



Love in Human Nature

Sathya Sai Parenting

Rita and Robert Bruce

www.Love-in-Human-Nature.org

SATHYA SAI SPEAKS ON...

“Parents have the primary responsibility to mold the character of their children.”



Home Sweet Home

The home and the family is the basic social institution everywhere in the world. When the home improves, the whole world will be better.

The home is a temple where each member of the family is a moving temple and is nurtured and nourished. The mother is the high priestess of the House of God. Humility is the incense with which the house is filled. Reverence is the lamp that is lit with love as the oil and faith as the wick.

Home is a heaven when there is love and understanding and the same becomes hell when there is distrust and hostility.

The parents should be looked with a feeling of reverence. The child should be looked at with affection. The wife (husband) should be seen with endearment.



In this phenomenal world, whatever pleasures and satisfactions one may derive elsewhere, if there is no joy at home, it becomes a veritable hell. The home is heaven itself. It is the duty of women to maintain it as such.

First care for the home and then think of other things.

The home, too, must feel the change in the child's behavior. It may be advisable to gather the parents together and give them guidelines on childcare, and on the higher ideals of family and social life.

The atmosphere in the home should be such that it should nourish and develop the values inculcated in the child during Sai Spiritual Education classes. Parental co-operation and encouragement are vital for the program to be effective. So, often you can see the difference in a child whose parent is actively involved with the program. This interest should be encouraged by the SSE teachers, by bringing parents into the programme from the very early stages and using their skills to further enhance the children's potential.

Parents – Owners or Trustees?



Children do not come to you but through you.

Parents must feel that they are servants appointed by the Lord to tend the little souls that are born in their households, as the gardener tends the trees in the garden of the Master.

Parents' Role / Duty

Since children spend 85% of their time in the home and in the community, the parents carry a big responsibility for their children's development.

Children learn a great deal by observing and copying what their parents do. Thus it makes it imperative for parents to plant the right ideals in the minds of their children, by the example of their own conduct.

Parents, for instance, do not set a good example to the children. You must examine every story or account that you place before the children from the point of view of individual faith and social harmony. Does this lead the child to a better, more harmonious, a more God-oriented life? That is the question you should ask yourself.

Teach the children sacred things and not nonsense verses. In the old day, the first words a child was taught at school were "OM Namassivaya". What should be implanted in the hearts of our children are sacred names like Rama and Krishna. Women are endowed with exceptional strength. Even in the spiritual field women display their boundless capacity. It is in her role as mother that there is the highest expression of a woman's strength. The mother is the first teacher of speech, the first steps in movement and many other primary lessons in behavior." 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 to teach 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.



Parents should foster in the children love for truth and righteousness and tell them stories about the lives of great men and women. In the olden times, the elders used to tell the young children all about the nation’s heroes and saints. Where are such elders today?

Men should try to understand women, and women should also try to understand men. It is the harmony, peace and mutual love between men and women that brings happiness and peace to the family. People want happiness in the family, but they do not lead exemplary lives. Fault lies with both the husband and wife.

Earning incomes is not a great thing. To insure peace and prosperity in the world is the highest achievement. Young people should promote unity and serve the nation.

The tendency (among the affluent families) is to entrust the child from birth to a nurse. The child does not get the love of the mother. The child has no knowledge of what a mother means.

Do all house hold work as acts of worship for Him; that is more fruitful than hours of meditation, hours gained by entrusting this precious work to paid helpers.

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 evade the question. 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?

If women go out for jobs Who will take care of the homes? If husband and wife go to offices, who will look after the children?” Earning money may solve some problems, but how will it resolve domestic problems? Truly speaking, working women do not enjoy much happiness.

It is not my view that women should not get educated. They should have education. You may also take up jobs. But you should live up to the obligations and glory of womanhood.

When women leave their homes for jobs, where are the housewives to do the household chores? Even if the monetary position is eased, other difficulties arise in the home.

Discipline with Love

Love the children, but give them stern correction if they do anything wrong. Timid parents of today fear to establish strict rules for the children, as they may run away from home or end their lives.

Discipline means the observance of certain well-designed rules. Without such regulation it is not possible to maintain humanness.

Discipline must start from the early years.

Discipline trains you to put up with disappointments you will know life has both ups and downs.

Discipline is vital to every living being. For man it is even more important like the spinal column. Without discipline mankind will be ruined.

Discipline is the mark of intelligent living. Parents should not allow children to fall away from their control, and wander about without compass or anchor. Many parents feed and fondle their children, and, then, in the name of freedom, leave them to find their own friends and pleasures. They take them to films regardless of the impression they create on their tender minds. They entertain the friends of their children, but do not inquire into their antecedents of habits. They even encourage their children to smoke and drink, not knowing they will one day have to rue their action.

Discipline has to be observed in speech, in sport and in every kind of relationship. In games, you have an umpire to enforce the rules of the game. Every player has to observe the rules strictly. Any player who does not obey will be violating the rules of the game. Today it is because people do not observe the rules, whether in sports or elsewhere, life has become intolerable.



Parents lavish too much affection on their children. There should also be control. There should be both love and law.

Today the children have no respect for the mother. Mothers have also little concern for the children. Who are responsible for this situation? The mothers are the root cause. It is because of the pampering of the children in all sorts of ways by the mothers that the children tend to go astray.

The parents themselves are not competent to guide the children; they dote on them and do not know how to correct them, they have reprehensible habits and ways of life.

In the modern age, the father does not correct the child, and the child does not listen to the mother.

Teach children not to receive anything for nothing. Let them earn by hard work the things they seek.

Children must learn thrift and the proper use of money....When children learn how to use money with care and without waste, the future will be bright.

Ninety percent of the blame for spoiling the behavior and character of children, go to the parents. They show too unintelligent affection and give too indiscriminate a freedom to them.

The situation in the outside world is appalling. Even tenth standard students are taking to drink and drugs. The parents are not restraining them. Nor are they setting a good example. When the parents exchange words, the children exchange blows. The parents give a free rein to the children instead of controlling them.

The parents are to blame for three-fourths of their children's behavior. When parents allow the children to go astray, some time or other they will suffer the consequences. It has become fashionable in this Age to let the children have their own way.

They fear that otherwise the children will run away or commit suicide. What does it matter what befalls such characterizes children? Parents do not have today this kind of moral courage. "They go on listening to bad reports about their children and end their lives in despair."

Tell me your company; I'll tell you what you are. You will change when you are with good people. Good company is necessary for a good child.

Children should also have proper dress habits. Their dress should not display sophistry or vanity. They should be taught the virtue of thrift and frugal habits. American children have too much money, too much freedom and too much TV.

When students do not behave, Swami tells them softly, Bangaru, you don't do that. If they still do not behave, Swami raises His voice. His voice changes but Swami's heart does not change. That you demonstrate.

It is the duty of the parents to set the children on the right path from their early years. They should not hesitate to correct them and even punish them when the children take to wrong ways. The best way they can show love to their children is to do everything necessary to make them follow the right path. It is only when parents show firmness in dealing with their children that they will develop along right lines.

When you have to reprimand a child for some misdemeanor or delinquency, do not pounce all of a sudden or terrorize by shouting. Instead speak to them: "If another child did the same to you, or took something belonging to you, or hit you, wouldn't you feel hurt? When you do not like someone else to do harm to you, in turn you should refrain from doing harm to others." Children will quickly understand and will feel sorry. They will resolve not to repeat such an act or word again. They yield to affectionate advice.

Tele-Vision or Tele-Poison

Do not read trash or see foul films.

The younger generation is being ruined by undesirable films and television programs. Their minds are being poisoned. It is not a sign of parental love to let children be ruined in this manner. Even parents should avoid going to cinemas. All the crimes and violence we witness today are largely the result of the evil influence of films on young minds.

Young people should realize that the root cause of all their bad thoughts and bad actions is the food they consume. The nature of the food determines the state of the mind. Food does not mean merely what is eaten, but includes all that is received through the senses and stored in the mind.

There is a television set. TV sets are installed in every room in the houses of the rich. From the moment television made its appearance, the mind of man has been polluted. Before the advent of TV, men's minds were not so much polluted. Acts of violence were not so rampant previously.

People watch the TV even while eating food. The result is that all the foul things seen on the TV are being 'consumed' by the viewer.

Concentration on the TV affects one's view of the world. The scenes, thoughts and actions displayed on the TV set fill the minds of the viewers. Unknowingly, agitations and ill-feelings enter their minds. In due course they take root and grow in the minds.

There is now what is called 'Star TV'. It is doing great harm to human life. The temporary satisfaction given by it is followed by lasting damage. It is like a sword coated with honey. As you lick the honey, the sword will cut your tongue.

Imitation has become a deadly disease among modern youth, in matters of dress or other behavior. They should consult their conscience in all matters rather than copy others.

Films and TV have totally demoralized the people. People have become completely oblivious to Divinity within them.

Youth today have lost confidence in themselves. They are affected by criticism leveled against them. They should see that if the criticism is justified, they should correct themselves. If it is not justified, they should ignore it. If you are criticized for a fault that is not in you, you can ignore it even if the whole world joins in the criticism.

Apart from educational programs, do not look at TV at all, especially while taking food. Concentrate on; the work at hand, whether it be eating or anything else. While taking food, you should not discuss dreadful incidents. No room should be given to subjects which excite the

mind. Silence should prevail during eating. Even sound waves enter into us and affect our minds. Hence people should avoid seeing TV while taking food.

Parents – Pay Rent

Debt to parents. One's body is derived from the flesh and blood of the mother. How much sacrifice is involved in giving birth to a child and rearing him with continuous care and love is beyond description. The food you eat, the clothes you wear, the life you lead are all the gift of your parents. It is one's primary duty to please one's parents. Only thus is the debt to the parents discharged. Nor is that all. The debt to the parents has to be repaid by acting properly and rendering service to society.

There is no diviner or purer feeling than maternal love. The mother and the Motherland are greater than heaven itself. Men today have forgotten the greatness of the mother and the duties of the son. How can man expect to get the bliss he aspires for if he fails to discharge his duties, forgets his humanness, turns his face away from God and goes after worldly pleasures?

Serve your parents. Help your mother when she goes out shopping. Do not cause any displeasure to the mother. Be ready to give a helping hand to your father. Don't waste your time in idleness. Engage yourselves in social service. Avoid bad company at any cost. Seek good company with all your life.

Since the mother has given you blood, her life and strength, and is responsible for your birth you must show gratitude by respecting her. You must show gratitude to your father, who give you money, education, and protection. The wise and the saints give you human qualities, and so you must show gratitude to them. Ultimately, God is responsible for all these, so you must show your gratitude to God.

Parent means pay rent. Children should pay the rent of respect and service to parents who gave them the room called body.

Modern youth even mock at such old people. It is the seed sown by those elders which has kept our ancient culture alive to this day. Only the women of the nation can revive and restore to its glory the ancient culture of our land.

The mother is the first guru to the child. Therefore, Indian culture emphasizes the importance of mother, father, teacher, and God. In this order, the mother has the first place. Why? It is the mother who carries the child for nine months in her womb, undergoes all trouble and pain, sacrifices everything for the child, and nurtures the child with love. Therefore, you must honor and revere your mother as God. Once the child is born, it is the father who takes the responsibility to rear the child. So, also, revere your father as God.

The spirit of sacrifice that is expressed while doing service is only found in mothers. When a mother watches somebody shedding tears, her eyes get wet too. Women have so much kindness in them.

Mother gives birth to the child, and she alone has the authority to introduce the father to the child. It is the father who introduces the child to its teacher or guru. Then it is the guru who leads the child to God.

Nothing except truth and reputation are permanent in this world. You can attain this reputation only when you honor your mother, follow her command, and make yourself deserving to receive her love. Mother's commands should never be disregarded. If you have any doubts at all, then approach her in a pleasing way and get your doubts clarified. But never hurt her feelings. Anyone who hurts the sentiments of one's mother can never be happy in life. One who wounds the feelings of his or her mother today, will receive the same treatment from one's children tomorrow. Therefore, you should first win the love and grace of the mother.

For the sake of the child, the mother is prepared to make any amount of sacrifice. This quality is found only in women. If the child suffers from a critical ailment, the father may say, 'It is better if the child dies.' But, however fatal may be the disease, the mother makes every effort to save the child. Because of this spirit, women are called "Embodiments of Sacrifice.

While there is a lack of fathers who can guide their children on the right path and set before them some lofty ideals, some parents preach high ideals, but they cannot correct their own children at home. Who will listen to their sermons? It is easy to speak but difficult to practice.

Develop Character

Solitude is best used for discovering and curing defects of character and conduct. To contact God, one has to open his eyes and serve brother man.

Do good and have good in return; do bad and accept the bad that comes back; that is the law.

Forget the harm others have done to you and the good you have done to others.

Service will develop humility in you. Humility will enable you to work in happy unison with others.

To earn the goodwill of the Master, there is one recipe; obey His orders without murmur....Grace is showered on all who obey instructions and follow orders.

The tongue has the extra power to harm and hurt, so you must exercise control over it. Do not pain anyone through your words; spread Love; be full of love. If you cannot love man, how can you hope to love God?

You must speak soft and sweet words to everyone.

Even if you cannot oblige, at least you can speak obligingly. This means that you have to cleanse your speech of cynicism and satire and be ever sincere and sweet.

The eye commits only one sin, which is seeing bad things. The ear commits only one sin, which is listening to bad things. However, the tongue commits four sins. It speaks untruths, blames others, carries tales about others, and talks too much.

So be vigilant about words. Slip while walking, the injury can be repaired, but slip while talking, the injury is irreparable.

The spoken word, though it may be short and appears to be only a sound, has in it the power of the atom bomb. Words can confer strength; they can drain it off. Words can gain friends; they can turn them into enemies, they can elevate or lower the individual.

To fail to show gratitude is wrong. To show ingratitude is a sin.



Parenting is the step to self-fulfilment.

Compiled from:

All quotes are by Sathya Sai Baba and are compiled from:

- 1. Sathya Sai Speaks**
 - a. Vol 2 pg 184, pg 192
 - b. Vol 3, pg 60
 - c. Vol 7, pg 48, pg 90, pg 146, pg 193
 - d. Vol 8 pg 31, pg 108, pg 225
 - e. Vol 9 pg 1
 - f. Vol 10, pg 180, pgs 207-208, pg 281
 - g. Vol 11 pg 143-144, pg 198
- 2. Summer Shower in Brindavan 1973 - Pg 178**
- 3. Summer Showers 1978 - pg 4, pg 185**
- 4. Sixteen Spiritual Summers - pg 106**
- 5. Sanathana Sarathi**
 - a. May 1990 pg. 113
 - b. Dec 1992 pg. 283
 - c. Jan 1994 – pg 24
 - d. Nov-Dec 1995
 - e. Feb 1996
 - f. May 1996 – pgs 119-121, pg 123
 - g. Jun 1996 – pgs 157-160
 - h. Jul 1996 pg 174- 175
 - i. Dec 1996 pg 333-335
- 6. Interview Bal Vikas Teachers, August 1990**
- 7. Conversations with Sathya Sai Baba pg 87**
- 8. Sathya Sai Newsletter**
 - a. Summer 1996 pg 5-6, pg 30

