



## NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2013

### OM SAI

We go to the temple, worship Baba, organize jagran of Maa, visit Ganesh temple, Hanuman temple, Shiv temple, offer dakshina to priests, employ remedies against the evil-eye like keeping lime and green chilly, yet, we do not find happiness. Happiness does not come from these. We get emotionally affected by the laughter, anger and talk of others. Until the time we can control our mind, none of the above would be of any use. Visiting temples, music, mantra, worship etc may help only if we can keep our minds in check. Happiness depends not on external conditions but on intrinsic, internal factors.

The external situation creates a reflection in the mind. Why look for weaknesses in others? Why not identify the weaknesses within ourselves? We will not be able to evolve if we keep pointing out the flaws in others and keep getting affected by their actions. Instead of reacting to what someone said and thinking negative thoughts, we should reflect on our own drawbacks and weaknesses. Control your mind and you will gradually identify the weaknesses in yourself. Till we do this, no saint, no God, no deity, nor any elder member of the family can give us happiness.

A child born in a poor man's house starves for food. Throughout his life this child grows by suffering and enduring hardship. We have never faced the kind of disrespect that a poor man's child has to face, because we have food to eat, a car at our doorstep, a bank balance for our financial security. All these have been given to us by our father and forefathers. What is our contribution? If despite having received so much we still remain unhappy, then we are ungrateful to God.

Remember that we have not received so much because of our merits but due to the merits and hard work of our parents. Each generation inherits the best of earlier generations. Be grateful to them and reflect on what you are contributing and how you can be sensitive to the needs of others.

Why do people worship Baba and all the other saints? Their human form has gone, but they are still remembered and worshipped. They are not worshipped because they had earned a lot of money. Not also because they belonged to the so called intellectual class or because they have performed miracles. They are worshipped because they were sensitive to the problems of others and felt compassion for them. Most people are extremely conscious of their own sentiments, their own sensitivities but are insensitive to the sensitivities of others. Let us try to be sensitive to the needs of others and behave accordingly. Let us stop unnecessary ritualism and use our God given advantages to reach out to the poor, needy and weaker sections of society and try to relieve their suffering.

We might have read the Sai Satcharitra ten times, read other books, heard sermons from priests so many times, but what is the use of just reading them? Read books, but not superficially. Do not pretend to imbibe bhakti. Going to the temple, all decked up, does not express devotion. Baba had advised Dasganu not to do that. Be natural - the more natural you are, the better. Exhibition of religious fervour is just physical acrobatics. We don't need acrobatics. We need finer sense to prevail on us to understand the problems of others. We should start from our own home because our home is our 'peeth'. If we are not sensitive to the needs of those in our homes, for whatever reasons, then there will be no saviour for us. Every man is humbled with old age and sees the world in a new way, the way in which he has not seen it during his youth. If this balance has to come as time will make it happen, then why not accept it to the extent possible now and live our lives accordingly?

Guru shakti and Guru sahitya guide us in not taking the difficult path in our quest to evolve. The Guru teaches us through his own experiences, so one will not have to suffer in his path. Let us not condition our mind through whatever we read, see and hear superficially. Read the Sai Satcharitra regularly and concentrate on the divine attributes of Baba and meditate on His form. Let us pray the Master to give us the correct emotional and mental capabilities to enable us to understand Him and walk on the path shown by Him.

May Shri Sai Bless us all.

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