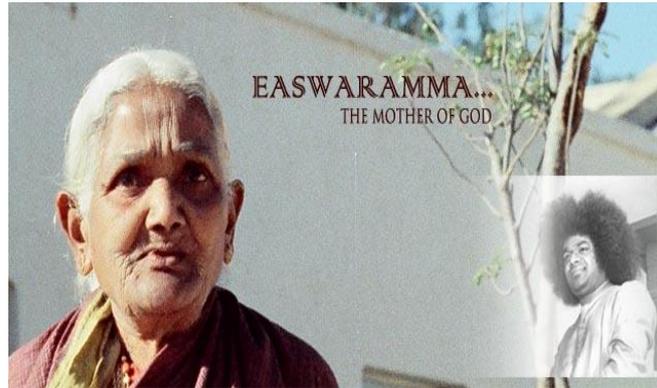


Easwaramma - The Divine Mother

Easwaramma Day 2017



Purpose Of Easwaramma Day Celebrations

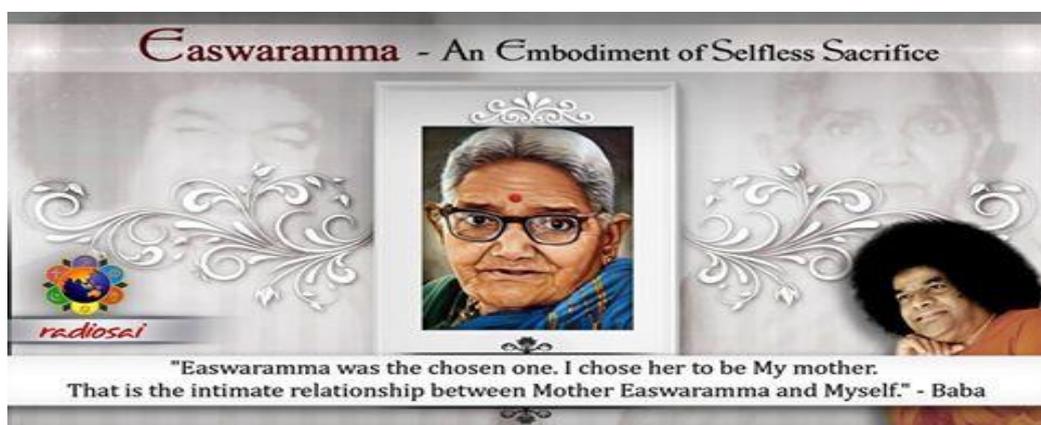
"Easwaramma had never put Me to trouble any time. Whenever she asked Me for something, she would come back and inquire if she had given any trouble. To all devotees -who came, she used to entreat not to cause any inconvenience to Swami. She used to be very much worried whenever any minister came to have My Darshan. The situation in those days was such that even a policeman with a red cap was enough to frighten the villagers. Easwaramma used to be much afraid of the ministers thinking they might cause some problem to Me. This was only the result of her sacred love for Me. That is the greatness of mother's love. That is why she could lead a life of fulfillment and peace. In order to propagate this sacred ideal, this day is being celebrated as Easwaramma Day. This is to emphasize that each one of you should make your mother happy. When mother is happy, Swami is happy."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/99, p. 150

Mother Easwaramma

"Today we are celebrating Easwaramma Day. Who is Easwaramma? She is the mother of Easwara (God). This was not the name given to her by her parents."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/2000, p. 166



"Easwaramma, the mother of this physical body (Sathya Sai Baba), was first christened as Namagiriamma at the time of birth. But after her marriage, Kondama Raju, the grandfather of this

physical body, being a Jnani (wise man) and blessed with a vision of future, started calling her Easwamma (mother of Easwara=God)."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 144

"Kondama Raju, being the one with wisdom always craved for Me. One day, he called Pedda Venkama Raju by his side and told him to change his wife name to 'Easwamma' He told this because he felt the divine vibrations originating from within. His intention was to convey that she was the mother of Easwara, God Himself. But, Pedda Venkama Raju was not aware of the inner meaning of this name. He implicitly obeyed the command of his father and changed the name of his wife to Easwamma."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, pp. 144 & 145

"Easwamma was born in such a poor family that she did not even have proper food to eat. All that she had to eat was Ragi Sankati (gruel prepared from a coarse grain). Even I too eat Ragi Sankati only. Many people in Karnataka eat Ragi Sankati. I like it very much. I do not relish rice, Kurma (curry), etc. Ragi with groundnut chutney is My favorite food. Both Ragi and groundnut are available in our village.

When I come here from Puttaparthi, I bring Ragi flour with Me. Even when I go to Kodaikanal, I tell the boys to bring Ragi flour for Me. Easwamma was illiterate. When I see the egoistic attitude, perverted mentality and ostentatious behaviour of the present-day educated people, I feel it was better that Easwamma did not have any schooling."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/2000, p. 166

"When I was seven and half years old, I used to teach Pandhari Bhajans to small children in our village. Easwamma and Subbamma used to feel ecstatic watching me sing Pandhari Bhajans and dance to their rhythm. Sometimes, her husband Pedda Venkama Raju would give Easwamma some money for household expenditure. Once two annas (nickles) were remaining with her out of this money. One could buy two bags of puffed rice for two annas in those days. So, Easwamma bought two bags of puffed rice with the two annas and distributed to the children. She always used to give away whatever she had with her. She was the embodiment of sacrifice. She used to talk lovingly to all those who came to her. When devotees would feel sad that Swami was ignoring them, she would console them saying. 'Whatever Swami does is for your own good.'

When I was being taken to Urvakonda for further education, all those children whom I used to teach many good things in the evening felt very dejected. At the time of leaving, ten of those children came to Me and offered one Bottu (three paise) each as Guru Dakshina (an offering of gratitude to the teacher). When I gave this money to Easwamma, she was moved to tears. She held My hand and exclaimed, 'What a spirit of sacrifice at such a tender age.' Till she breathed her last, she kept those coins with her."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/2000, pp. 166 & 167

"After the construction of Prasanthi Nilayam, one day I went to see Kondama Raju. He asked Easwamma to get a glass of water. He told her, 'God has come to take me away. He made a promise that He would pour water into my mouth with His hands, before I leave this body. He has come to fulfill His promise.' Puzzled by Kondama Raju's request, Easwamma said, 'You are not suffering from any disease, you don't have fever or cold. What makes you think that your end has approached. Then Kondama Raju said, 'Death occurs as per the Will of God. Just as birth has no reason, death too has no reason. This is the Truth of truths.' Easwamma did not want to argue with him.

According to his wish, she brought a glass full of water and gave him. He sat down on the floor and made Me sit on the cot. He kept his head on My knees and said, 'Swami! Please listen to my prayer.' Easwaramma was watching all this. She wondered, how is that he had so much love and regard for his young grandson. Kondama Raju said, 'As you know, I was doing a small business to make both ends meet. Perhaps I may still have to pay a paisa or Anna to certain people. Please bless me so that I am not indebted to anyone in my death. I said, 'So shall it be.' And started pouring water into his mouth. He breathed his last, as he was drinking water. His desire was fulfilled. Before leaving his mortal coil, he told Easwaramma not to get deluded by body attachment. He said, 'Bodily relationship is temporary, whereas Atmic relationship is permanent. So, give up body attachment and develop attachment to the Atma."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/99. p. 146 & 147

Father-in-law Adored Her Daughter-in-law, Easwaramma

"Noble mothers give birth to noble sons. Mothers should also feel lucky to have noble sons. Kondama Raju (Sai Baba's grand father) used to tell his daughter-in-law, 'Easwaramma! You have no idea of your great good fortune. You are not an ordinary woman. The Lord Himself is with you. What a lucky woman you are!' Easwaramma was the daughter-in-law of Kondamma Raju. Has there been any instance of a father-in-law adoring his daughter-in-law? He used to say, 'Easwaramma! Your name has been vindicated.' Easwara's mother is Easwaramma. This was the way he praised Easwaramma. Kondama Raju was one of those rare persons who could perceive the truth. Those who cannot recognise will never be able to understand it. They are like a blind man who cannot see the sun even during the day."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/98, p. 148

Sai Baba Showed His Glimpses Of Divinity To Easwaramma

"From that day onwards, Easwaramma never stayed at home. She started staying in Prasanthi Nilayam. Everyday, both in the morning and evening, she used to come upstairs and talk to Swami. She also understood My Divinity very well. When I appeared in the form of Lord Shiva to her, she would ask, 'What Swami? Why are you adorning the snakes around your neck?' I would act innocent, 'Well, I don't have any snakes on Me.'

She would move away saying, 'There are some snakes inside.' But later on, not finding any snake inside, she would ask for forgiveness. Like this on many occasions, she had the experience of My Divinity. Similar was the case with Kaushalya and Yashoda. Though they knew that their sons were Divine, they used to get carried away by their motherly affection towards them. Mothers are highly noble and virtuous. Their nobility cannot be described in words."

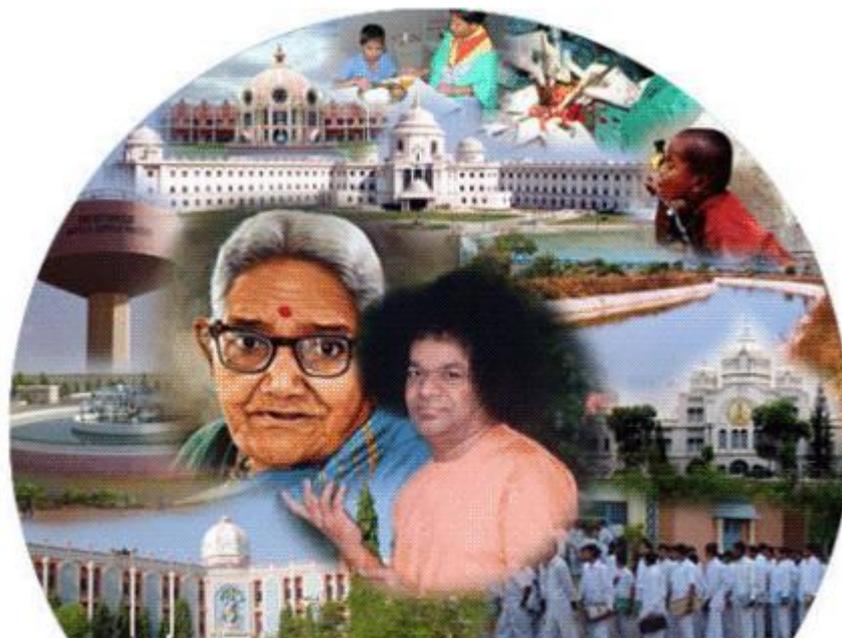
Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 147

"I Do Not Want To Put You To Inconvenience" - Easwaramma

"Once on a Shivaratri day, after I had completed My discourse, the Lingas were ready to emerge from My mouth. I sat on the chair and was in severe pain. Seeing Me suffering, Easwaramma got up from the gathering, came up to Me and said, 'Swami! Why do you suffer like this? Come inside, come inside.' I said I would not come inside. She cried and tried to persuade Me, but I did not budge an inch. Unable to see My suffering, she went inside. As soon as she left, Hiranyagarbha Linga emerged. All the devotees burst into thunderous applause. Listening to this, she came back, but by then the Linga had already emerged and I was showing it to the devotees."

All the people got up to have a glimpse of the Linga. As a result, Easwarama could not see it. Next day she pleaded with Me to show the Linga to her. I said I had given it to somebody. But she said, 'I have not seen. I want to see.' I told her that she would see in the future anyway. She said, 'I do not want to put to inconvenience,' and went away. She had never put Me to trouble anytime. Whenever she asked Me for something, she would come back and inquire if she had given any trouble. To all devotees who came, she used to entreat not to cause any inconvenience to Swami."
 Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 150 '

Sathya Sai Baba Fulfilled Three Wishes Of His Mother



**Her desires – Boons to mankind
 Educare – Medical care – Sociocare**

"Ishwara Chandra Vidyasagar spent all his earnings to fulfill the desires of his mother. Easwaramma also had similar desires. Once she told Me, 'Swami! Our Puttaparthi is a small village. As there is no school in this village, the children are forced to walk long distances to attend schools in the neighbouring villages. I know that You are the ocean of compassion. Please construct a small school in the village.' I asked, where she wanted the school to be built. She said she had a piece of land behind her house. She wanted the school to be constructed there. As desired by her, I got the school constructed. Though it was a small school, the inaugural function was a grand affair, attended by many devotees. The next day, Eeswaramma expressed her happiness over the inaugural function and said that she had one more desire. She wanted a hospital also to be built in the village. She said, 'Swami! I don't want to put You to trouble. If You are troubled, the whole world will be in trouble and if You are happy, the whole world will be happy. So, if it gives You happiness, please construct a small hospital.' As per her wish, I got the hospital constructed. Bejawada Gopal Reddy, a highly reputed person in those days, was invited to inaugurate the hospital. The inaugural function was a grand one, attended by thousands of people from neighboring villages.

Easwaramma did not imagine that this would be such a grand affair. Next day, she came up to Me and said, 'Swami! It does not matter even if I die now. I have no more worries; You have fulfilled my desires and mitigated the sufferings of the villagers to a great extent.' I said, if you have any more desires, ask Me now. She replied hesitantly that she had another small desire: 'You know the river

Chitravati is in spate during the rainy season. But, in summer it dries to a trickle and people do not have drinking water. So please see that some wells are dug in this village.' I told her that I would not stop with small wells and that I would provide drinking water to the entire Rayalaseema region. Easwamma said, 'I don't know what Rayalaseema is. I am satisfied if our village is provided with drinking water.'

Sai Baba. SS, 6/96, p. 149

Sai Visits His Mother's Samadhi

"Mothers are responsible for the well-being of their children. They also show spiritual path to their children. So, never forget your mother. To set an ideal in this regard, I visit the Samadhi of My parents on My birthday. To inculcate this good feeling in the hearts of people, even Sai Baba has undertaken this sacred activity. Every individual should adore, respect, worship and love his/his mother."

Sai Baba, SS, 12/98, p. 324

Pedda Venkama Raju, Sai Baba's Father

"Pedda Venkama Raju was the father of this physical body (Sathya Sai Baba)"

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 144

"I would prepare sweet Puris (fried bread) and serve not only the grandfather, but also the washerman, the barber and others. On Such occasions, Pedda Venkama Raju (Swami's father) came to see us at lunchtime. Kondama Raju invited him for lunch, as it was a festival day. Pedda Venkama Raju had his lunch with us and felt food items were very delicious. He went home and chided Easwamma and Venkamma for not being able to make the items tasteful.

He said, 'Look at Sathya, what a fine cook he is! Why can't you prepare the food items the way Sathya does?'

From the next day onwards, he started sending them to Me asking them to bring whatever food items I prepared. They would come and complain that it was because of My cooking that they were being blamed at home."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/99. p. 146

Mother Easwamma's Loving Care

"Now it is 30 years since the mother of this body passed away. But she is still continuing to move about in her physical form around Swami. Three boys sleep in Swami's room. They have also witnessed her presence. I am telling this today because the life of ideal mothers has permanent significance.

In Prasanthi Nilayam, Swami takes breakfast after Bhajan and proceeds to His place in Poornachandra Auditorium. Early in the morning one day, mother Easwamma was standing at the door in the usual form. I asked her: Why did you come? She said:

Swami i I have come here with a prayer to you. You are omnipresent and omniscient, but you have to control one thing. What is that? Swami asked. She said: 'Devotees and students offer handkerchief

to you. But, heeding my prayer, please do not receive handkerchiefs from anybody. The times are not good. The handkerchief may be tainted with poisonous stuff. In the usual course, you use the handkerchief to wipe your nose and mouth only from those on whom you have confidence and trust as good devotees. Do not accept from all and sundry.'

Mother's love lives on for all times, long after her passing away. Twice she appeared in the night. The boys sleeping in my room noticed her presence. Those boys had not seen her at anytime. They wondered who the old lady could be.

The key of the lift was in their hands and there was no staircase leading to the apartment. How did she manage to come here? When the boys asked this question, Swami woke up. I went near her and asked her why she had come again. She replied, 'I cannot live without seeing you often. The moment I see you I feel happy.' After saying so, she gave me some piece of advice, 'Swami, all persons describe themselves as devotees.

But no one can tell who real devotees are and who are fake. Totally dedicated devotees will be ready to carry out anything you ask them to do, but there are others who come for their own self-interest. By coming to you they get their desires fulfilled and forget thereafter. In this matter, you should be very careful.' Swami replied, I shall take due care. There is no need for you to tell me. After hearing this, she laughed and left the room. I am conveying to you this episode as a direct testimony to the greatness of mother's love. She might have given up her physical body, but she is always with Swami. She said, "I have performed many sacrifices for your sake and have done many kinds of Poojas. I realised the proof thereof. For 40 years I was with you. My life has its fulfillment."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/98, pp. 142 & 143

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA:

"**I resolved on my birth.** I decided who should be my mother." Thus answered Swami to a question from the editor of the "Nav Kaal" (New Age) on the last day of December 1970 in Bombay, India. Baba went on to say that Rama and Krishna also chose their mothers.

Easwaramma a poor, middle-aged tender-hearted, pious illiterate rural ousewife had mothered seven children before the Lord was born to her. Easwaramma was quite conversant with Telugu ballads, legends, folk songs and tales, on Rama and Krishna. Yet, it took years of intimate observation and hundreds of inexplicable incidents to convince her that this child who was born in answer to her prayers to Lord Sathyanarayana, who she had fondled and doted on, was the Cosmic Consciousness.

The chosen mother is the first recipient of the Avatar's Grace. The father who protects and nourishes her is rewarded with the fame bestowed on his name. When Swami's father Pedda Venkappa Raju died in 1963 Baba said "on the day he was known as the 'Father' he was blessed and his life rendered holy and sanctified. This good fortune can be won by only one individual in a Yuga (age)."

More than hundred miles from Puttaparthi is the village of Kolimikuntla. In this village lived Subba Raju an ardent devotee of Easwara. Subba Raju built a temple for Easwara. in that village. Easwaramma was the name given to his daughter born in the farm house soon after. the temple was built. Kondama Raju -(Bhagavan's paternal grandfather) decided to go on a pilgrimage and at the

same time visit his distant relative Subba Raju. He took his elder son Pedda Venkappa Raju along with him.

On arriving at Subba Raju's place Kondama Raju found that place arid, unsuitable for cultivation and surrounded by dacoits. He persuaded Subba Raju to sell his lands in Kolimikuntla and move to Karnatanagapalli opposite to Puttaparthi, on the other bank of Chitravathi. To sweeten the pot, Kondama Raju offered to welcome Easwamma as the spouse of his son Pedda Venkappa Raju. Easwamma was barely fourteen when she wedded Pedda Venkappa Raju. Seshama Raju, Swami's elder brother, was born to Easwamma within three years of her marriage.

A few years later Venkamma a daughter arrived. Another daughter Parvatamma followed. The Rajus were happy and their home was filled with the youngster's babble and laughter and song and prayer. But, sorrow was not far off.

Easwamma had four abortive pregnancies in a series. Some attributed this calamity to black magic. Propitiatory pujas (worships) were arranged in the local temples and distant holy places like Kadri. And when Easwamma entered her eighth pregnancy her mother-in-law Lakshamma offered a series of pujas to Lord Sathyanarayana and prayed to be blessed with a grand-son.

Bhagavan was once asked by a pundit "Swami, was your incarnation a Pravesa (entrance) or Prasava (enceince)." Turning to Easwamma Bhagavan said "Tell Rama Sarma what happened that day near the well." Easwamma replied "my mother-in-law had cautioned me that I should not be frightened if something happened through the will of God. The morning when I was at the well drawing water a big ball of blue light came rolling towards me and I fainted and fell.

I felt the light glide into me." Swami turned to Rama Sarma with a smile and said "there you have the answer. It was Pravesa and not Prasava."

It took Easwamma a long time to reconcile herself to her son's Avataric traits. Whenever she was around, she personally supervised the preparation of his food. She believed that Swami would eat a few more morsels if the cuisine was Andhra and that too genuine Rayalaseema, the region to which Puttaparthi belonged. She would witness Swami's miracles in the company of others; but her response was anxiety rather than awe. She feared that the miracles would drain her son's spiritual powers.

Easwamma saw doctors and lawyers, monks and merchants, Rajas and Princes come to Puttaparthi, sit around Swami and plead for answers and solutions to their doubts and questions. She herself understood only conversational Telugu. She gasped when Swami gave them His assurance and said "Don't worry. I am with you." Easwamma thought He was promising too much to too many. Arnold Schulman the author of the book 'Baba' visited Puttaparthi in 1970. He found Easwamma complaining to no one in particular. She was saying "why don't they leave Him alone? He does not sleep, He does not eat enough. All they care is about themselves."

On another occasion Easwamma referring to Baba's Announcement in October 1940 at Uravakonda, said "when I stood before him face to face He said, "Maya! You are not bound to me nor I to you and He left home to be with those to whom he felt bound." 'Now many days I lived through without eating or sleeping crying to the Gods to restore my son to me. You call him Beauty, Tenderness and Joy and talk of me as the 'Mother' but, do I ever get the chance to feed him with food cooked by my own hands, give him a bath or tend to him in any way that is a mother's privilege?"

The oncoming of this overwhelming despair and even jealousy was however often followed by a surge of self-criticism and matured philosophical resignation.

Easwaramma appreciated the earnestness and enthusiasm of young children acquiring education. She prevailed on Swami to send money for tuition fees, cost of books and boarding to many youngsters. When she found that some youngster dropped out of school, she pressed Prof. Kasturi to correspond with the parents and persuade them to get the youngster back in school. And the sick? Easwaramma was perhaps the person most pleased when Bhagavan announced that a twelve bed hospital would be built on the hill south of Prasanthi Nilayam. However she queried the wisdom of the choice of the site. "How could the ill pull themselves up to that height?" she asked. And when women were admitted as inpatients she climbed the hill to the hospital several times to be with them.

She was humble by nature. Humility was no pose for her. Hers was not the humility that paraded itself, to draw the attention of others. Many are proud that they are not proud. But, Easwaramma was allergic to limelight. Once, while Swami stayed at the residence of Dr. B. Ramakrishna Rao, the Governor of Kerala, she refused a special invitation to stay at the Governor's residence with a chosen few. She wiggled out of the attention given to her as the Avatar's mother and stayed at the humble residence of a school Head master.

At the time Easwaramma laid down her mortal coils there were more than a thousand college students assembled at Brindavan for a summer course. A lecture was on and 800 youngsters were listening eagerly. Three cars purred by the side entrance to Brindavan.

In one of them lay the body of the holy 'Mother', serene and self-satisfied. Daughters and grand children sat close and around as they had done for years. In the other two cars were persons selected by Swami to break the news at Puttaparthi and keep the villagers to pay their last respects. Later the body was reverentially laid down in a grave beside that of the 'Father' Pedda Venkappa Raju. **The date was May 6, 1972.**

Easwaramma Day is celebrated on the May 6th as the culmination of a week-long festival of children all over the world. The Easwaramma High School at Puttaparthi stands as a monument for the Mother's abiding affection towards children and her desire to help them unfold their talents, skills and divinity.

From The Book "Easwaramma, The Chosen Mother" by Prof. N. Kasturi.

Talking about **Mother Easwaramma**, Bhagawan would often go 'emotional', a sign that should be interpreted as a signpost to humanity, teaching them the greater lesson of Mathru Devo Bhava...When the Sai Fraternity all over the world is celebrating yet another Easwaramma Day, Prasanthi Nilayam remembers the "Chosen Mother" with great religious fervour, celebrating the day in His physical presence. ***Remembering the Mother who brought the "Bundle of Joy" into this physical world, here is a poetic expression on the illustrious life of "The Chosen Mother"!!!***

His advent was imminent,
As so many beings did pray,
The piteous cries of Mother Earth meant,
The Lord had to find a way...

The age of Kali,

Had a firm grip on all of humanity,
Chaos, murder, mayhem, unrighteousness,
With His advent the good, He had to bless...

He searched for a womb as pure as pure can be,
Virtuous, sacred, pious and holy,
A womb from which would blossom a divine flower,
And then His smiling gaze fell on Easwaramma...

She was the Mother He chose,
From the rest of humanity,
He picked her and she rose,
She suited His search for the right quality...

She was a gopi who looked longingly at Bala Gopala,
As mother Yashoda did lovingly cuddle her Krishna Kanhaiya,
And so the Lord had blessed her to be born as Easwaramma,
A mother to the present Avatara...

For as He has said - "I chose My mother, it was Me,
For there is no one born to give birth to Swami..."
Wonderful is the grace of Sai Avatara,
Matchless and supreme is His leela...

She was married to Pedda Venkamma Raju,
Daughter - in - law of Lakshamma and Kondamma Raju,
Devout and true,
She would soon receive her due...

And so it was one fine morning,
As the temple bells did ring,
And the dew drops glistened with every sun beam,
In compliance with a dream,
Her mother in law asked Easwaramma not to be terrified,
If she experienced something strange and no one was by her side...

She set out to draw water from the well,
On the picturesque hills beyond the village her glance fell,
Lost in her thoughts as she was that day,
A bright ball of light came rolling her way...

The colour of azure,
Ever so pure,
Making sure,
A panacea, an answer, a response, a divine cure,
Enveloping her womb, making her swoon,

For many an anxious heart a much needed boon...

As she awoke,
Her womb she did tenderly stroke,
And knew for sure she was enceinte,
She confided in her mother in law as was her wont,
Who then asked her to keep it a secret,
To be pleased and joyful and not to fret...

Easwaramma seemed a simple rustic lady,
But she had an elevated destiny,
When the Lord's glance fell on her, He looked no further,
For His earthly sojourn, He had chosen His mother,
A womb pristine,
The tears of those oppressed, He could no longer decline...

The Creator, the Father of Creation, the Divine Mother,
Had chosen none other,
But Easwaramma as His mother,
Kaushalya, Devaki and Yashoda,
The same reverence would now be there for Mother Easwaramma...
Musical instruments played on their own,
With golden hues Easwaramma shone,
Guided by her mother in law, engaged in prayer and worship,
The Lord's name a constant chant on her lip,
When consulted astrologers predicted an auspicious event,
Hinting perhaps at a divine advent,
Musical instruments played to please the child she was carrying,
Solace, peace and joy this prophecy did bring...

She was known as Namagiriamma,
But her father in law renamed her Easwaramma,
Remembering the words of Venka Avadhoota,
Certain he was with regard to the coming of the divine,
Ever so wise he could read many a favourable sign...

Then on 23rd November 1926, at 05.06 am temple bells did chime,
For His advent the Lord had chosen His time,
Her mother in law was performing,
The worship of Sathya Narayana with a neighbour,
Eashwaramma went into labour,
As she tasted the prasadam, she gave birth,
She was instrumental in delivering the Lord unto Mother Earth...
The sun rose over the horizon,
Worshiping with it's first rays her Divine Son...

She cradled Him, nursed Him, He was her delight,
And grandfather Kondama Raju's sole pride,

Enveloped in maya, ignorant of the play of destiny,
Slowly she realized her child was extraordinary,
He had come to set humanity free...

He left childhood behind, shedding attachments too,
Singing 'Manasa Bhajare ' He took the helm as the promised Guru,
Along with hundreds of devotees, she began to address Him as Swami,
Always concerned about Him was she,
Anxious and worried as a mother would be,
But being ever vigilant, His every care and comfort she did oversee...

Soft was Mother Easwaramma's heart,
Compassion incarnate was her Son, and she too had to play her part,
Seeing the village children's plight, she asked her son gently,
To start a school for them in Puttaparthi,
With a sound education they would grow,
They wouldn't have to walk miles and miles anymore...

Then moved by the village folks suffering, she did Him entreat,
To open a hospital which would their maladies treat,
Giving medicines, finding a cure,
Their woes helping them endure...

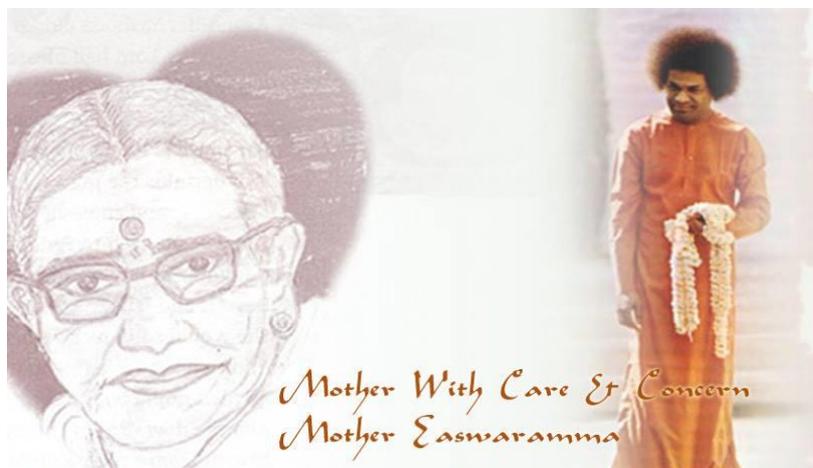
After this she approached Him once more,
Moved by the agony, thirsty villagers had in store,
No water for miles around,
Ever so dry was the ground...

So delighted was He by Grihamamayi's plea,
He had chosen His mother, hadn't He?
He had come for this very purpose - to Love All and Serve all,
She had sensed and responded to His divine call,
Saying and doing all things right,
Keeping His mission within sight...

Shy and unassuming though she was,
One fine day she let all know His divine cause,
When at a gathering a well known pundit did ask a question,
About His inception,
She did reply at the behest of her divine son,
'It was a Pravesha - an entrance, not a Prasava - conception'...
Easwaramma - so rightfully chosen was she,
To be such an intimate part of His glorious story,
Of history,
Her life a lesson for you and me...

On 6th May 1972, even as the Summer Course was on at Brindavan,
She called out 'Swami, Swami', to her Lord and son,

And silently passed on,
Having fulfilled the purpose for which she had been born,
Completing her divine song,
She merged with the One for whom all souls did long,
To whom the known and unknown, seen and unseen did belong...



MOTHER EASWARAMMA - THE EPITOME OF COMPASSION

A fortunate and ardent devotee of Bhagavan Baba for over four decades, Mrs. K. Vasumathi Devi is currently the President of the Ladies Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Andhra Pradesh.

I wish to share what I personally experienced with the Divine Mother, Easwaramma.

Easwaramma, the Divine's divine mother

It is not an exaggeration to say that, all the devotees who knew Mother Easwaramma, felt she was more their mother than the Divine Mother of the Avatar. It was because she treated everyone as a member of her family. Very supportive and kind, she empathised with the agony of all. Her heart was so full of compassion that she would gel with everybody without any reservations and distinctions, and would reach out to help anyone who was in need, without any difference of mine and thine.

Here is my favourite account of her love which touched me a lot. This happened many years ago, during the sixties. One of my relatives, who was in Prashanti Nilayam, wrote to me informing that Swami was going to create Amrutham (nectar) on the "Mukkoti Ekadashi" festival day. (Also known as Vaikunta Ekadashi, an auspicious day according to Hindu Mythology which falls generally in late December - January every year). Not only that, I learnt that He would put the divine nectar on to every devotee's tongue with His own Divine Hands. By the time I received the letter, there was hardly any time left; the festival was just a couple of days away. In those days, there were no telephone lines to help me organize the trip, and travel facilities were minimal.

To reach Puttaparthi, one had to change an array of buses and trains. Because of such trying circumstances, we always had to think twice before making the journey to Prashanti Nilayam, and since I wanted to start immediately, there was no one ready to accompany me on this journey either.

Reposing faith in Bhagavan and picking up courage, I traveled for two days changing seven buses, and finally reached Puttaparthi at 8.45 pm on "Mukkoti Ekadashi" day. When I entered the ashram, the residents of Prashanti Nilayam showered sympathy on me saying, "Oh! You have come only now...Swami has just finished distributing the amrutham and has retired upstairs." I was crestfallen, but immediately the thought of the compassionate Mother, Easwaramma, came to my mind.

Then, Swami came to me and asked me to come forward. "Please open your mouth. Just because I asked you to open your mouth does not mean you should swallow the bottle! I will put the Amrutham. Swallow it." So saying, Swami joyfully put Amrutham in my mouth. My bliss was beyond description.

It was my good fortune that she was residing in a room next door. She used to call me "Eluru papa" meaning 'the girl from Eluru'. (Eluru is the headquarters of the West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, more than 400 kms from Puttaparthi). So, I dropped my luggage in front of my room and went to Mother. Even now, when I recollect that scene, my eyes well up with tears.

Mother Easwaramma's anguish on noticing me was severe. When she asked, "My child, why have you come so late?" my grief melted; I was so happy that she spoke to me. I related to her my difficult journey, and then she sadly replied, "What a pity, Swami has just gone upstairs." The next moment, she held my hand and hurriedly led me to the first floor of the Mandir!

Swami was sitting at the dining table and was about to take His meals. Mother asked me to wait at the door, and went inside. With great concern in her voice, she said to Swami, "Eluru Papa arrived just now after changing seven buses."

I could hear the conversation standing at the doorstep. I was gripped with pain as I felt I had disturbed Mother in that odd hour, and was also apprehensive about Swami's reaction.

Swami then mischievously smiled and said, "Did the girl ask you to recommend her situation to Me?" Mother replied, "No, Swami. Papa never asked me to do this. I myself took pity and brought her here." Then, with a bewitching twinkle in His eyes, Swami said, "If that is the case...poor girl, take this bottle and give her Amrutham." With motherly intimacy and a gentle frown, Mother said, "What! I have to give her, Swami? Did Papa come all the way to Parthi, changing seven buses to have Amrutham from me? No, I will not give it to her. Swami, You have to give it to her." Bhagavan smiled at this compassionate outpouring of the Mother.

After finishing His meals, Swami was full of smiles and charm, and told Mother: "I, Myself, will give it to her." Then, Swami came to me and asked me to come forward. "Please open your mouth. Just because I asked you to open your mouth does not mean you should swallow the bottle! I will put the Amrutham. Swallow it." So saying, Swami joyfully put Amrutham in my mouth. My bliss was beyond description.

When I recollect the trouble Mother had taken to get me the Amrutham, I understood there are no boundaries for her love and concern. It was my great fortune to enjoy the generosity and zeal with which Mother helped us in all ways possible.

Dear Reader, Easwaramma Day falls on May 6 every year, which is celebrated in different ways by Sai devotees all over the world. Some call it "Children's Day", others "Ladies Day", the third group, "Mother's Day" and so on, because the Divine Mother was an ideal for the woman of this century.

She was a perfect picture of a spiritually evolved mother exuding in her personality the sublime fragrance of Indian Culture. Love and compassion, forbearance and fortitude, grace and generosity came naturally to her.

No wonder, the Avatar chose such a pious one to be the channel for His Descent. Even now, Bhagavan Baba's eyes become teary, the moment the name of the Divine Mother is mentioned - for such is the purity and nobility of this great soul. In an emphatic discourse in May 6, 2001, Swami said, "Easwaramma was the chosen one. I chose her to be My Mother. That is the intimate relationship between Mother Easwaramma and Myself." What was the kind of close bonding that existed between the Divine Son and the Divine Mother? Did she know early in Baba's childhood that her son is actually God on earth?

Easwaramma Day is celebrated in commemorating the anniversary of the passing away of the saintly lady who was blessed to be mother to the Avatar of the Kali age. Bhagawan exhorts His devotees, especially children, to revere the mother as God. Hence, this day is a celebration of the sacred ideal of Motherhood and called " Mother's Day.

Mother Easwaramma was very fond of children and was one of the pioneers of the Bal Vikas movement. Hence, this day is also celebrated as Bal Vikas Day,

Let us remember what Bhagawan said of the Divine Mother in a Wonderful Divine Discourse on Ladies in 2001 :

"The mother of this body was Easwaramma. She was not a scholar. She did not know even alphabets. Yet, she always spoke good things in life. Her heart was filled with compassion. One day she approached Swami and said, "Swami there are so many rich people in this region. Yet, the children of our village have to walk all the way to Bukkapatnam to attend school. My heart grieves to see these little children walk miles. Swami, could you please build a small school in our village?" I replied, "I don't have money!" She immediately removed the gold chain from her neck, gave it to me and said, " Swami, please sell it and build a school."

I told her, "Don't be hasty, it is only to test you I said so, I will definitely construct a school." On the following day, the foundation was laid, and within a short period the school building was ready. Then I asked her if she was happy. She did not appear completely satisfied. I asked her, "What else bothers you?" She replied, "Swami, when children fall ill, their mothers carry them all the way to Bukkapatnam for medical treatment and things may go wrong on the way. So please build a small hospital in the village." Thus, she always thought of the welfare and happiness of others. She used to say: "It is not enough if these facilities are available only in our village. They must be available to all the villagers around, and everyone should be happy."



It took years for Mother to agree, even ostensibly, that 'There is only one caste, the caste of humanity'. The new label 'Harijan' that was pasted over the old names 'Madiga', 'Holeya' and the like failed to remove age long prejudices from the minds of people. It could not erase the 'tattoo mark of sin!' Swami had told her that Harijan meant 'God's children'. "So, you are also a Harijan", He said, "There is only one caste, God's children, everywhere". But village life still plodded on in the shadow of the pyramid of castes, the lowest engaged in the dirtiest of professions and the highest in the cleanest.

Mother sympathised with the helplessness and haplessness of the 'untouchables' of the village and her face beamed with joy on occasions when Swami deputed her to distribute saris to hundreds of poor women from the villages around. "Never would they have dreamed they would own such costly saris", she would tell her companions, "and they will use these only on festival occasions and the marriages of their children". Giving them gifts in this manner was one thing. But going into their hovels, inviting them into the home, touching them, eating with them, this was quite another proposition. They remained unthinkable liberties for even the most radical among the villagers. She would be ostracised and blamed for circumventing a deep rooted taboo, and ushering in a disastrous social revolution.

Mother never questioned the pilgrims to Puttaparthi about their caste. To her they were all, all of them 'touchables'. Hari's (God's) genuine jans (children); prying into their caste to calculate the degree of approachability and respectability was sacrilege, she felt. But where she and everybody else knew the caste of a person, how could that fact be by passed, ignored or circumvented? In the village, she had perforce to trim her sails in accordance with the winds that blew for or against a particular community, caste or group.

Mother found it increasingly irksome to live in her village home. She could not survive in that atmosphere of caste bred conflict. Gradually, her un-understanding subservience to custom and tradition was transmuted into conscious, meaningful adherence and joyful participation. Sivaratri, which had been an exercise in asceticism became, as a result of Swami's emphasis, a whole day spent in the sublime thought of God. Sankranti was welcomed less demonstratively and with much less expense of time and money but with a greater flow of love and fellow feeling. Every festival was extricated from the cocoon of correctitude and sublimated into an occasion to celebrate the blossoming of Love that is the core of the individual and the family. Holidays, redolent with reckless rumpus, were no longer extremely exhausting experiences for her. They became holy days, fragrant

with the incense of prayer. Merry Dasara lost its adjective and changed into the worship of the Mother who guards, gives and guides.

Thus did prejudices and preferences deep rooted in society perish as they underwent ridicule by Swami. He had come, as He declared, to clear the ancient and authentic road to God, to free it from the weeds that throve thereon and the roadblocks that pundits have placed across.



Mother was happy beyond words that Swami accorded woman the honoured status of motherhood. During the Nine Days of Dasara women gathered in the Prayer Hall every morning and evening to worship the Cosmic Feminine as Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Swami welcomed widows too, though such women, felled by misfortune, were not allowed by the orthodox to join the congregation of authorised women. Mother was very happy too that women were permitted, nay, persuaded, to recite the mystic syllable OM. She told Swami how happy she was at this, His singular Blessing to women of all castes and races.

During a discourse at Prasanthi Nilayam He had made the revealing announcement that He could not be classified on the basis of any known criteria. If He needs to be categorised, people could know Him as Sathya Bodhaka, a Teacher of Truth. Recitals of the Bhagavata Text that she had heard dilated on Sage Kapila, honoured as an Incarnation of Vishnu, and His teaching the Truth of Man, Nature of God to his mother Devahuti.

Easwaramma too learnt the basic course for beatitude from the `son' in a similar manner. As a result, social prejudices, food preferences, spiritual goals, familial affinities had all quietly loosened their grip. She was surprised at her own transformation as she watched the devotees and listened to their stories of the impact of Swami on their attitudes and beliefs, and as she absorbed the lessons Swami conveyed to her and her daughters all the time through His words and deeds.

She found that she had transcended the pettiness and profanity of village life and she longed to spend her life, what was left of it, in Prasanthi Nilayam, away from the frothy frenzy of the village. And Swami agreed. She was allotted a single living room with a narrow kitchen and a narrower bathroom attached—one amidst the many such apartments in which ardent devotees were housed around the Prayer Hall above which Swami resided.

She no longer had any complaints. She was grateful for even the slightest gift of Grace, even if it was but a jocular barb releases from His tongue on her language or behaviour.



Mother Worship

- Mother's womb is the birthplace of one and all, be it a commoner or the Avatar himself. Therefore adore the mother as God. Uphold her name and respect her.
- Lava and Kusha became heroic children because of their great mother, Seethadevi. It is the noble thoughts of the mother which make the children great.
- It is the foremost duty of children to secure the blessings of their mothers for their worldly well being.
- The Mother's lap is the school for everyman. It is his first temple. The mother is everyman's primary wealth. To recognize this truth about one's mother is the duty of every person.
- There is no higher God than mother. The father is one's treasure; the mother is his God.
- Among the parents, first place is given to the mother, next comes the father. Not only in day-to-day life, but also in the field of spirituality, mothers and women are given the highest regard. For example, when we mention the names of divine couples such as Sita Rama, Radha Krishna, Lakshmi Narayana etc. names of the Goddesses come first. What is the inner significance of this? Mother represents nature, which is the manifest aspect of Divinity.
- Mother is given the utmost importance in human life. There may be a wicked son, but not a wicked mother. It is because of the noble feelings of the mothers that sons become virtuous, intelligent, attain exalted positions and earn name and fame.

- Rama's divinity blossomed under Kausalya's Loving care; because of the tender feelings and austerity of Sita, Lava and Kusha achieved name and fame; fostered with love of his mother Puthibai, Gandhi became a Mahatma, the loving care of Jijibai made Sivaji a great warrior.
- It is the mother who teaches you the sacred principles like love, compassion, forbearance, tolerance and sacrifice. Mother shows the father, the father takes you to the preceptor and preceptor directs you to God. That is why among mother, father, preceptor and God, mother comes first.
- The mother is the first teacher and as compared to male teachers, the teachings of women teachers are better assimilated by students because the latter teach from the heart with love.
- Always remember your mother's love. Do not hurt your mother in any way. You say, Swami's love is that of a thousand mothers. When you are unable to comprehend and experience the love of a single mother, how can you understand the love a thousand mothers? If you are unable to please your mother, how can you make Swami happy? Swami will be happy when you make your mother happy.
- Sons become illustrious exemplars because of the goodness and greatness of their mothers. Mother is the very foundation for the entire world.
- The welfare of the son depends on the mother. It is because of the love of the mother that the son becomes great and eminent. So the foremost duty of the son is to be grateful to his mother, respect her and serve her.
- In this world all things are transient. Only righteousness and good name endure. How is one to acquire a good name? By revering the mother. Never go against the wishes of the mother. The son who causes pain to mother can never be happy. Hence, earn the blessings of the mother.

Importance Of The Mother

"The term 'Stree' should not be treated lightly. The Bhagavad Gita lists seven attributes to the feminine principle: fame, wealth, speech, wisdom, intelligence, fortitude and determination. The Mother Principle, which embodies these seven potencies, is highly sacred. Wherever you turn, you will see manifestation of the feminine principle. When any person goes abroad, the first question that is put is: 'What is your mother-tongue?' No one asks, 'What is father-tongue?' This shows how much importance is attached to the role of mother. The mother fosters the child in the womb and goes through all travails to protect the child. There is no greater love in the world than maternal love. Hence, the ancients accorded the highest honour to the mother and declared, 'Esteem the mother as Divine ('Maatri Devo Bhava') and esteem the father as Divine ('Pitru Devo Bhava'). For every person, the first preceptor is the mother. It is from the mother that a child learns its first word of speech, the first step in movement and many other primary lessons in behaviour. Hence, the mother stands out as the reflected image of nature (Prakriti).

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96. pp. 157 & 158

"From ancient times, it has been the practice in Bharat (India) to revere the mother as God. From the outset, Vedas have declafed: Revere the mother as God, father as God and preceptor as God. For the human body, the mother, father and preceptor are to be deemed as Divine. But, for the pursuit of life, the Divine is the only God." S

ai Baba, SS. 6/98, p. 141

"Not only in day-to-day life, but also in the field of spirituality mothers and women are given the highest regard. For example, when we mention the names of Divine couples, such as Sita Rama, Radha Krishna, Lakshmi Narayana, etc., names of goddesses come first. What is the inner significance of this? Mother represents nature, which is the manifest aspect of Divinity."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 141

"It is the mother who teaches you the sacred principles like love, compassion, forbearance, tolerance and sacrifice. Mother shows the father, father takes you to the preceptor and preceptor directs you to God. That is why among mother, father, preceptor and God, mother comes first."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/99, pp. 142 & 143

"Man has to recognise the significance of love and truth, which are fundamental to human existence. The mother represents these two basic qualities."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/97, p. 141



"Motherhood Is The Most Precious Gift"

"Motherhood is the most precious gift of God. Mothers are the makers of a nation's future or misfortune. They should teach two lessons, fear of sin and fondness for virtues. Both of these are based on faith in God, being the inner motivator of all. If you want to know how advanced a nation is, study the mothers. Are they free from fear and anxiety? Are they full of love towards all? Are they trained in fortitude and virtue? If you like to imbibe the glory of a culture, watch the mothers rocking the cradles, feeding, fostering, teaching and fondling the babies.

Mothers must assume this responsibility and not throw it on Aayaas (governess or maid). A child that is brought by the Aayaa loses essential fertilizer for growth and love. The child is denied the best health-giving vitamin, love."

Sai Baba, SSS, Vol. VII, p. 22

Importance Of The Relationship Between Mother And Her Child

"In this world there are many types of relationships, but none equals the relationship that exists between the mother and the child. It is because of this intimate relationship with the mother that one's own country is called motherland. Similarly, one's own language is called mother tongue, not father tongue. Among the parents, first place is given to the mother, next comes father."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 141

"Mother protects her children in many ways. Even after death, she comes back and helps you in various ways."

Sai Baba. SS. 6/99, p. 150

"There may be a wicked son, but not a wicked mother. It is because of the noble feelings of the mothers that son becomes virtuous, intelligent and attains exalted positions and earns name and fame."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/99, p. 142

"Mother will always pray for the welfare of the son wherever he may be. At times, she may be angry or have a difference of opinion, but such differences are only passing clouds."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 144

Womb of The Mother

"The earth is one. But if you sow Neem (a bitter plant) seeds, you will get bitter fruits. If you plant sweet mango seeds, you will get sweet mangoes. The earth makes no difference between them. Only the differences in the seeds account for the differences among the fruits. Likewise, the womb of a mother is like the womb of Mother Earth. The thought, which prevails at the time of conception results in the kind of child that is born. If parents desire to have virtuous, exemplary and noble children, they have to observe righteous practices and lead virtuous lives." Sai Baba, SS. 6/93, p. 141

Understanding Of Mother's Love Will Lead You To The Understanding Of Divine Love

"In order to experience Divinity, understand this example. The very nature of mother is love. Mother has a form, but love has no form. You can experience love through your mother as she is the very form of love. Our Vice-Chancellor described Swami's love as that of a thousand mothers. But, one who cannot understand the love of one mother, how can he understand the love of a thousand mothers? So, first and foremost try to understand and experience the love of your physical mother. Go on adding to the physical mother's love a million times. The principle of divinity lies in this love, which is your life principle. Experience this love and understand the significance of mother worship in Navaratri."

Sai Baba, SS, 7/99, p. 186

"Children can understand the meanings of the word fox or dog only when they see their pictures. Similarly, it is only after seeing the parents that one can understand the existence of God. When you love and respect your parents, only then you can understand in the love of the Divine Parents.

This is what I tell you often - if you understand the 'I' principle, you will understand the 'I' in everybody. Vyashti (individual) has emerged from Samashti (society), Samashti from Srishti (creation), Srishti from Parameshti (Creator). Only when you understand the principle of creation, can you then understand the Creator."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 142

"Nourish your aged parents; revere them. If you honour your mother, the Mother of the Universe will guard you against harm. If you honour your father, the Father of all beings will guard you. This is as true as the fact that if you honour your parents, your children will honour you."

Sai Baba, SSS, Vol. IV, p. 98

Be Grateful To Your Mother

"The Vedas declare, "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Aachaarya Devo Bhava." (Worship the mother as God, the father as God, the preceptor as God and the guest as God.) It is the mother who fosters you and nourishes you. It is she who knows your choices and preferences, and fulfils your needs. So, you should be grateful to your mother always. Though you cannot see Rama, Krishna, Shiva and Vishnu, you are worshipping them because you believe in scriptures and what the elders say. But, how is that you are forgetting your parents who are responsible for your progress in life?

First and foremost, you should show gratitude to your parents, love them and respect them. Your blood, your food, your head, your money are all the gifts of your parents. You do not receive these gifts directly from God. All that is related to God is only indirect experience. It is only the parents whom you can see directly and experience their love. So, consider your parents as God. God will be pleased and will manifest before you only when you love and respect your parents." "It is the mother who teaches you the sacred principles like love, compassion, forbearance, tolerance and sacrifice." Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 142

"It is in her role as mother that there is highest expression of a woman's strength. Every child that is born owes its existence to the mother. Hence, everyone should be extremely grateful to one's mother."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 158

"Students! First pay back the debt of love to them (parents). Do not behave in such a way that they repent the day when they put you to school. All other debts come later, even the debt to the motherland and mother-tongue." "Keep them (parents) free from worry. Show them gratitude they deserve. Return them the love they pour freely into your hearts."

Sai Baba, SSS, Vol. IV, p. 265

"Parents should strive their utmost to bring up their children on right lines. Children also should revere their parents, who account for their physical existence. But they should realise what they owe to God, who is the basis of all life. Recognising this double obligation — to the mothers and to the Divine - they should redeem their lives by purposeful living."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/97, p. 144

"To be a true a human being, one has to respect one's parents and kith and kin in childhood. Revere the teacher in boyhood. Please elders in his manhood. Worship sages in old ages."

Sai Baba, SS. 6/94, p. 150

Duty Toward Mother

"A mother may go wrong in other respects, but she will always strive for the well being of her children. Hence every son has to love the mother as the primary duty. Then he should love the father

and revere the preceptor. The mother confers the body. The father protects it. The preceptor imparts knowledge and wisdom. For every human being, all these three are essential for getting on in the world."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/97, p. 141



"You must be prepared to make even the supreme sacrifice for showing your gratitude to the mothers. Even the Avatars, Rama, Krishna and others, owed their advent to their mothers. Everyone should pray for sacred mothers who will bring forth good children. There may be bad sons in the world, but bad mothers are rare. Most mothers lament over the bad behaviour of their children. No son who has caused distress to his mother can come to anything good.

The Telegu saying is, 'There can be no prosperity in a home where the mother sheds tears. Today we need sons who will please their mothers.'

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 159

"Respect your mother; obey her commands. Never disrespect your mother or disappoint her. Do not hurt her feelings. Try to satisfy her in all respects. Only then the seed of devotion will sprout in you. Everyone should follow the dictum, "Maatru Devo Bhava" (Worship your mother as God.) in letter and spirit."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 150

"One should not disregard one's parents yielding to the vagaries of the mind."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 144

"Nourish your aged parents, revere them."

Sai Baba, SSS, Vol. IV, p. 98

Sacrifice Everything For God

"Everybody should love and respect his parents. But, if any relation becomes an obstacle in your path to God, there is no harm in leaving him (or her)." "From worldly point of the view, you should respect your father, mother, preceptor and husband. But when it comes to God, everything else is secondary. God alone is important. Bharata left his mother Kaikeyi for the sake of Lord Rama. Prahlada gave up his father Hiranyakashipu for the sake of Lord Narayana. Emperor Bali forsook his preceptor, Shukracharya for the sake of God."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 150.

Mother Is The First Teacher

"The mother is the symbol of the Universal Mother, and father of the Divine Lord. There is a popular prayer describing the Lord as everything: 'Oh Lord of Lords! You are my mother and father, my kinsman and friend, my wealth and knowledge, my everything.' (A Sanskrit verse).

The mother is the first teacher of speech. The first words taught to the child are 'Amma', 'Appa'. Then teaching of the alphabet starts. The first lessons are:

'Om Nama Shivaaya' or 'Om Namo Naaraayanaaya. The teaching of the language begins with the teaching of the names of the Divine - Shiva and Narayana. In ancient times, the mother occupied the place of the first preceptor for the child. Unfortunately, in the world ' today, what are the parents teaching to the child? They are teaching them 'A, B, C, D' nor is that all. They go on teaching the child some meaningless stuff like 'Baa Baa black sheep'. The mothers imagine that they are teaching something wonderful to the children. This is wrong. Teaching of the alphabet should begin with learning the names of the Lord."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, pp. 158 & 159

"The mothers, for their part, should teach the children always to speak the truth. When a mother asks the son, 'Where have you been?' he should not prevaricate. He must tell the truth and confess his mistakes if he has done anything wrong.

Very few children tell the truth to their parents today. Of what use is education for such children? Today's boys and girls are the future redeemers of the nation. Hence, the parents should bring them on right lines so that they may be ideal citizens."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 160

Goodness Vs. Greatness

"There are mothers who are worried when their children take to spiritual path. They hardly realise that it is the fruit of many past lives, which accounts for children taking to spiritual path. Mothers should rejoice over such a development rather than worry about it. Many parents desire that after the education of their children is over, they should get married, get a good job and achieve a high position in life. Out of their love they want their children to achieve greatness. Swami's love is not like that. Swami wants them to achieve goodness. What is the difference between greatness and goodness? A good man sees divinity even in a human being. A great man sees the human even in God.

Ravana was a great man who had performed great penance. He was very powerful. But seeing Rama in human form, he considered him as a mere human being. On the other hand, Rama was different, He saw the Divine in human beings. That is the mark of goodness. It is better to earn reputation for goodness than to be known as a great man."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/98, pp. 145 & 146

Mother's Blessings

It was part of the ancient tradition that when the son wished to set out for the battlefield to secure victory or go to forest to perform penance, he would first go to his mother and seek her blessings. Dhurva, a six-year-old child, took his mother's blessings, set out to the forest to perform

penance and realised the vision of the Divine. Arjuna prostrated before his mother to get her blessings prior to his leaving for the battlefield. The mother told him, 'May victory be yours.' Duryodhana also went to his mother and sought her blessings for victory in the war. The mother told him, 'Where there is Dharma, there will be the victory.' This was Duryodhana's mother's blessing for her son. Duryodhana then went to his preceptor and sought his blessings. The preceptor said:

'Where there is Krishna, there is Dharma. Where there is Dharma, there will be the victory.' Their victory can be secured only where Dharma and the Divine are present, according to the mother and preceptor. In those days, whatever the mother declared proved prophetic. Whenever a mother conferred her blessings on her son, the Divine was present there to declare, 'May it happen so.' Besides mother's blessings. Divine grace is also necessary. Hence, every son should make every effort to please his mother. Without keeping his mother pleased, the son cannot achieve anything in the world. The son should have those qualities, which enable him to please his mother. At the same time, the son should also strive to win Lord's grace. Without earning God's grace, the mother's blessings alone will be of no avail."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/98, pp. 141-142

"When Lava and Kusha were engaged in a battle with Rama, Lava aimed an arrow at Rama with the prayer that if his mother Janaki was a 'Sadhivi' (a supremely noble woman) the arrow should render Rama unconscious.

Rama became unconscious when the arrow hit him. See what happened. The mere thought of his mother lent so much power to his arrow. This shows that when you cherish the mother and seek God's grace, the blessings of the mother becomes more powerful."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/97, p. 144

"Many great men have embarked on noble deeds after securing the blessings of their mothers. For instance, before going to fight against the demon, Tarakasura, Sanat Kumar got the blessings of his mother, Gowri. Similarly, Parashurama received his mother's blessings before he went to fight his foes. Likewise, Vinatha blessed her son by saying: 'May Shri Rama protect you always.' It is because of the blessings of noble mothers, the wives of great sages, that many men were able to perform heroic deeds. Shankaracharya taught that sons who did not get the blessings of the mothers suffered from various vicissitudes in life. Those who had the blessings of their mothers often secured freedom from rebirth. Many high-souled men have extolled the greatness and power of mothers. It is the foremost duty of children to secure the blessings of their mothers for worldly well-being."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/97. p. 141

Today's Mother's Expectations From Their Children

"Not compassion, good character, integrity and such virtues. They want their children to get educated, secure a big job, marry a wealthy girl and lead a comfortable life."

Sai Baba. SS. 6/93, p. 146

What Should Be The Expectations Of A Mother?

"Earn a good name; become an ideal son; use your wealth in righteous ways; develop compassion; lead a just moral life. This is what mothers should impress on their children. Such high-minded mothers have become rare these days."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/93, p. 146



Swami's Parents

Parents Should Set A Good Example

"When the parents and teachers themselves have not realised the importance of spirituality, how can we blame the students? First, the parents must teach their wards to pray to God everyday. But the modern parents themselves do not pray to God.

As soon as they return from office, they go to clubs and spend their time in drinking and playing cards. Naturally, children follow their footsteps.

In some houses, parents quarrel in front of their children, which is an unhealthy practice. If there is any difference of opinion between parents, they should resolve it in the absence of their children. Children cannot concentrate on their studies, if they are disturbed by the family problems. So, parents should never discuss them in front of their children. They should instead teach them all good things and show them good ways of life. There are a few parents who set bad example to their children by speaking untruth. For example, if some unwanted person makes a phone call, they instruct their children to tell him that they are not available. Thus, they teach their children how to tell lies."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/99, p. 162

"Parents Are Responsible For The Misbehaviour Of Their Children."

"For all the bad ways followed by youth today, for all their wayward behaviour and bad conduct, the parents are to be blamed. If mothers are good, there will be no room for bad behaviour by the children. Although parents may appear innocuous like fig fruits, they are responsible for the misbehaviour of their children, like the worms inside the fruits." Sai Baba, SS, 6/93, p. 142

Parents Should Advise Their Children

"Parents ought to advise the children: Be convinced that there's God, guiding and guarding us. Remember Him with gratitude. Pray to Him to render you pure. Love all, serve all."

Sai Baba, SSS, Vol. VI, p. 4

"Parents must encourage children when they evince any interest in spiritual advance and study. They must also set them good examples."

Sai Baba, SSS. Vol. IV, p. 98

Maternal Inspiration

"Rama attained godhood because he was the son of Kaushalya. Lava and Kusha became heroic children because of their great mother, Sita Devi. It is the noble thoughts of the mother which make the children great."

Sai Baba. SS, 6/97. p. 141

Madalasa's Example

"In ancient times. Queen Madalasa was teaching the children from their infancy the greatness of detachment ('Vairagya').

She used to sing a lullaby while putting the children to sleep: 'Placing you in the cradle of Omkaara on the bed of the great saying 'Tatvam Asi' (That thou art), swinging to the music of Awareness, dear child, may the gods lull you to sleep.'

This was the way the mothers in ancient Bharat (India) taught their children. The ancient teachings exhorted the people to 'Speak truth, adhere to righteousness' (Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara). No mother taught the child to speak untruth. No mother would think asking the child to follow unrighteousness.

Because the mothers in ancient times filled the child with devotion and detachment, Bharat stood out as a land of sacrifice, wisdom, Yoga and contentment. Because today mothers do not bring up the child in this spirit, this sacred land is ceasing to be one of sacrifice and is becoming a pleasure-loving nation."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 159

Example Of Vidyasagar

"In the past, mothers used to play a big part in moulding their children. For instance, there is the example of Ishwara Chandra Vidyasagar. He was a native of Calcutta. He justified his name by being a great scholar ('Vidyasagar' means ocean of knowledge).

He belonged to a very poor family. His mother brought up her son at the expense of her own food. Pursuing his studies under most adverse circumstances, he completed his education and found a job on a salary of Rs.50 per month. In due course, he rose to an eminent position by dint of hard work. One day he approached his mother and said, 'Mother! I have reached an eminent position; thanks for your blessings and guidance. I am now able to fulfill any of your wishes.' The mother said, 'Not, yet my son. I have three desires but I shall tell them in due course.' Reaching a still higher position

after sometime, Ishwara Chandra renewed his appeal to his mother. The mother said, 'Our village is poor and the village has no school. Please set up a school here so that the children will not have to go outside for their education. That school will be the first ornament for me.' The son carried out her wish.

Later, the mother revealed her second wish. She wanted Ishwara Chandra to set up a small hospital in the village to serve the villagers; She said that this would be the second ornament she wanted from him. He set up a hospital as desired by his mother. In the following years, Vidyasagar rose to a greater eminence, but remained humble and free from conceit as ever. He asked his mother what her third desire was. She said that he should build a small rest house for traveler passing through the village to stay. Vidyasagar built a small community hall in the village. Today's educated persons get puffed up over their petty educational attainments. It was his mother's teachings which made Vidyasagar practise humility."

Sai Baba, SS, 6/96, p. 160

