



TEACHER OF TRUTH

“Sathya Bodhaka”



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Special Edition for
Easwaramma Day & Mothers Day
Sri Sathya Sai Educare



Celebrating Motherhood: Mother Easwaramma's 50th Anniversary

Easwaramma Day is the day Swami declared as Children's Day on May 6, 1977. On the day of her death anniversary, children are reminded to celebrate their mothers. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Mother Easwaramma's passing. We dedicate this issue to her and to all mothers.

Embodiments of the Divine Atma! From ancient times, the culture of Bharath has been upholding high ideals. Foremost among its teachings was the concept of reverence for the mother and the father as embodiments of the Divine. "Mathru Devo Bhava! Pithru Devo Bhava!" (Esteem the mother as Divine, adore the father as Divine.) Human life is indeed extremely sweet. Without this sweetness, life will be worthless. Man struggles in myriad ways to secure sensual enjoyment, but there is sweetness which transcends these physical pleasures. This is the precious fruit of Bharathiya culture. Realize the sacredness inherent in motherhood. The mother sacrifices her all for rearing the child, protecting him, and bringing him up well. Hence, the sweetness manifest in maternal love cannot be found in any other object or experience, "What greater sweetness is there in our land than a mother's love? One's honor is greater than one's life," goes the saying. Everyone should realize the sacredness inherent in motherhood.

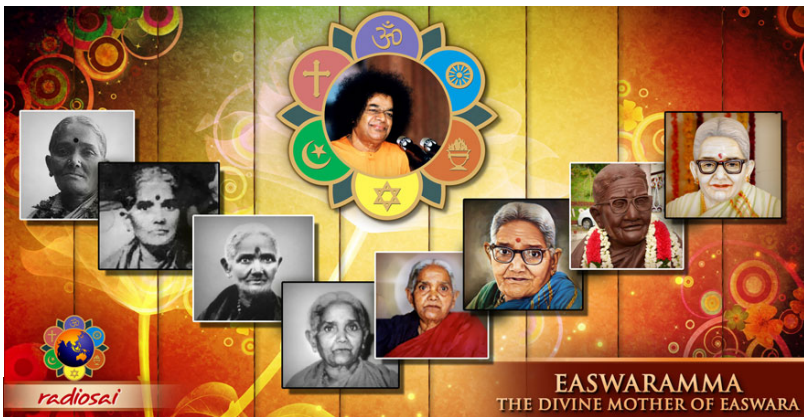


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- Sri Sathya Sai Baba, April 26, 1993



Griham Ammayi, the mother of this body, used to speak to all with love. She could never withstand the suffering of others. She would come upstairs and plead with Me, saying, "Swami, they are in a sorrowful state. Please call them and talk to them." Her heart was filled with compassion. That is why her fame has spread so much. In order to attain a good name you have to utter sacred words and help others.

Whenever Mother Easwaramma came to Me with such a plea, I used to pretend to be angry and chide her, saying, "Why are you coming here with recommendations? I don't want to listen to them." But she would persist and continue to plead, "Swami, please take pity on them. They are in dire need of Your help. Please talk to them once." I used to be happy thinking, "How compassionate and kindhearted she is."

- Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Ladies Day 2002

Abraham Lincoln, was born in a poor family. His father Thomas was a carpenter and his mother Nancy was a seamstress, earning only a little money to educate him. Their income was barely enough to even run the family though, so, young Abe had to face many hardships. He did not have proper clothes to wear, so his schoolmates made fun of him.

Unable to bear their taunts, one day, 8-year old Abe went to his mother and wept bitterly. He said, "Mother, all my schoolmates look down upon me because I am poor and do not have good clothes to wear." His mother comforted him saying, "Son, you should understand our financial condition and act accordingly. Your schoolmates talk in this manner because they are well-to-do. We have to conduct ourselves according to our financial condition. We are not rich. We have to face this situation with fortitude."

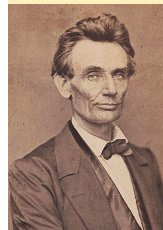


5-year old Abraham on his mother's lap

She drew him close, wiped his tears and said, "You should not feel unhappy over such a trivial matter. Even though we do not have rich friends and relatives, we are rich in self-respect and self-confidence. Understand that self-confidence is our true wealth. One with self-confidence and self-respect is the richest of all. Money and comforts don't last. So, strengthen your self-confidence and self-respect. They will certainly give you prosperity. Do not get carried away by what others say."

These words of wisdom from his mother left an indelible impression on Abe's young heart. He started to believe that self-confidence was his true wealth, and his very life-breath. He stopped listening to the taunts of his schoolmates and continued studying with determination. His mother used to work day and night tirelessly to make both ends meet. Sometimes, she used to starve herself in order to feed her son.

His mother taught him, "Respect every individual and be respected by every individual." Abe put his mother's advice into practice and started respecting everybody. He would be courteous even with a cobbler saying, "Sir! How sacred is your life! You are doing a great service by making sandals for us so that our feet are protected from thorns." Gradually, Abe began to command the respect of all people due to his good behavior and earned a very good reputation.



Lincoln's mother inculcated such noble qualities in her son. That is why Lincoln considered his mother as God and revered her. Whoever inculcates sacred qualities in you is your God.

Abe lost his mother when he was still a child. So, his father married again. His stepmother was also a noble lady and looked after Abe with love and affection. She further cultivated his self-confidence and he was happy under her loving care. He paid glowing tributes to her, saying that he never thought that a stepmother could be so kind and compassionate as she was towards him. And he made all efforts to keep her happy.

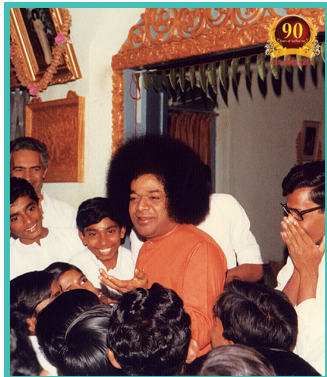
- Excerpts compiled from multiple discourses of Sri Sathya Sai Baba

God says...

The Vedas declare, “Mathru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava” Revere the mother and father as Divine. All of you must realize that your blood, food, head, and money are gifts from your parents. First and foremost, offer your gratitude to your mother. Never forget your mother who gave you birth after allowing you to grow within herself for nine months, and provides you all care and comfort, unmindful of her own discomforts. The mother always has the child’s well-being uppermost in her mind on all that she says and does. You may be highly educated and your mother may be illiterate, still you should have the utmost regard and respect for her. Consider the teachings of your mother as dear as scriptures themselves. Bereft of character, worldly education cannot grant peace or help you lead a Divine Life.

- My Dear Students, Vol 2, Ch 19, February 10, 2000

There is nothing in the world sweeter than the love of a mother for the child. For the well-being of the child the mother is ready to sacrifice her all, including her life. Such nectarine sweetness is manifest only in the mother who is the embodiment of the Divine. Hence, the Upanishadic injunction: “Mathru devo bhava!” (Esteem the mother as God.) Likewise, the heart of the father who fosters the child, and develops his personality, is also sweet. The Upanishad, therefore, enjoins everyone to treat the father as God. Mother and father are equal to God. Therefore, at the outset, one has to honor one’s parents. The mother is the visible manifestation of God. If ignoring the divinity of the mother, who is visible and adorable, one seeks to worship what is invisible, it must be regarded as a sign of ignorance. God is subtle form. He is invisible and is infinite and immeasurable. The mother is a visible and tangible proof of Divinity. When a child is born, the first person it beholds is the mother. The mother patiently bears many travails for the sake of the child. It is sweet to love such a mother. You may have love for God; but if you have no love for the mother who is physically present before you, how can you love the invisible Divine? One’s foremost obligation is to revere one’s parents. People tend to worship stones, but do not revere living beings.



Worship of inanimate idols has been in vogue from ancient times. But people are forgetting to revere their living parents. One’s first and foremost obligation is to revere one’s parents who are in flesh and blood—who are verily your life itself.

- Sri Sathya Sai Baba,
July 3, 1994



...Guru does

The very existence of the human body is the very first step to anything that can ever be possible on earth. To teach Balvikas/SSSE, to be present at the Center, enjoy our children or even to be reading this edition of *Teacher of Truth*, one has to be alive. We owe that very existence and the gift of life to our Mothers. Swami presses on all of us to show that gratitude to our mother for giving us our body. This is the truth of Nature. If one reads Swami’s words carefully, He talks about not just Nature, but Nurture too.



Mothers nurture us with food and provide us with roots and wings, both of which we need in life. To such a mother, He says, one must show gratitude and respect every single day. He says, she is the visible form of divinity itself. He asks, for one who cannot love and respect something tangible, visible, and interactable, how can they love God? We may have children in our classes who do not have living mothers or who do not have access to their mothers. However, there will be and must be a nurturing soul in their lives that takes care of them. Whoever that is—the father, aunt, grandma, or anyone else—plays the role of a nurturing mother. To that soul must be shown gratitude and respect.

Swami always emphasizes the spiritual significance of every aspect and deed of life. Nothing can be taken at face value. Our love and respect must never be confined to the home, but the aspect of the mother plays a huge role and can be found in every aspect of our life. The maternal thread is the foundation of our lives.



Swami often talks about the 5 Mothers and exhorts us to respect them. *Matha*, means mother. He says the first mother is our biological mother, *deha matha*, who gives us the gift of the human body. This mother is responsible for our very existence, and to her we owe our gratitude. The next mother is Mother Cow, *Go Matha*. The cow is symbolic of giving us milk. As human beings, we all drink only milk for sustenance in the first few months of life. The third mother He talks about is Mother Earth, *Bhoo Matha*, who gives us crops. Man, in his journey of life starts eating solid foods and is dependent on everything that the earth nurtures for his existence. As he grows, man is dependent on the gifts that the country provides him with—education, support, rights, freedoms, etc. This is the fourth Mother Swami asks us to respect—*Desha Matha*, our Motherland.



Every person owes love and patriotism to the land he lives in. The last and fifth Mother who leads us to self-realization He says is *Veda Matha*, Knowledge itself. Here Swami means true knowledge, the knowledge of the scriptures that allows us to fulfill the true meaning and purpose of life. He goes on to say that the glory of all the four mothers is revealed to the child by the physical mother (*deha matha*).

Such is both the importance of a mother and also the responsibilities of mothers.

"Nature is the best teacher," says Swami. This maternal instinct and sacrifice is also apparent in the animal kingdom. For example, orangutans make new beds for their babies every night on the trees all without putting the baby down, mother lionesses are extremely protective of their young in the first two years of their lives. They spend time away from the pride and the cub learns everything from the mother. Beluga moms teach their babies everything they need to know including language and culture. Humpback moms watch over their young ones and teach them how to bubble net feed and also how to stay away from danger. Sperm whales not only teach their children skills like the humpbacks and belugas, but also pass on ancestral traditions to their young. Orca moms teach their pups to hunt fur seals on the beach. This highly-skilled technique can be mastered by the children only if they learn from their mothers. Elephants care for their young and what something small even as the strawberry poison frog does will amaze you. These frogs climb up rainforest canopies and make put bromeliad leaves together so pools of water can collect. To save their young, mom carries the tadpoles on her back, and scales back hundreds of feet again to bring them to safety, producing her own food so the little ones are fed.

Mothers are important in God's creation for all these and many reasons. Our task and duty is to recognize it, acknowledge it, and love and cherish the mothers in our lives.

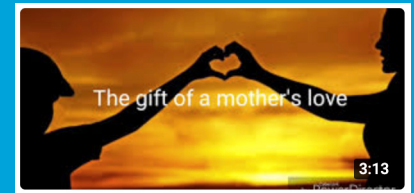
Swami exhorts children to love and respect the mother in their lives. That is the first lesson every child has to learn. Children can easily be taught to do that through their words and actions in various ways—write a note, send a text, give a call everyday. In a discourse on May 6, 2003, Swami urges children to seek their mothers' blessings by touching her feet. Such gestures of expression of gratitude to one's mother can serve as a wonderful Life Application across all groups.

Our children need to be taught the importance of family and one's culture, and love for the country and for God, all by the mother. As gurus, we have the sacred task of planting those seeds in young minds and hearts.



Beautiful Tributes

Enjoy these beautiful videos in tribute to Mothers and Mother Sai.



"I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

- Abraham Lincoln

MULTIFAITH PRAYER

Ave Maria (Hail Mary)

Catholic prayer in Latin

Click to listen

English Translation:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.



• TIP •
of the
DAY

Go outdoors.

There are so many lessons we can learn from Mother Nature in our own neighborhoods. Mother Nature nurtures trees, which provide life-giving oxygen to all creatures. She showers us with rain and sunshine, which help all living creatures grow and thrive. She endures both seasons of change and unending trials created by man with grace and forbearance. Animal mothers are one aspect of Mother Nature. They are devoted to their young. They take care of their babies, teach them to become independent, and then send them off confidently into the world. Spend some time daily to reflect on some things you can learn from Mother Nature. What are some animals and plants indigenous to your locality? Take some time to find out.