

Talk by Dr. William Harvey, Member, Prasanthi Council, SSIO

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I am very happy to be participating in this wonderful program, and offer reverential salutations to our most merciful Lord, Who, though addressed by many different names, rushes to respond to any and all of them, when the plea comes from the heart. Each of us came into this world with the firm intent to utilize our time properly, to render selfless service to others, and become fully aware of our divine nature; and the divine nature of all that we see around us.

In the course of the birth process, our remembrance of that goal faded into the deep recesses of our mind, and we acquired a powerful attraction to objects in the outside world.

Without encountering someone **whose presence** ignites in us the remembrance of our goal, we are apt to wander aimlessly throughout our life and depart this world without benefitting from the rare blessing of having achieved a human birth.

If we do come into contact with such a person, then, depending on the culture and locale, we call them “Wise One”, “Teacher”, “Rabbi”, or “Guru”.

However, from age to age, the Supreme Lord Himself descends into the realm of manifest reality, cloaked in a human form, and provides us the chance to actually achieve our goal in this very lifetime.

How fortunate are we to have witnessed the physical presence of the Sathya Sai Avatar. Yet, He always stressed that He wanted us to become devotees **not of His form**, but of His teachings, those teachings are Universal and consistent with the Scriptures of all the great Religions.

Our task is to imbibe these precious teachings, and then to put them into practice on a daily basis. He assures us that even one teaching, earnestly and consistently practiced, will do the trick.

We *then* may *share the Message* with others who indicate a receptivity.

He has given us a perfect tool for accomplishing both objectives, and that tool is the Sai Organization. It is by *no means* the only instrument He is using to accomplish His Mission. Still, we should grab this opportunity and pursue it with all our might!

A great and unprecedented **crisis** has descended upon the world. Mother Nature, Mother Earth has long been giving us warning in the form of species becoming extinct, pollution of the waters, and the air that we breathe, climate change generally.

The Avatar repeatedly told us that selfishness, unchecked desires, and failure to honor and respect the sacredness of all life could only lead to disaster. He also clearly showed us **what was needed** to be done, *and* established impressive models, some of which are being highlighted on the program today.

Many initiatives have been launched by the Sai Organization in India and by our Sathya Sai International Organization around the world. In addition, the creative energies and enthusiasm of Sai Young Adults is positively *phenomenal* and is making a telling impact in every corner of the globe.

We need only to continue along the lines already charted for us. Our faith in God, and our Faith in ourselves, must not waver.

Everything in the phenomenal world changes in due time. So too will this global crisis. In the meantime, let us continue to *cling* to His teachings, -- remembering the three C's. That is, remaining Calm, Careful, and Cheerful.

Calm, Careful and Cheerful.

Jai Sai Ram.