

# OM SAI RAM

## Welcome to Prasanthi Sandesh

### PODCAST 250, “SAI BABA’S PHILOSOPHY”

July 18, 2024

*The following text contains excerpts from Prof. Anil Kumar’s book  
“Sai-Chology,” pg. 374-379.*

#### **SAI’S PHILOSOPHY IS NOT A SEPARATE RELIGION**

A devotee asked, “I am a devotee of Lord Rama. I repeat ‘Sri Ram, Sri Ram, Sri Ram’. Should I say instead, ‘Om Sri Sai Ram’? Or is it enough if I say, ‘Sri Ram, Sri Ram, Sri Ram’, which is what I have been doing?”

The answer to this is very simple. As contemporaries of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, we are witnessing a peculiar phenomenon, a mysterious state of affairs.

First of all, Sai’s philosophy is not a ‘conversion’ philosophy. It has nothing to do with conversion. People of various religions -- be they Christians, Muslims or Buddhists, continue to be people of their own faith, respectively. The Sathya Sai philosophy does not involve a conversion from one’s belief or religion.

Secondly, the teachings of Sathya Sai do not formulate a separate religion. It is not as if we have to adopt or follow it.

Point three: If we believe in Rama sincerely and repeat His name – Om Sri Ram or Jaya Ram, we should continue to repeat it and one day we will perceive Baba in Rama. We will see Baba in Rama and see Rama in Baba, showing that He and Rama are one and the same.

This happened to a devotee, ninety years of age, who wrote a hundred books on Sri Ramachandra. He never accepted Baba, being a staunch follower of Lord Rama. His entire life was fully saturated with the name of Rama.

Having been forced by his friends to come to Prasanthi Nilayam, he saw not Sai Baba, but his own chosen God, Sri Rama. This gentleman, who came reluctantly to see Baba, saw not Baba, but Lord Ramachandra. Then he wrote a book, “**Baba and Rama are One,**” which was widely circulated.

In another instance, a Catholic doctor came to attend a conference as a heart specialist. Being a disciplined and sincere Catholic, he got ready to pray in the evening. While he was in deep meditation, alone in his closed room, suddenly he felt a gentle touch. He turned around and there was Sathya Sai Baba!

“How could you come in, my Lord? I bolted the door! I am sure I did!”

“A bolt is no bar to stop Me from coming in. And even if you open the door, I might not come in.”

Then, suddenly, while he was talking, he saw Christ; it was no longer Sathya Sai Baba.

This was narrated by an Italian doctor in the presence of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, at the time of an International Conference. This was a cardio-thoracic surgeon, speaking in the open auditorium on the dais. He was so convinced that he declared, “At the risk of my reputation and membership in the Catholic Church, and at the risk of persecution by fellow Catholics, I declare that Baba is the second coming of Jesus Christ! I declare that Baba is the Cosmic Christ” That is what he said!

In the book “**Jesus and Baba**,” Reverend Pipes, (who wrote three books), clearly establishes that all that Jesus said is very much the same as Baba. And he said, “Even if I lose my position, it doesn’t matter. I declare that Jesus and Baba are One.”

### **SATHYA SAI STRENGTHENS OUR CHOSEN PATH**

Therefore, we see that we don’t have to give up our path and may continue to follow our own creed. If we go to a church, we will find Sri Rama there. If we come to Puttaparthi, we will find Sri Rama here. If we look at Sai Baba, we will find Sri Rama in Him! In other words, our devotion to Sri Rama will be fulfilled after coming to Swami. So, there is no question of accepting or rejecting Him, or converting to another religion. Instead, we will find fulfilment of our lifelong mission.

The elderly man who wrote a hundred books on Sri Rama over the past forty years told Baba that he saw Sri Ramachandra only after coming to Sai Baba, although he had been praying to Him for forty years. This implies that Bhagawan helps us to fulfil our aim in life. He answers our prayers in the form of our chosen God. He ensures that we act according to the word of our chosen deity, religion or God.

So, in order to have our thoughts supported and our ambitions fulfilled, in order to reach the goal of life and to realistically experience our religious wishes, we come to Baba. In essence, all Christians or Muslims have not become Hindus and vice-versa. In Puttaparthi, Christians are better Christians; Muslims are better Muslims; Hindus are better Hindus and Buddhists are better Buddhists. Sathya Sai strengthens and deepens our own chosen path and there is no contradiction.

### **LIBERATION IS THE CURE!**

What are the remedies and solutions for our biological needs like hunger, fatigue, etc.? Food and sleep respectively are the remedies for this. The remedy for sickness is medicine.

All of us are suffering from another complaint, which is unknown to us. We know fever, hunger and thirst. We have enough worries. In fact, today, to be without worries for some people is another worry! Therefore, we know all these things but there is another thing of which we are not aware: We are caught in the cycle of birth and death.

***Punarapi Jananam, Punarapi Maranam,  
Punarapi Janani Jathare Sayanam.***

The life cycle is repeated again and again. Time and again, we must have taken countless lives. This is the problem now. We should be liberated from this cycle. Just as food is the remedy for hunger and medicine is the remedy for ailments, what is the remedy and the cure to be free from this cycle of birth and rebirth? Liberation is the cure. Liberation is the remedy to release us from the cycle of birth and death.

### **SPIRITUALITY BASED ON DESIRE IS NOT PERMANENT**

This statement requires deep reflection, based on what Baba has to say. We have to ponder as to what it is that brings us to Baba. We have to accept that if our faith is based on need and desire, it will not survive. The desire is fulfilled now, but tomorrow another desire may not be fulfilled. A prayer may be answered today, while tomorrow another prayer may not be answered. Should we then change our devotion or deity? Should we change the *mantra*?

But this should not be the case! Spirituality based on desire is not permanent. However, the good Lord keeps desires fulfilled as the bait, in order to draw us closer. We can call it a trap. Bhagawan Baba has a beautiful, magnetic, highly attractive, spiritual, divine trap, in which the bait of desire catches us all.

Someone did not have a job and Swami gave him a job. Therefore, he is His devotee. The other has a problem in the office and Baba solved it. So, he starts believing in Swami. A third one suffers from a serious ailment, but after coming to Baba, he is hale and hearty and now he has faith in Bhagawan.

All these people, whose problems are solved by Swami, are now trapped. Having been trapped, we cannot get out of it. Our dear Swami, out of His kindness, by fulfilling the desire, which was the bait, traps us and we cannot get out of it because the door is closed. He has drawn us and trapped us, out of His compassion, out of His desire to uplift us and make our life spiritual. It is with the intention to make our life Divine, to take us beyond the mind, to make us free from desire.

So, we enter the trap with a desire and we live in the trap in order to 'become' desireless. We enter the trap with the need and we are in the trap with no further needs. We get into the trap with a kind of hope to eat the bait there. Having gone into the trap, we have no more hopes.

Having no hope is different from hopelessness. Hopelessness is to be condemned, whereas no hope is - spiritual life - I have no hopes means 'I surrender'. On the other hand, I am hopeless would mean that I am a gone case. Hence, we have to make this distinction.

There will be more spiritual highlights from Professor Anil Kumar in the next session.

Thank you for your time.

**OM SAI RAM**