



Love in Human Nature

Rita and Robert Bruce

www.Love-in-Human-Nature.org

OMNIPRESENT TEACHER, SAI BABA

By Rita Bruce

We come to Prasanthi Niliyam asking, “Who is Sai Baba?” But in reality, the question is “Who are we”? Sai Baba has come on earth to teach us the truth of our own identity, so that we may become enlightened. Coming to see Him is important because His example is the living proof that God does exist in pure selfless love.

Swami asked my husband in our first interview, “Who are you?” Swami answered, “I am God, and you are God, We are God, the only difference is I know it and you do not.”

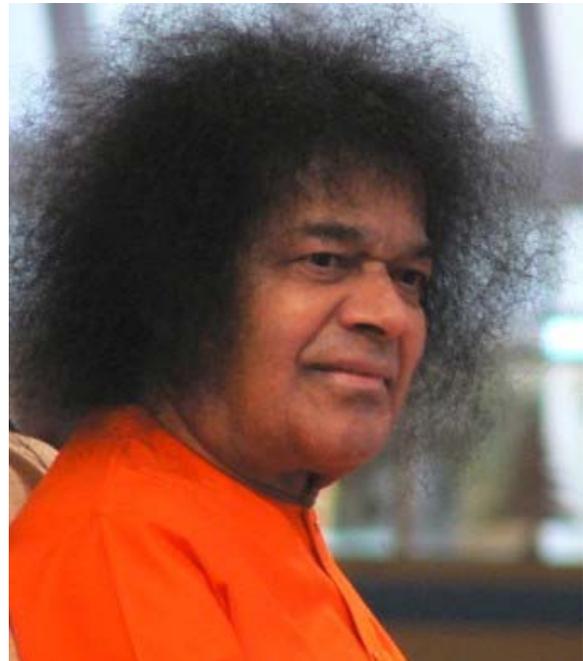
Those first words uttered to us by Our Beloved Baba is the wisdom that we as devotee’s seek to understand through the spiritual journey of experiences that will eventually lead us to Self-realization.

My path from the beginning has been the path of love. I had the American Dream, husband with a good job, four children, nice home in the county and I was very unhappy.

What the commercials promised did not come true. I expected that material objects would bring me happiness and they did momentarily and superficially, but there had to be more to our existence than this.

One day in 1968, I screamed at the Lord God, telling Him that this world was filled with hate. Everywhere I looked including my own life and family there was an absence of pure unconditional Love that Jesus came to teach us. I looked at the church members, family members, friends, and society at large and there was little evidence of this selfless Love. We had wars, corruption, assassinations etc. and treats of a nuclear war

Therefore I vowed to God that He did not know what love was or else He would have never created such a world of hatred. I told Him I was going to discover this selfless love and when I



did I would inform Him. I laugh at the audacity of my ego. But you see the depth of my promise came from my inner most being, and since that time God has been teaching me selfless love.

I have been a devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba for 31 years. His wisdom connected to the countless learning experiences He has provided in my life is His method of teaching me what is pure love and most importantly how to give it to others and myself. The path of spirituality is not easy and it takes a persistent determination and commitment.

God is Omnipresent. He is always with us teaching us. Sometimes our level of understanding or lack of awareness or time does not allow us to examine and abstract the necessary essence of His teachings and experience. When this happens we will have the same experience repeatedly until the karma is complete and we extract all the learning.

I have many examples of Sai Baba's Omnipresence in my life and I will share some.

We had a daughter on drugs and alcohol. One week before Christmas many years ago, she was admitted into a treatment center. The parents also had to go to sessions. The first session that we went to they showed a film. The film was projected onto a white board, and the priest in the film was writing on a black board. Now I used to tell Sai Baba in my heart, if He wanted me to learn something it must be written in black and white on a black board. In other words, I needed it clearly spelled out.

The priest was saying that depression was nothing more than self-pity. As he was talking about this, I said to Sai, is this message for me? Not quite sure because of course who likes to look at oneself. I was listening to the priest and at this moment did not have time to analyze myself. But I was most definitely depressed because of my daughter's terrible problem that we had been dealing with for many years.

After the talk, I again asked is this message for me? Now I remembered the two black boards, and then the most amazing thing happened. This film was showed in the canteen and since it was Christmas on the wall in very large green letters was "MERRY CHRISTMAS". When I looked at the wall, after the film, all the letters had fallen down except RITA. The Omnipresent God not only gave me a clear message but decided to sign my name to it least I miss it! After careful examination, I realized that I was indeed feeling sorry for myself, thus depressed. Now I ask you, who else could have delivered such a personalize message than God/Sai? Sri Sathya Sai Baba was here in Prasanthi and yet the omnipresence of God is within each of us.

Swami tells us that there are three stages of surrender to God. The first stage we say, "I'm yours". During this stage Swami says it is similar to a mother cat. The mother cat can pick up her kitten and place her anywhere. The second stage is when we say, "Your Mine". This is the stage of devotion that we must all aspire to because when we declare that Swami is ours, He is bound to provide and take care of every need. It is a full commitment of knowingness that God is yours. There is no wiggle room here. The third stage of surrender is when we realize that "You and I are one". This is our ultimate goal.

Swami has protected, healed, and transformed me in ways too numerous to recall. I know His Divine Omnipresence because of these experiences. We have limited vision and if we truly knew the unbelievable gifts of His love that He gives us daily, our gratitude and service to Him would never relinquish. We have a tendency of being selfish and not remembering the deeds of

love seen and unseen that happen while being His disciple. Mother Sai is many times taken for granted neither thanked nor appreciated. We must do everything possible to correct this type of behavior in ourselves.

Robert and I were guest speakers at a Center in Vancouver, Canada, and this evening it was only for a newly formed Chinese group. We spoke through a translator. After the talk the devotee's were admiring a gold necklace that Swami had materialized for me. I remembered when I was new to Swami that to touch something that He had materialized was so important so I took it off my neck and allowed them to touch it.

When they finished, one of the ladies fastened it back around my neck as I was answering questions through an interpreter. I paid no attention to the necklace being tightly fastened other than it was put around my neck. I gave it no thought.

That evening, we returned to the devotee's home, who were hosting us. I noticed that my necklace that Swami had made for me was gone. I prayed to my Omnipresent Divine Mother Sai. We searched many times and could not find it on me. It always hung around my neck and was always in plain sight. It was unmistakably missing. Robert suggested that we look in the car. This necklace could have been in the Sai Center, on the Center grounds, in the parking lot or perhaps the car. I had walked many places.

We were staying with devotees and as we approached the door to look in the car they inquired, "why were we leaving?" We explained that my necklace that Swami had made for me was gone.

I then placed both of my hands under the neck of my blouse using my thumbs to search and reenact the exact placement of the necklace. Then suddenly, as I placed my hands on my neck, the necklace mysteriously dropped between my thumbs and index finger, then as the medal dropped down from the necklace it jingled. Robert watched it appear.

It still brings tears to my eyes to realize that Our Beloved Sai, this Omnipresent God, knowing how much I loved this object of His love brought it back from wherever it was lost. His love and care of each of us when we surrender is beyond our comprehension.

When we returned to India, in an interview, Swami held this necklace jingled it, saying "Jingle, jingle, jingle". Robert and I pondered over the meaning of this. Was it some sort of nursery rhythm? Two or three years had passed and the answer deluded us.

This past year 2004, during a talk we were giving to the Overseas Devotee's at Prasanthi, I narrated this story. When I said, "It jingled as it dropped from the ether" tears swelled up in my eyes because I had finally understood what He meant when He shook my necklace with the medal and said jingle, jingle, jingle. It was His indirect way of letting me know He was there and brought it back.

Swami says, "God does not speak to His devotees directly because He does not like to interfere with their own God self."

God's patience is the ultimate. He did not tell me what He had done but gave me a very subtle hint that took me years to understand. Our ego would have wanted instant recognition. The

lessons that He teaches is on a very subtle level but the experience and meaning has the ability to seep deep into our hearts, never to be forgotten.

Sai Baba not only takes care of His disciples but this seems to also include our family members. My father was dying of Cancer of the colon, liver, and stomach. He was so ill that he could no longer eat nor drink. His large frame had shrunk to a skeleton of his original size. It was so sad to see.

My father did not believe in Sai Baba, in fact we did not speak about our travels to India since our first trip. My father was a very devoted Catholic who believed in Jesus. I will never forget my mothers remark when I first told her about Sai Baba. I said that there was no doubt that Sai Baba was God in Human Form. Before I could offer any explanation she replied. "Oh Rita, God would never come back as a dark man in India!"

What a perfect statement concerning our prejudices, and the root cause is our ignorance. It is so very easy to accept someone like our self. This supports our own ego identity. It is self-reflection. To broaden our view to include all as one, to change the fixed thinking of our life programming, comes from years of viewing Sai Baba, His example of love, equality and acceptance of all creation. Swami tells us that Jesus said, "All are one; be alike to everyone".

My father had surgery the end of November and they discovered a very large tumor in the colon that could not be removed, as well as cancer through out his stomach and liver. At this time my son was with Sai Baba. Christmas Eve we sent him a telegram telling him that his grandfather was dying of Cancer. Craig took the telegram to Swami in darshan. Baba read it and materializes Vibuthi. Craig sent it home.

In early January, Swami tells me inside to come for a visit in March. Swami my father is dying of cancer, I replied, how can we come? Swami said, "Come I will take care." We make airline reservations and my family thinks we are simply crazy.

In the third week of January, we receive the vibuthi. My father takes it out of desperation because by now he cannot eat or drink. After taking the vibuthi, my father can again eat and drink. Then an amazing thing happens.

The surgeon who operated on Dad in November called him. Dad had not seen this Doctor since then and he is calling him, unheard of in America. The Doctor wants to do an exploratory to see if his condition had improved. My parents prayed to Jesus and decided that the Doctor calling them was a sign. So my father consented to the surgery. He was so brave. He had many escapes from death in his life, and surgery. It was courageous of him to agree again to the mental and physical reality of surgery.

When the Doctor, entered the room where mom and I waited, he had a big smile on his face. He said the tumor had shrunk, and was removed and all the cancer was *anceled*.

Dad came home the last week in February and we flew to India the first week of March. In an interview, I had a picture of my parents in my hand and asked, "Swami, did you cure my father of cancer?" He tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I sure did!" At that moment vibuthi from Swami's hand dropped on my mother and fathers picture.

Swami in his present physical form did not operate on my father, nor come to the house bringing me my necklace. It was done in His Omnipresent form. He is everywhere.

I remember in an interview Swami asked a young man, "Where is God?" The young man pointed upward towards the ceiling. Swami replied, "Sky is up there". God is everywhere. This is His Omnipresence.

The omnipresent form of God is our own Divinity that protects, guides, teaches, and provides for all our needs. Our association, our communication, our chanting His name, mediating on His form, feeling His Divine Presence within us will ultimately lead us to the reality that we are God.