today in choosing their company.

There are some people who, when they are with us, try to divert our attention. They will try to misinterpret facts and tell you certain things of which you were not aware. So be careful in the choice of your company, particularly on the spiritual path. Baba said this back in the month of February on the 28th, 1995. "Be very careful to have *satsang*, good company," is what He said.

In addition, Swami also said that when we are in good company, we have good vibrations. When you are in bad company, likewise you'll have bad vibrations. Vibrations have an effect on our mind and our ideas. They will certainly influence our thoughts. So we've got to be very careful, as Baba said.

ONLY GOD

And the third point which I want to bring to your attention — a very important point — is this: Unfortunately we find many people who come here for business prospects or for political motives. They come for personal influence, gain, selfishness, and self-interest. They are ambitious for positions, property and politics. It's very unfortunate.

This is a spiritual centre. This is a centre of awakening. This is a centre of self-inquiry, to go within. It has nothing to do with outward profits like fame, gain, and so on. And therefore my friends, let us focus our attention only on God, no one else and nothing else. Be it a Member of Parliament, a president of a unit or a secretary, or whosoever — they're not important. **Only God is important** and no one else, as Swami said.

I can give you an example that Baba said on April 3rd, 1990: Funnily, He said, "The human heart is a single sofa." It has no place for another man to sit. Therefore, let us be sure our human heart is a single sofa. Let it be a sitting place, a THRONE for Baba to sit on. It is not for anybody else to come and occupy. Only God, no one else!

"It's not a double sofa." That's what Swami said many times. "It's not a musical chair!" The human heart is not a musical chair, where we go on shifting and changing. No! "The human heart is a single sofa," as Swami said.

ONE DIRECTION - GOD

And at this time of confusion, I should also share with you what Baba said: As we know in navigation, a compass is used to plot a course. Every ship has a compass. The needle changes to a particular direction, always pointing towards the North. Like the compass needle that shows the direction, the needle of our mind should always be directed towards God. It should be pointed towards God, not towards anybody else. And Swami Himself gave that example in the month of January on the 14th, 1995.

I've been giving these references to establish the authenticity, the credibility, the accountability of these statements. Every devotee must therefore accept these are Swami's words. You cannot interpret them in your own way. He spoke in unambiguous terms — very clearly, giving no scope for any benefit of doubt.

BE AN EXAMPLE

And then I can also give you another thing Swami has told us: let us not preach, let us not go on talking and talking. Unfortunately, we have today so many people who speak and speak...about what? They talk, but they do not act. They talk about qualities that they do not have. They cannot be examples for us.

Therefore Swami says, forget everything. **Be an example for yourself. Let you be an example for yourself, for others to follow, for others to emulate.** That's what Baba said in the month of August on 8th, 2017.

[Small explanation for this 2017 date: This quote was posted on the **Thought for the Day** board in the ashram on August 8, 2017. However, Swami spoke these words during a Divine Discourse back on August 19, 1964:]

Dhana (Money) is the currency of the world; Sadhana (spiritual practices) is the currency of the spirit. When self-styled devotees come to you with their lists and books seeking donations, do not offer them any money. Why do you need a hall to meditate or repeat the Lord's Name (dhyana or namasmaranan)? The presence of others with unlike intentions will more often be a hindrance rather than help; instead make your home a temple, meditate in your own shrine room. Sing bhajans lovingly in your own home! Above all, be an example to others through your conduct – practice soft loving and truthful speech, be humble, and show reverence to elders. Live with faith, steadfastness and truthfulness. That way you will bring more people into the fold of theism than by establishing societies, collecting donations and running temples. Remember, the Lord really cares for sincerity, simplicity and steady joy in the contemplation of His name and form; nothing else!

Divine Discourse, Aug 19, 1964

"Be an example" means what? It is your conduct, your words, your humility, and seen in the way you behave with elders; and then it is your love and faith in God. These are the qualities to be an example to the rest of the community, and for other Sai devotees to follow. It is that rather than the speeches and keeping ourselves busy like politicians going around people, which won't serve any purpose. We are supposed to be the best examples, according to Swami.

SEESAW GODWARD

Swami often tells this also, acting (*demonstrating*) in this way: It is like a see-saw. If one end is upwards, the other end will be downwards. (*Anil Kumar demonstrates*). So when you give priority to God on the upper end, yes, the world will be less in weight and the other end goes down. If you give priority to the world on the upper end, God will be less in weight, and the other end is down. Understand which end of the see-saw should have weight and value. That's what Bhagavan said on April 28, 1997.

UNITY

And further, because of certain petty reasons, because of certain very silly politics, Sai people are divided. From my own humble experience all over the world, there are many centers that have divided opinions. They may not openly admit this, but people with official positions, stay there; they don't leave. The younger ones are not ready (or perhaps not able), to take over. So the elders are not ready to quit, and the younger Sai members are not ready to enter...what is to be done? Politics, politics, everywhere! That's why we are divided.

In this state of affairs, my friends, **be sure that we cannot achieve anything**, anything at all. Instead, we'll be pulling the Sai movement backwards. So to be forward, onward, to march ahead into the future, over the decades to come, the most essential thing today is **UNITY**. This is very much important as Baba said in the month of November 24th, in the year 1998.

So as far as Swami's concerned, we should forget our differences. Let there not be differences on grounds of caste, creed, nationality, gender, region – very silly! God is One! Why do you want to be divided like that? So in respect of God, in a spiritual organisation, unity is very, very essential. Please understand that no other can do it; only Swami is the main factor.

And furthermore, Baba said, with a spirit of unity, we should take to service activities because service and Sai go together. Service is the easiest path to win His blessings, to win His grace. Therefore, forgetting all our differences, let us stand united.

Let us **sacrifice!** If it will bring unity where previously there was disunity, yes, I'm the first to step down from my position. If unity is to be established, I'm ready to compromise with anyone for the sake of Swami, and the purpose of unity. The individual is not important; the institution is important. Therefore, in this Sai Organisation, which is a mighty universal spiritual organisation, if unity's not here, where else can you expect it? Where else can you expect it?

So let us examine ourselves as to what extent we are united. Why is there no total unity amongst us? Let us work out all the differences, let us settle all our differences and stand united. Then Swami will be very proud of us.

Please note what further point He said: "I'll be **extremely** happy if you're really united." If we're not going to make Baba happy, why this membership, why this position, why this center? What for? It's a waste of time! If we don't walk along the way, in the direction He wants us to go, all this will be useless, my friends. So work to achieve this unity if it is missing (even though we may not admit publically that unity is missing).

And then I can also tell you what Swami said: You should not have any bad feelings towards each other. You should have brotherly feelings amongst yourselves. You cannot hate anybody because in *bhajans* (devotional songs) we say, "*Mata, Pita, Guru Daivamu Mariyanthayu Neeve*" (Mother, Father, Guru, God). When Baba is our Father, are we not His children? How can we fight with each other? When Baba is our Mother, can we have differences amongst us? When He's God, well, we should **not** have any differences whatsoever! We should stand united. That's what Bhagavan said.

GO BY YOUR EXPERIENCE

And further, my friends, somebody may come and tell you a story. You'll start believing it. Somebody will tell you about their experience. You'll start developing faith in it. This is not the way. Do not follow what you hear. Do not follow what others say. Follow your own conscience. **Follow your own conscience! Go by your own experience**, not by the experiences of others. That's what Baba said in the month of September 29th, in the year 1960. That's what Baba said: "Go by your own experience!"

Yes, but to have experience, what should I do? Well, however much I may tell that fire burns, you may not listen to me. You may not have faith in me. Alright, put your hand in the fire! Then you'll have the experience of what burning is, what fire is! So having had experience with Swami, having had Divine experiences with Swami all these years, you cannot change beliefs on the silly grounds of what others say. **Your conscience is the eternal witness!** That's what Bhagavan said.

LOVE NOT TRUST

Further, some people may come and say, "Out of my love for you, I want to take you along the right path. I'm telling you this out of my love and concern for you, my friend."

Silly! Silly! Utterly foolish! What Baba said is, "You can love everybody, but do not **trust** everybody!" Love everybody, but don't trust all because trust betrays you. Trust is sometimes misplaced, and cheats you. So trust may misguide you. But you can love everybody, as Baba said in the month of May 6th, the year 2002. So trust NOT everybody, but "Love All and Serve All". That's what Bhagavan has said.

FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS

My friends, the next important point about Baba's teachings is this: we should have the correct idea about Baba's teachings. Some people misinterpret them, or interpret them for their own convenience. Some people quote Baba wrongly, or for their comfort. They apply them according to their own logic, rationale and reasoning. But that's not right! It means we have not understood the depth of His teachings, and don't consider them

valid. You cannot go on changing Swami's teachings like that. Swami's teachings are DIRECT. If we consider them really valid, we don't misquote Him.

As Baba Himself said about His teachings in the month of September 27th, in the year of 2006, "The entire lessons of Vedas are contained in My teachings." That's what Baba said. Swami's teachings convey the essence of Vedas (the earliest body of Indian scripture). And further He said, "In My teachings and conversations, you'll also find the essence of all scriptures, *shastras*." That's what Swami said.

Therefore, as we go through Swami's teachings, as we listen to His talks, as we read His literature, let us understand we are also going through the Vedas; we're going through the *shastras*, the scriptures.

You should absorb His teachings with reverence and faith, so that you'll be able to implement and practice what He said, and what He expected of us. That's what Swami said: "**FOLLOW, FOLLOW MY TEACHINGS, YOU'LL ACHIEVE SUCCESS.**" And He said, "Love them, adore them and follow them." Love Swami's teachings, follow His teachings, adore His teachings.

That is not done today. "Let us worship Swami, and then act our way". We don't listen to His teachings. We don't read any literature. We have no knowledge of the philosophy of Swami. What is it then that we can hope to achieve? That's why, very often, we are prone to go in the wrong direction. We are prone to be weak at times. Let us be strongly established with full faith in Swami, from the background of His Divine teachings. That's what Swami said.

SWAMI'S MISSION

In this talk I would like to mention a very important thing about Swami. We have an organisation. Is it an organisation like any other organisation in the world? No! The Sai Organisation has a mission with a vision. So what is the Sai mission? What is the mission that has been going on in His name? What is going on? What does Baba say?

Let me bring to your attention what He said in the month of July on 4th, 1968. What did He say? "My mission is not publicity. My mission is not to establish any sect, any creed or any religion. Let us be clear about it. I don't need publicity."

Today, we want publicity only. He said, "I've not come here to establish any creed, sect or religion," but we call ourselves a particular sect, a particular group, a particular sub-group, and thus narrow down the Divine program and the Divine mission. But Baba said, "**All religions are Mine. All forms are Mine. All names are Mine!**" Let us always remember that. Why? We should always bear in mind the universal philosophy and ideology that Swami speaks about in His mission.

And then Swami said, "I have no intention to gather followers." Do you find that elsewhere? What's happening in the world? Everyone wants to have a number of

followers, and attract followers, to pump up their ego and praise them to the skies. Everyone wants followers. Like blind sheep they follow!

We're not expected to do like that. Swami is not interested in having followers because He believes in individuals who follow His teachings, individuals who have firm faith in Him, and individuals who have Him in their heart! That's what is important – not simply to be a political party with a number of followers.

That's what Bhagavan said: "I'm not here to collect followers. I'm not interested. And I have no plans to attract anybody." *Arre, arre, arre, aree!* See that! Have we ever examined these lines, my friends? "I have no intention to attract anybody!"

What is happening everywhere? Attraction! Publicity! Pomp! Show! Social media techniques! These things are going on, in the belief that having a number of followers stands for your strength and credibility. It's not so.

Swami's Divinity is the credibility, that's all! His Divinity! Therefore, He doesn't want any number of followers, no, no. He's not interested to collect people around Him. And He has no special doctrine, none whatsoever.

And then, what did He say? "I've come here to establish faith at the universal level," meaning the unity of all the religions. All religions are one. That's His main philosophy. Yet we find people with their own ideas such as, "This is what Swami likes, this is what Swami does..." Who said that Swami likes this or that?

Swami has no likes and dislikes. You have likes and you attribute them to Him. He's non-dual, beyond likes and dislikes. Therefore, let us understand that He belongs to everybody, and everybody belongs to Him. That's what we should understand.

And then Swami said, "My view is this: to show you the path of Love, the path of Love." Please note this point. Are we on the path of Love? Question yourselves. Let us get the answer. Let our conscience be satisfied with our answer.

And then Swami continues, "And to teach you the duty of Love." It's your duty to love everybody if you are a religious person, a member of the Sai organisation. You have the obligation to love — you are obliged to love because He loved us. Swami loved all of us. Therefore, it's our duty for all of us to love everyone all around.