



Learn, Chant and Experience the Vedas



Bro. Sathya Rao Jogulu, Bro. Akshay Radhakisson, Bro. Agman Gupta, Sis. Gayathri Rajasekaran

https://youtu.be/RSiTWKOB_V8

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Sathya: Dear Lord of the universe, you are my sole refuge. I have none other than You, of Your supreme compassion, please protect us dear Lord. I offer my most humble salutations at Your Divine Lotus Feet, my dear Veda Samrakshana, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Dear brothers and sisters, on behalf of the International Young Adult Veda program, I welcome you to our series of Veda webinars. Today, a group of four Young Adults, you may call us Veda lovers, Veda admirers, Veda enthusiasts, or even Veda addicts, have come from four corners of the world, with different backgrounds, different upbringings, but we are here to speak about the same Vedas; that is the one binding factor between all of us. The love of Swami and His Avataric mission of fostering the Vedas have led us to have an online Satsang today on the Vedas, to learn, chant, and experience.

Let me first introduce you to my fellow Veda buddies from across the globe. Let me start with Brother Akshay Radhakisson. He is a master's degree holder in Computer Science from the beautiful island of Mauritius. Professionally, he works as a manager in the Green Course Medical Laboratory, which is the number one private medical lab in Mauritius. He started learning Vedas in the year 2006. In SSSIO, he serves as the

President of the Prasanthi Devotional Group in Mauritius.

Next, we have Brother Agman Gupta who is a Ph.D. scholar currently in the land of the rising sun, Japan. He started learning Vedas in 2008 when he was an SSE student. From 2013 to 2018 he has been studying in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning; Puttaparthi. In SSSIO, he is serving as the Zonal Veda resource person for Zone 5 countries in the International Veda learning Program.

And we have Sister Gayathri Rajasekaran, who holds a degree in Business Administration and hails from Toronto, Canada. She started learning Vedas in the year 2003 when she was still in SSE. Professionally, she works as an Accounts Administrator in a commercial HVAC company, and in SSSIO she serves as the Budget Coordinator in Toronto-York Center, Toronto, Canada.

And finally dear brothers and sisters, I am Sathya from Malaysia. I am a medical specialist in the field of Family Medicine and completed MBBS degree and a Master's in Family Medicine. I started formally learning Vedas, while I was an elective student in the Super Specialty hospital in Puttaparthi in the year 2002. Currently I serve as the Zone 4B Young Adults Coordinator and the Medical Director of Zone 4B countries.

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Dear brothers and sisters, all of us will be having a three-part Satsang today on each of the main sub-topics of learning, chanting and experience of the Vedas. I request you to have a paper and pen ready because there will be some reflection questions and I am excited to walk us all through the memory lane to reminisce years of our learning, chanting, and experiencing the Vedas, and love for Swami as integral to fostering our bond. Now I want to ask the first question to Brother Akshay; can you share with us when did you start learning Vedas?

Akshay: Sairam to all my brothers and sisters around the world. Brother, my journey of learning Veda chanting dates back to 2006 during the Ati Rudra Maha Yagna performed in Prasanthi Nilayam. At that time, I was pursuing my master's degree in Bangalore and was fortunate enough to be in the Bangalore Youth Group led by Brother Vinay Kumar. I was one of the 150 candidates chosen by Swami to serve in this unique auspicious event dedicated to Lord Shiva. During these 11 days, the *Sri Rudram* was chanted 14,641 times by 121 priests.

I cannot fully express in words the divine energy that one could feel inside Sai Kulwant Hall when the Vedic chants were being recited by the blessed priests. It was moments of pure joy, bliss, and ecstasy. From then on brother, I was completely in awe from the uplifting effect that the Rudram could give me, and the rise in blissful energy that the Rudram could bring to the surroundings where it was being chanted.

Following this amazing experience, I started learning the *Sri Rudram* using the CD and book that was sold in the Ashram. I did not actually receive any formal training from a teacher. In the beginning it was quite challenging to learn all by myself, however with Swami's grace and blessings when I returned back to Mauritius, I and a small group of friends who were also Sai devotees decided to meet every Tuesday night to learn chanting Vedam. We started with simple ones, like *Durga Suktam*, *Ganapati Atharvashirsha*, *Narayana Suktam* and so on.

We finally started learning *Sri Rudram* after a few months, it took us nearly two years to be able to chant it properly with the correct into-

nations. In 2011 after Swami left His physical body, our small group prayed for conducting *Ekadasi Rudram* which is chanting the Rudram for 11 times a day at 11 locations around the country, over a year. We have been blessed to continue this divine activity to date. Chanting 11 times the *Sri Rudram* also helped us to correct some of our mistakes and improve our chanting. This small group was even blessed to chant the *Gayatri Ganapatha* (special method of chanting) in front of the Mahasamadhi on Dasara 2014. We have this firm conviction brother, that Swami has blessed us for our efforts to learn Vedam. Om Sri Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you so much, brother. What a learning experience. Sister Gayathri, how about you? Can you share with us your initial learning journey?

Gayathri: Absolutely. Om Sri Sai Ram and my loving *pranams* to all the listeners. First of all, Brother Sathya, I would like to thank you and the entire team behind the scenes for this wonderful opportunity. I actually didn't realize that I hadn't reflected on my Vedam journey until this point, and it's been so gratifying the last few weeks to think about my journey with Vedam.

I started learning Vedam in Group 2 of the SSE program. At our home, we had always been listening to devotional chants and devotional songs. Then when we moved to Bangalore, I was four-years old. I joined a small Sai Samiti in Bangalore; and to engage the young children, between ages four to six, my *Balvikas* teacher, taught us some slokas. So, if the older children were learning *Brahmarpanam* we would learn *Harirdata*, the four lines *shloka*, and then later on we moved to Canada and that's when I started learning proper chanting in Group 2 of the SSE program. I was nine years old. I loved going to the class. I started learning Vedam with the most wonderful Vedam teacher, Auntie Usha Kaushik. She still teaches and she was really instrumental in my learning of Vedam. Not only was her pronunciation and accuracy incredible and she gave a lot of importance to that, but she was also very charming and funny, so she kept us very engaged. She also gave equal importance to discipline, and I've benefited from that a great deal and since then I joined the

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Vedam group at the Center and I've been chanting ever since.

Sathya: Wow, thank you sister for sharing. It also reminds me of my Veda teachers. We had such amazing Veda teachers who have been teaching us for many, many, years. I remember my first teachers Brother Ramakrishna, Uncle Narasimha, Brother Shiva Kumar, Brother Sairam and we had so many others who have taught us Vedas. Brother Agman, who was your first Veda teacher and how was your learning experience then?

Agman: Sairam brother, this question makes me very nostalgic as I had started learning Vedam during Group 2 of *Balvikas*. My first Vedam teacher was Mr. Santosh. *Medha Suktam*, *Durga Suktam*, and *Na Karmana* are quite easy to be taught and to learn. Therefore, for *Balvikas* students, these are recommended as these can be easily memorized because they are short verses; but Mr. Santosh chose to start off with *Ganapathi Prarthana* followed by *Ganapati Atharvashirsha*. For Group 2 of *Balvikas*, *Ganapati Atharvashirsha* is too long to learn and practice. Those days I was a very mischievous kid and as Veda chanting requires both physical and mental steadiness, I would become impatient during the Veda class. I would find ways to distract other kids as well as my Veda teacher Mr. Santosh. Sometimes, I would sometimes chant verses of the mantra wrong deliberately so that he would get irritated and wrap up the class before the scheduled time, but he was a person with a lot of patience and forbearance. He understood my childish behavior and found unique ways to accentuate my interest in Veda learning, especially *Atharvashirsha*. His encouragement was one of the most important factors that kept me striving to learn better and practice more. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to him for being an able instrument in Swami's divine mission.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Shivkumar who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management and Commerce at the Brindavan campus of Sri Sathya Sai institute of Higher Learning. Dr. Shivkumar was among the first batch of boys alongside

Vedanarayan Sir to be handpicked by Swami to learn Veda from Sri Ganapathi Sastry Garu of Sri Sathya Sai Veda Shastra Patashala at Prasanthi Nilayam. When I was learning from him, I would often wonder whether I would ever be able to chant even an iota of how well he chants? I kept making so many mistakes but Shivkumar Sir out of his vast experience would often read my mind and say, "Agman, Veda learning is an offering of our love to God and for God, we always want to give the best that we have. How to become the best in Veda chanting – is by listening and practicing repeatedly." I always keep these words of Shivkumar Sir in my mind so that I can strive to better myself. Thank you, brother, Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you very much, brother. At this juncture, to everyone who's listening out there and to all the gurus who have given so much of your time, effort, and everything to make sure that all of us learn Vedas the right way, with the right pronunciation, with the right intonation – our gratitude to all of you and gratefulness to Swami as the teacher of all teachers for giving this knowledge to all of us.

You know learning is just one part but in that process of learning there's just so many challenges – my biggest challenge of learning was time management. I'm sure all of you will resonate with me in a certain way. I was already able to chant two *suktams* without formally learning Vedas. Maybe if we have time later, I will share my experience but when I started learning formally, I was a medical student. I was finding it very difficult to allocate time for learning Vedas. But then I took notice when I started learning Vedas, I would get very energetic, and took very little time in completing any *suktams* or Upanishads, including memorizing them. It also helped me in medical school to study better, so when I started doing this, I realized that my studying and memorizing in medical school became much easier and faster and that way I had a little bit more extra time, and I was able to learn the Vedas.

I realized that it's just the different side of the coin, but you know taking one challenge and using the lesson of the challenge to invest on another part and finally coming out doing both excellently in both ways. That way, I think I need

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to thank Swami for giving me the insight of how time management and how Vedam has helped me in many ways. Dear brothers and sisters, let's have our first self-reflection. What is or what was your biggest challenge in learning Vedas? I'm sure all of us will have one or more. Some of us have many, some of us have a few. Brother Akshay, what was your biggest challenge in learning Vedam and how did you overcome that challenge?

Akshay: Yes brother, as we all know the recital of Vedam yields maximum benefit when it is recited with the right pronunciations and intonations for each level. Since I'm from a country that speaks French or more precisely Creole. Maybe many of you don't know that the language is our mother tongue in Mauritius, it's like simplified French. It was very challenging to get the pronunciation right since I have this French accent. I became aware of this doing weekly classes with a group of devotees and as we took a long time to practice each word for a particular *suktam*. Many times, the words were not chanted very clearly, very lucidly and the words were very distorted. We always ask forgiveness from Swami because we knew that the pronunciations were not accurate.

Let me give all of you an example here, like in *Durga suktam*. You have at the end a part which goes like this, '*Svanchaagne Tanuvam piprayasvas smabhyamcha. Saubhagamayasva*' so to be able to pronounce each syllable well we actually had to break the words into small parts and chant slowly so we would learn it. We had to actually break down the words so that we could get the right pronunciations. Of course, apart from the correct pronunciations, brother, we also had to listen a lot, practice the correct intonations, while keeping the same pitch while chanting; using a *shruti* box. Brother, this is the biggest challenge for us, for me it was the pronunciation while learning the Vedam. Sai Ram.

Sathya: I very much agree brother, I have a lot of friends all around the world and the biggest challenge they always say, especially when their mother tongue is not from a certain background, it is always tough getting the words right. I think when we get the sound or the tone right, also the words are sometimes very tongue twisting, so I

agree with you it's about breaking those words and practicing again and again and again. After years of chanting, I think we still need to practice to make it perfect. How about you sister Gayathri, what was your challenge?

Gayathri: Brother for me I would say that learning the script was the biggest challenge for me, even though I used the English script. It was as if I was still learning a new language. For example, if we see here, I came across this paragraph in an email chain years ago in the way we read English. In this paragraph, the first letter and the last letter of every word will be correct. The words, the letters in the middle will all be jumbled up and as you read through the paragraph it'll say that because the brain is so powerful, and we generally skim-read, we don't read every letter, as we are still able to understand what it says. But in Vedam, it's the exact opposite. If we switch, to this slide, we see here every letter has a place. It has a significance. It has an intonation and a marking which is I would say is the exact opposite of how we generally read English. This took me a long-time. This was my biggest challenge and I actually think that many of us can relate to this and many of us can use this English script, but it's not very intuitive. We first look at it and say, oh it's English, and so you know it's possible. Then we realize that there's so many markings, so many intonations that we don't know, and we must learn them, and it made me realize the level of focus that is required in learning Vedam and the amount of dedication that is needed in practice. Over time, as brother Akshay mentioned, with time, with patience, and consistent practice, I would say it has gotten better over the years.

Sathya: Thank you sister, I agree it is not just time management. Our challenges come in many different facets, intonations, pronunciations, and pitch. The English Vedam script has discrepancies because a lot of us are trained in Roman learning lesson right and then the focus and the practice all of that. The focus of the practice will come from the challenges that we face. Dear brothers and sisters, we would like to share with you a Radio Sai video of Brother Vedanarayan about Swami's expectation on learning Vedas. Let us watch the video.

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Video "...and you know Swami arranged special classes for us just behind the Poornachandra auditorium rooms and for our great good fortune, Bhagawan Himself used to come and sit in the class. He used to make us chant individually, He used to correct our pronunciations, He used to correct our intonations and I remember when each one of us were asked. One of the boys told Swami "I will chant along with all the other boys; I am not confident of chanting alone." Swami said "Nothing doing, I will not agree for that. I want each one of you to learn the Vedas properly and you should chant confidently." That is what Bhagawan said those days."

Sathya: Dear brothers and sisters, have you also ever felt that there are so many challenges? I make so many mistakes, have you ever thought I should just chant in the background. This is the answer from Swami, who said, "I want each one of you to learn the Vedas properly and you should chant confidently."

This really reminds me of my experience when I was in Parthi with two other brothers from Malaysia about six to seven years ago. We excitedly went for the morning *Rudra Abhishekam* in bhajan hall in Prasanthi Nilayam. We were sitting in the first line early that morning. That day the *Rudra Abhishekam* was performed by the chief priest who conducted the Ati Rudra Maha Yagna. After the initial prayers he looked at us and said "Rudram."

I didn't want to be the one who initiates it. I didn't understand whether He wants us to start chanting or what he was saying. Everyone started chanting, we went along with it, and it went on and on and on and with the second *anuvaka*, and the third *anuvaka*, and the fourth *anuvaka*, there was sound. The voices became lesser and lesser and lesser and at one point, it was only me and maybe one or two other brothers chanting. I was having cold sweats thinking I might make a mistake. I didn't know what happened but immediately my only refuge was Swami. Instead of looking at the *Rudra Abhishekam*, I immediately turned and looked at Swami's majestic chair in the bhajan hall and I made a quick prayer. A surrender of all my ego and my thoughts to Swami and then with His Divine blessings, the

Master of masters, the Guru of all Gurus helped me to chant it till the end. I probably was the only constant voice that was chanting the entire time in the bhajan hall. It was a great blessing, but it was also a great stress.

A lot of us have this challenge about chanting Vedam confidently. I hope with this message that Swami has given me, I think all of us can learn and try and be as confident as possible when it comes to chanting Vedam. While we are talking about making mistakes and learning Vedas and all the things, maybe I should ask sister Gayathri. What were the mistakes you were concerned while learning Vedas and how did you correct them?

Gayathri: One of the most common mistakes we make was to speed up. Again, I must remind everyone we were about 9 to 11 years old, and we were overly enthusiastic. We would compete who would learn first. Whoever learned first would get to be the lead, so that was all our focus, and we would just rush through. The first three Oms, would be nice and slow and then as the chant progressed, we would be speeding up like an express train. That was always a challenge, maintaining the speed, especially for me, was always a challenge.

I also think with Vedam chanting, breathing is a big thing, so maintaining the speed is not just being overly enthusiastic but also doesn't help. But with time, the breathing practice helps to maintain the speed. At that age we did not have any control over our breath so we would just speed. And then for choosing the right pitch, we were very lucky that we had Auntie Usha. A lady was teaching us, and we were a group of girls because in a lot of the audios are available in a male voice, teaching in a male pitch, so it was much harder for us to learn the *shruti* in a female pitch. Because if it's too low it becomes very dull, if it's too high it's hard to sustain, you cannot chant with a very high pitch. Should be halfway you know there will be a lot of strain on the voice. Choosing the right pitch, we were very lucky to have that because generally it took us some time to get the right *shruti* for us and then practicing it so that it becomes second nature.

I think everyone here can relate to this when we are leading Vedam in a bhajan hall, when there

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are so many other things happening it's so easy to be distracted by the surroundings that if we don't know the Vedam like second nature it is so easy to lose focus and I experienced that quite a few times during SSE. Somebody would be passing a note or saying something, and my focus would be gone and then I realized that my focus is gone not because they were distracting because I didn't know the Vedam well enough. These are the common mistakes that I made and over time it has gotten better.

Sathya: Thank you very much. Brother Agman how about you? You also started learning in Balvikas, so how was it, what were your common mistakes, and how did you correct them?

Agman: Sai Ram brother. Breathing, posture and flexibility of tongue are three most important factors involved in learning Vedam. Personally, for some time I was unable to get my posture right which involves sitting straight with head high and chin up. I would eventually become lethargic after some time and the intensity of my chanting would fade away. Also, my Veda tutors brought to my notice that for certain words I was unable to roll my tongue properly. I will give example of how rolling of tongue has to happen properly in *Ganapati Atharvashirsha*. We have the very first line "*Bhadram Karnebhih*". In *Karnebhih*, if I were to chant normally without rolling my tongue deep, it can be something like *Karnebhih*, it sounds good, no one can say that it is wrong, but for it to be authentic, we take the tongue, roll it deep and the tongue must come out like a whip-lash to create a wholesome sound – something like *Karenebhih*. The sound of "r" riding on "d" is very important; such intricacies were brought to my notice. I became more aware and after accepting these mistakes, I started correcting them consciously. I started to monitor my posture and try to improve with time. It really helped me in maintaining the intensity of my voice for long and to get the pronunciation right. I started to chant very slowly so that I can first practice the *akshara shuddhi* and then move on to regular chanting speed. Thank you, brother, Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you very much, brother. I think that was a very pertinent lesson. Also, sometimes we take small things for granted and thank you

for highlighting that. How about you Brother Akshay. What were your common mistakes in learning Vedas?

Akshay: I remember very well when we started learning. I mean, when we were looking at the script, we've heard different, you know different intonations that were there. We were actually frequently mixing up everything. We sometimes rather than chanting the high note we will make it flat or when we were supposed to chant it flat, we would make it high. In the beginning, we were looking at the script knowing that it needs to be high but while chanting it was flat or it was low so those were regular mistakes that we were doing. We had to listen and even the double accent we were missing sometimes, we were not chanting it, so you know we were just rushing through. We had to listen and practice, listen, and practice, and sometimes while chanting we would chant as if we were singing a bhajan. All of us know that you can't chant Vedam like you are singing a bhajan.

Take the example of Durga Suktam – I will just do it like we were doing it, we should not chant like that, so it's like *Jatavedase sunava masomamarati yato nidahati vedah*. I think maybe at that time it was worse; it was like a sing-song fashion, and that's not correct, so we had to listen and practice again. Sometimes, I remember our boys were chanting with a feeble voice or sometimes it was not clearly audible so that also was a common mistake and sometimes we were bogged down and trying to be too confident, so we were dragging out the chants and not really chanting it as it's supposed to be done. Those are the common mistakes we were making.

Sathya: Thank you so much, brother, for sharing all this. For all our listeners, the summary of mistakes goes on and on. If we speak, talk about speed we speak about the pitch, the intonation, the singing fashion, the sitting posture, the focus, too slow versus too fast, the breathing, the tongue rolling, and it just goes on and on. Therefore, Swami always says it's about practice, practice, and practice. The more we practice, the more we will realize, and then listening. The more we listen we know that "Oh, this is not how I'm

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supposed to do.” Those are the two biggest correcting methods that will definitely help.

Now we are coming to the end of the first part which is learning Vedas. We’ve given a lot of time to speak about this because I think learning is the first step and most of us who have learned that there is no past tense to this, because learning just goes on and on and on all our life. Vedas are just so vast so that way I think when we start the learning becomes important and learning it right becomes paramount.

Now to summarize this whole process let’s introspect a little bit and I want to ask Brother Agman this question. Brother, why do you think we were first and foremost made to learn Vedas? Why do we need to learn, and why do you think we were chosen to learn brother?

Agman: Everything in this world is happening for a reason, from cosmic movements of galaxies to the rustling of leaves. Each phenomenon and happening has a reason behind it. I would request all the viewers to ask a question to themselves. The question is “Why out of thousands of possibilities on earth did we happen to come across Sri Sathya Sai International Organization and why did we get attracted to or develop interest in Veda learning?” After thorough practical analysis, we will realize that we have got associated with this organization because somewhere in our heart there is a thirst for self-improvement consciously or unconsciously. We realize the fact that there is a better state of existence where there is peace, tranquility, bliss and unconditional love and we want to attain that state of existence which Swami Himself defined as God. Swami said that not only He is God, but we too are God. This is our goal. To reach this destination, we need to go through a transformation process wherein we let go of our ego, anger, jealousy, pride, envy, lust, greed, and all types of demonic tendencies.

In this context, Veda is a transformation process for all of us. That is why each one of us was made or is made to learn Veda or develop interest in Veda by Swami Himself. This way, Swami is providing us a platform to turn our minds away from worldly desires, sensory enjoyment, and temptations, leading us towards the inner core. Veda learning makes us more focused towards

self-audit with an aim to be of service to others without expectations. It is a tool used by Swami to bring all of us on the right path, the path of self-inquiry and journey towards self-realization. Thank you, brother.

Sathya: Thank you so much brother. That really sums up the entire learning process and why we were drawn to learn Vedam at the very beginning. As all of us know, the purpose of the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization is to realize and manifest one’s inherent divinity. I am sure Swami’s reason for making us learn Veda is also to realize and manifest our inherent divinity just as you said brother. Let us pray at His lotus feet to bless us in this journey of learning Vedas to attain self-realization.

Now we will move on to our part two of the webinar which is chanting Vedam. Earlier, I did mention to you I formally learned Vedam in year 2002 when I was in Parthi to do my electives at the Super Speciality Hospital. But the beginnings of the process of chanting Vedam goes way before when I was around nine years old. My mother took me to a Devi temple that’s near my house for a *Maha Kumba Abhishekam* which is a temple consecration ritual. I have always been fascinated by sounds of Vedic hymns, however in a normal visit to a temple the hymns are too indistinct. I could not make up the tune nor the words so when I went for huge *Kumba Abhishekam* ceremony, the chanting was done using microphones and there were so many people chanting. I heard them and when I came home, I could repeat them.

Years passed and I was still able to repeat these two *suktams* that I heard at the temple. When I started learning Vedas in Parthi, I realized that the first and foremost sloka that I was able to chant even before I was formally learning Vedam was *Sri Suktam*, and till today it remains my most favorite chant. Brothers and sisters, let’s ask a self-reflection question – what is your favorite Vedic chant. Is it *Ganapati Prathana*? Is it *Shivopasana*? Is it *Mantra Pushpam*? Is it *Sri Rudram* or any other chant, so which is your favorite Vedic chant? That way we can connect to the next question that I am going to ask Brother Akshay. Brother, what is your favorite Vedic chant?

Akshay: Brother, I'm sure my favorite chant would be the favorite chant of many of us, but the fact is that I was attracted to Vedam chanting through *Sri Rudram*. My favorite has to be the *Sri Rudram* brother. As I mentioned before, it was the Divine energy I felt during the Ati Rudra Maha Yagna in 2006. I can't forget that feeling while the Rudram was chanted so many times during those 11 days and that created a deep desire to learn and chant Vedic mantras so adding to this I would also mention that the whole rhythm of *Sri Rudram* is so mesmerizing that one cannot but feel the presence of divinity while it's being chanted.

Sathya: Thank you very much brother. How about you Sister Gayathri, what is your favorite chant and why?

Gayathri: I have two. Rudram is one and then *Nirvana Shatakam* or *Atma Shatakam* more commonly known as *Shivoham*. This is my favorite chant, one of my favorite chants because when I learned about the story behind it, and I'll just share this with everyone. This was composed by Adi Shankara at the age of eight, so he goes looking for a guru and he comes upon *Govinda Bhagavatpada* and the guru asks him who are you and at the age of eight in response to this question he recites the *Nirvana Shatakam*. *Nirvana Shatakam* is set up is with six verses of four lines each and the three lines of every verse the first three lines of every verse says "I am not this, I am not that, I'm not the mind, I'm not the intellect, I'm not the ego," and then the fourth line of every verse says "I am that eternal bliss, that eternal Shiva." So, at the age of eight to when his guru is asking him who he is, this was his response. I was so inspired that for me this really showed the potential that every young person has, and Swami even says that every young person has the potential to be a Buddha. For me this was so inspiring, and as we contemplate over the years on the different verses of the *Nirvana Shatakam*. It is simply astounding and of course *Sri Rudram* as Brother Akshay mentioned I think it's a favorite for all of us.

Rudram was a special gift from Swami. My sister and I both yearned to learn the Rudram when Swami encouraged all His devotees to learn. So,

learning it was a true gift, and it's just been my all-time favorite.

Sathya: Thank you very much Sister Gayathri. Brother Agman, can I ask you what is your favorite chant and why?

Agman: Sai Ram brother, my favorite chants are two, *Sri Rudram* and *Durga Suktam*, because Swami likes these two very much. Swami incarnated with dual attributes; that of Shiva and Shakti. Since my *Balvikas* days, Swami has been my benefactor. He has been my everything in totality, so it becomes obvious that I develop special attraction towards Rudram and *Durga Suktam* as both these Vedic chants totally describe the attributes of Sathya Sai Avatar. Now to my favorite *Anuvaka* in *Sri Rudram*, as such I love the entire Rudram but after deliberating on this question, I finalized that *Anuvaka 6* must be my favorite as it involves conscious efforts in getting intonations right. Thank you, brother, Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you so much brother. In fact, you know just like Sister Gayathri said, I think for a lot of us Rudram has been a favorite since it is being chanted every day in Sai Kulwant Hall. And a lot of us when we go to Parthi and even when Swami was physically around and now when we are there to pray, that chant is there at the background resonating in our ears; so even for me I think Rudram is something that it's very close to my heart. Moving on, let us share the profound experience or heartfelt experience while chanting Vedam. Can I ask Brother Akshay, what is your most profound experience while chanting?

Akshay: Brother, actually there are many of them but the one that is very close to my heart is *Ekdasha Rudram*, when I and three Sai devotees from Mauritius had the good fortune of chanting the *Sri Rudram* 11 times in Brindavan ashram at Whitefield back in 2014. To make this occasion more special Swami blessed us with the chance of chanting in front of the very same chair that He would use when He would give Darshan in Whitefield.

On that day we got flowers and placed on Swami's chair as we would do for each *Ekdasha Rudram* in Mauritius. In Mauritius we normally take a pause after five *Rudrams*. We chanted five *Rudrams* and then we take a pause and always

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mention the importance of keeping silence in between so that you know we can absorb all the Divine energy that is created while chanting and on that day in Whitefield we did the same thing. As one brother started sharing about this and as he said the word 'silence', a big rose fell from Swami's chair with a big thrust and at that moment, we all felt a Divine energy reaching us and some of us even became emotional. It was so strong. We were all alone in the auditorium and chanting and we were filled with an inexplicable sense of inner joy and were grateful to Swami that He showed us His Divine presence. This experience, brother, created a deep sense of understanding that you know Vedam chanting can connect ourselves to an inner silence which would make us realize and experience our true self. Om Sai Ram.

Sathya: Wow brother, I would say that is truly profound and that really is a message from Swami. As the saying goes you know that in the depth of silence you can hear His voice and always connect with Him. Sister Gayathri, how about you, what was your very profound experience that you got while chanting?

Gayathri: One of the experiences I can remember is that ever since we were young, I and my sister were obsessed with the Ramayana and Mahabharata. We loved the story, the characters but we especially were fascinated and enthralled by the *gurukulam* style of learning. The living with the guru, imbibing everything that the guru does, the constant consistent learning that they went through, we were so fascinated by that, and we really yearned just for a glimpse of such a lifestyle. Would it not be amazing to learn anything in that style? And fast forward to 2010, we were lucky enough to be a part of the Canadian pilgrimage trip to Parthi when Swami had called Canada, and that was also the time Swami was encouraging everyone to learn the Rudram. And we really wanted to learn the Rudram but here at the time at the center there were not that many people teaching Rudram because no one had learned it at the time and we had really yearned to learn.

It so happened that it was my birthday when we landed. One of my gurus had given me the Shruti book as a gift. I believe it was one of the initial

releases of the Shruti book and in that there was *Sri Rudram* and because Swami had encouraged everyone to chant it. We got so lucky that in the Kulwant hall at the time they were chanting Rudram, morning and evening. What we did was we took our Shruti book, and we tried to follow along every day, morning and evening, morning and evening we would chant, and we realized that by the end of the two weeks we were able to chant the complete *Namakam*, my sister and me.

We realized and I must point out here, I never felt that I was learning Rudram for the first time. It felt very familiar to me even at the time, and that now reminiscing feels so amazing that we were given that opportunity. A few years later someone had asked me to teach Rudram and I said sure, and then they asked me how I learnt it. I thought for a second and said that I learned it in the Kulwant hall, and it was only much later when I was reflecting that I realized our good fortune, I mean that the highest blessing of learning *Sri Rudram* in the presence of Sri Rudra Himself. At the time we were so happy to be learning Rudram that we didn't realize the moment and then looking back we were astounded by how incredible this experience was, and so I would say that it is my most treasured experience. That's why I say *Sri Rudram* was a gift.

Sathya: I agree that definitely is heartfelt. Brother Agman, how about you brother, what was your most heartfelt experience?

Agman: Sai Ram brother, listening to Brother Akshay's experience and sister Gayathri's experience, I'm like thrilled. I would like to share one such experience.

Last year in Japan, we had a national sadhana camp in the month of September where almost all Sai devotees from across the nation gathered for a series of spiritual activities, and as a part of that we commenced the sadhana camp with a procession accompanied by Vedic chants. As a part of procession there were some Sai students, and renowned Veda chanters from Japan. We started with *Sri Rudram* and as we were chanting along the way, I think I don't remember the exact *anuvaka*, may be *anuvaka* five or *anuvaka* six, everyone forgot the next word or the next line and there was a pin drop silence, and in following

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them I got influenced and I too went silent for a split second and then I realized what happened. Suddenly within a second, I heard Swami from within me saying, "How can you stop? How can you stop? How can you get influenced because of others? By your surrounding? It means that you do not know *Sri Rudram* fully." It means that, and then I took it very seriously to my heart and resolved that I would guard myself against such possibilities that we might get distracted because of others.

The way they are chanting their pitch and even if they make mistakes I should know how to chant; I must be confident. I must be self-confident of chanting it all alone without getting influenced, so I took this lesson to my heart and as a lesson from Swami Himself that no you need to learn as Vedanarayana sir had told that Swami had told "No, you must learn it the correct way, you must be self-confident", and yeah that was a lesson which I learned.

Sathya: Wow bro, I think all of us are in the same boat you know, and the learning process is always going to come with being confident and not so confident at certain point of time. I think with the Lord of all lords being our guru I'm sure if we surrender ourselves, He will give us the confidence and I think just as you said you know having confidence while learning, having confidence while chanting, and having confidence while we have an experience, and to remember it and to share it with others also very essential and that's the reason we are having this satsang with all of you today.

Dear listeners, brothers and sisters let's have another self-reflection question. What was your most profound experience while chanting Vedam? Did you connect with some of the experiences that we had, or did you have a different set of experiences. Please remember it, cherish it, and share it with people who are around you. I also have to say something that is very close and dear to my heart, for me the most profound and intense experience when I started contemplating on Vedic hymns. After learning for years and years and chanting for quite a few years, I chant daily. After the chanting, I sit down quietly and just contemplate.

One day after chanting *Narayanopanishat*, I sat down and I started contemplating and went into meditation, and one line shook me by its very deep message; the line goes this way. It is from *Narayanopanishat* at the *palan* part, right at the end [*Sarva Veda Parayana Punyam Labhate*]. It goes up at the word *punyam* and it goes down at the word *labhate*. *Punya* means merit, good karma, so that's what *punyam* means and *labhate* means gain, profit or attainment or even receiving. *Punyam* is up when we chant it and *labhate* is down when we receive it. What it says is, so intricately the sound has been put up and down where when it goes up, it's about when we are looking up at the merits and the good karma; it always is held up and when we receive something, that humility and all that needs to come with it, the gain and profit should always be while we are down and receiving things. So, for me it was a very profound lesson. It's not in learning and chanting, it's also about experiencing the life that comes with Vedas.

There are so many chants and so many times when we chant, they're small things that makes a lot of profound meaning that's why Swami always says "Vedam has the knowledge of everything and the wisdom of the entire universe." That is why it is very sacred and it's very essential for everybody to learn irrespective of caste, creed, nationality, gender, and everything. From there let's summarize and move on to part three of today's webinar which is on experience. Brother Agman, you are the Veda resource person for Zone 5, and you've been teaching Vedam in Japan. Please share your teaching experiences and anything that you would like to share in that sense.

Agman: Sai Ram, I have started to teach Vedam after moving to Japan a couple of years ago. Before I moved to Japan, Dr. Raman who is also a Sai student used to teach Vedam in Kanazawa Sai centre in Japan. Also, he would conduct Veda workshops in the entire nation for the benefit of all the devotees. He led the Veda chanting movement in Japan; with Japanese language being vastly different from Sanskrit it is not an easy task for Japanese devotees to learn Vedam. But, because of their love for Swami and excellent teaching of Raman brother and a few more able

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teachers, Japanese devotees have set an example in front of the global Sai community that despite of language difference, effective Veda learning is possible. It so happened that a year before I moved to Japan, Raman brother relocated back to India. Upon my arrival in Japan, in Raman brother's absence, I was asked to teach Vedam in Kanazawa's Sai center. It was my first teaching experience, and I was a newbie at teaching not having enough skills to cater to the inquisitiveness of Japanese devotees in Veda learning.

During my visit to Parthi the very same year, I asked Sanjay Sahani sir that I have been asked to teach Vedam in Japan and I do not think I can teach as good as Raman brother. To this, Sanjay Sahani sir replied saying that when Ekalavya could become an excellent archer just by installing an idol of Dronacharya and accepting him as his guru, why don't you install Swami in your heart and make Him teach you the effective ways of tutoring Veda classes? Then, I started practicing more and more as I had to be good at what I preach, and Swami guided me as to how I can try to fill the shoes of Raman brother at Veda teaching in Japan. I am still in the process of improving myself and it is a long journey ahead.

As my suggestion to all Young Adults Veda teachers, I have a few points to share. We must request the learners to listen to the standard audio available repeatedly, get their posture right and conduct a couple of minutes of deep inhaling and exhaling exercises. Also, reinforce to the learners that they must connect to their chosen deity of worship while chanting so that learners can develop a one-on-one connection with their chosen deity. It can be Lord Shiva, Ganesha, or Jesus, or can be any deity of their belief. Then we can use standard teaching protocols. I am sure that all of you are aware of it, so I will skip it. Like recommending learners to soak their throat by drinking water in small quantity on a regular basis while chanting so that the throat does not get dried up, and then it is very important that we end the session with the *Kshama Prathana*.

Sathya: Thank you very much brother. That was useful for all of us. Sister Gayathri, how about you? Have you taught Vedam before and if yes,

please share your teaching experience with all of us?

Gayathri: Yes brother, I teach Vedam and bhajans at the center. It's interesting you asked me about teaching because I feel it has been a very personal journey for me. Teaching came into my life at a very pivotal moment, I would say I was going through a lot of personal challenges and had lost my self-confidence and self-worth and my journey with teaching was more than that of the students. I felt Swami was really holding my hand and guiding me to have more confidence and more faith, week after week. I could really see that, and incidentally in the *Nirvana Shatakam* (chant) it says that we are not the guru, we are not the teacher, we are not the student, and here I was feeling so scared that I'll be the teacher teaching a class of students and I didn't feel qualified. But Swami was telling me that 'no, actually you are the student. I am here to teach you some confidence and to have more faith'. See brother, the reason I wanted to share this is because I feel many of us in the Sai world can relate to being thrown in the deep end with the roles or the positions we take.

We may not always feel like we are qualified and sometimes we may not feel confident in what we know. But in my case, for example, I learned Vedam in Group 2 of SSE and now I'm teaching the same Vedam class that I was a student in. It was Swami who taught me Veda in Group 2, Swami who introduced me to that and now it's Swami that wants me to teach and when I realized that He was the one who was giving me the opportunity to actually give back, it was such a profound lesson in faith and how to be confident in what we've gained because at the end of the day I realized that we don't need to know, we don't need to be scholars. We can just share what we know and that is enough, that is okay. Teaching has been a very personal journey for me. I would say between singing bhajans and doing Vedam, teaching has single-handedly been the most fulfilling experience in my life. It came at a time when I would say I desperately needed that. It was a force of healing in my life.

Sathya: Thank you very much sister. It's so true, He's the one who is in everything, the person who

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is teaching, the person who's listening, the person who's learning, the person who's chanting at the end of the day.

Brother Akshay, we know that you said at the beginning itself that you have been teaching many Young Adults and adults in Mauritius. In this process of learning and chanting Vedam, what are your experiences and what are the tips you always teach students?

Akshay: Sai Ram brother, sometimes, I would feel like they don't have enough breath to chant the long mantras. I would always tell them if they can use simple breathing techniques that Swami has taught us, they can read about that and increase the span of time that they can retain their breath that would really help. Actually, some of them practiced it and they've given me the feedback that it really helps, and as Brother Agman was saying that to sit straight with the spine erect gives you a very good control when you chant. Then the whole voice and your body vibrates, it's not only coming from the throat or from the nose. So, while you're sitting straight the voice will come from the navel and so it's very important because then you will have a full-throated voice with lots of confidence. Those are the tips.

I would also tell them that while chanting they should not look right or left up and down. They can close their eyes if they know the Veda by heart or they can focus. They can focus on what they are reading, or they can focus on Swami's picture but never to look left and right not move their heads because that will break their concentration and the last point, I would always tell them not to bother about what's happening in the surroundings. Just concentrate and leave everything, leave people around and just focus on your chanting so in that process the learning becomes faster, even if it takes time to practice listening but when we adhere to these rules it becomes easy. Sai Ram brother.

Sathya: Thank you brother, thank you very much. I mean tips of teaching our students is very essential because I think when we get some of these tips there's so much of experience between so many of these teachers and if we can all share

the teaching experiences and learning experiences, I think it'd be very beneficial for everyone.

How about you sister Gayathri, do you have any tips that you use in teaching your students, or the ones that your teachers have taught you?

Gayathri: Yes, definitely brother. There's quite a few, I'll split it into two answers. One is the technical side. I'll start with that.

The first thing is to learn the script well. I think I spoke about the notation before, and I'll say it again. Learning the notations just makes it a lot easier to follow along, and then the second thing would be how Brother Akshay demonstrated. If the teacher is chanting one line, to repeat it twice that really helps to follow with the rhythm of chanting and then repeating it slowly and stopping when you make a mistake and going back to practice chanting. To do it as often as possible. And then lastly, I would say to record the chanting, that helped me a lot. I would record my own chanting and play it back and especially it helped me to control speed. When my parents or my guru would say you were speeding up, I would say no I was trying to pay attention to not speeding up, how am I speeding up? But then in the recording I would hear very clearly that I was in fact speeding up, so recording really helps.

I would say the experiential side of it to give ourselves time. I think we live in an age of goals and targets, which is the currency and it's important that with Vedam to just take the time. If it takes many years, so it takes many years. Chanting, itself, is the blessing and the gift, so there's no need to rush to finish in x number of *suktams* and so on.

Sathya: Thank you very much Sister Gayathri. Brother Agman, you've been teaching also for the past few years, and I know that you come from very different background teaching very different language and all of that, so can you share your tips?

Agman: Brother, I don't teach any different language. I don't know Japanese. I teach in English and one of the devotees here translates what I teach in English to Japanese but while teaching, there are a few tips which I always try to share.

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Number one, I always recommend learners to listen to the Veda mantra with closed eyes more often as by mere listening it can be learned excellently. Number two, listen to the audio with reading the text in your mind and not aloud. Number three, after finishing number one and number two, step one and step two, number three will be the learner must chant along with the audio with eyes on the text all the time. Number four, by now learners must be quite familiar with the pitch and frequency of the mantra. Therefore, it is the right time to focus on *akshara shuddhi* and intricate intonations which are difficult to comprehend while chanting at a normal pace for this.

They must start chanting with the speed two times slower than the normal chanting and after doing this step, number five, keep practicing till your tutor is satisfied with your chanting. Above all, the most important tip is always to dedicate the effort of Veda chanting and learning to Swami as He is the doer and witness, both. Thank you, brother, Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you very much bro. I think between the three of you, you've shared so many ideas that I am just amazed just listening to all those tips. We spoke about so many of the things that we always tell our students about chanting and repeating twice, chant slowly and chant repeatedly, listen repeatedly. And practice breathing, sitting prior *pranayama* the control of breath control of tongue. There's just so many things that all of us must remember and keep repeating it again and again until we perfect it.

Vedas are so impactful in all our lives and that's the main reason that we are all here today sharing our experiences and in fact not even the word experience here will be sharing our true joy with all of you. So. I'd like to have the next self-reflection question. How has Veda impacted your life? I'm sure for all of us Vedam has immensely benefited or impacted in many ways. Let me ask Sister Gayathri first; sister, can you tell us what was the greatest benefit of chanting Vedam for you?

Gayathri: One of the things that I will share is when I was young, I was an overly active child, quite restless I would say. I wouldn't be able to sit in one place quietly for too long and then once I started learning Vedam all I wanted to do was to

hold the microphone and hear my voice amplified. I was so fascinated by that, so fascinated by the externals. I was very fortunate to have gurus who really focused on discipline and my parents who completely supported them. My gurus in this endeavor, I think they've been trying to get me to be disciplined as well. If I wanted to learn Veda, to lead Veda with my gurus, that meant that I had to show a level of calmness, a level of responsibility, a level of focus. Otherwise they wouldn't allow me to lead. In fact, I didn't get a chance to lead as often because I didn't show these qualities. Then slowly but surely, I started becoming calmer, and steadier.

I could see the transformation slowly and I feel that was the best thing they could have done for me, which is to tell me that you don't get the chance to lead unless you develop these qualities. I realized that eventually when I did get a chance to lead more frequently, I wasn't ecstatic. I just felt I was very content. I was much happier, very steady and much calmer than I was before, and I realized in the spiritual path we need a level of self-awareness and self-reflection to continue improving. I feel so lucky that I got that training through Vedam chanting from such a young age. I am sure you can appreciate the importance of a good guru in this endeavor and parents who are committed to that internal growth. I would say Vedam has impacted my life in every way. I still see the influence of all that training.

Sathya: Thank you very much sister. Brother Agman, how has Veda benefited you or impacted you?

Agman: Sai Ram brother, frankly I would like to admit that I have a very fickle mind and my focus span is very short, and even now I struggle to sit and perform a task with extended focus maybe for one hour or two hours. It is like working for a Ph.D. We have to write articles and make submissions and all that, and I have been trying my best till now like to sit for extended duration, complete writing articles. Bro, it's my duty, it's my work but I have been struggling and very recently I was praying and appealing to Swami within for the reason? Why is it happening? Am I not loving my work? Am I not liking my work? If so then, why am I here? Why have you brought me here?

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Then, it became clear that it's not that I don't like my work, I don't love my work. Thing is that there are some tendencies which we carry from our previous births, so my mind being a fickle is a kind of tendency which I have. It's not a thing which I have developed over a period in this life-time. Then, how to steady my mind? I realized and then I started listening to Veda, not chanting; just listening to it more and more and it has now started to help me to focus, at least like it increased the span of my focus and I can see the results. This is the fresh experience which I have had in my life.

Sathya: Thank you very much brother for sharing. Brother Akshay, how about you? What was the impact of Veda in your life?

Akshay: Sai Ram brother, Veda chanting has impacted me in my life a lot. I mean in terms of health, in terms of work, and everything, but I would really like to relate to an incident that happened to a ten-year-old boy to make the point.

A boy in Mauritius was playing at home, and he accidentally fell from the roof of his house. This happened I think in 2014. His head hit the edge of a very sharp rock on the ground, and he laid unconscious and was bleeding profusely. His brother was there and saw the whole thing. He was brought to the hospital and admitted to the ICU. They did the head scans and other tests. His eyes were open, but he was not responding to anyone, so after doing the tests all that the doctors revealed was that he had a skull fracture and they needed to wait for 24 hours to know what to do. At this point, his parents were crying their hearts out. Just imagine the parents, with their child with head fracture. I have two children and I can imagine the pain, crying and helpless, not knowing what to do to save their child.

The boy's mother being a Sai devotee, personally related the story to me. I asked Baba at that time, what can she do to save her son? It seems at that very time she heard a voice in her mind telling her; "do Rudram, do Rudram." She heard that so at that point she didn't know what to do and she knew that we were doing some Vedam chanting. She was not too familiar with that, but she had the phone number of one of the brothers that belonged to our Vedam group. She called him

immediately and asked him if we could do Vedam. Chanting Rudram to pray to Swami to save her son. He said yes and she quickly came from the hospital, came to our Center and she brought a picture of her son with her, and we asked her to place it near Swami's lotus feet.

During the chanting session this photo actually fell. I still remember, it fell three times on a small candle that was placed close to it to blow it off and every time we had to light it up again. As we finished and concluded with "Om shanthy, shanthy, shanthy", The father's phone rang, it was the hospital. Filled with trepidation, he answered.

It was the nurse from the hospital, and she told him "Glad to let you know that your son regained consciousness and was making a lot of noise in the ICU. It's not acceptable. You have to come soon and see him because he wants to see his mom and dad."

We gave the parents some vibhuthi and they later applied. She told me that she applied it on the head and the body. As soon as she went there, the son was asking her where he was and what happened. He could not remember anything. The next day tests were carried out brother and to the doctor's amazement, there was no skull fracture. It was a true miracle. Just imagine the reports were saying there was a fracture and the next day there was no fracture, and the boy could go home. The mom was so grateful to Swami. Six years have passed and the little boy, I know him has grown and is sleeping very well. In fact, his mom told me that he had asthma from very young age and after this incident even the asthma disappeared. Brother, that's the impact and power of Veda. Sai Ram.

Sathya: Om Sai Ram brother, what more wonderful experience and story can be there to know the benefit and the impact of Vedas. It just goes all in all directions and it's beyond what we understand. In view of time of course we've come to the end of our webinar and maybe I will ask one last advice or sharing to all learners from all our speakers. Let me start with Brother Agman, can you give us one last advice?

Agman: Sai Ram brother, I would like to say that whenever we sit to chant Vedic hymn and mantras; we must devote a couple of minutes in

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reminding ourselves that we are undertaking this endeavor to strengthen our connection with God, to realize that all animate and inanimate things around us are the manifestation of the same Divine principle. If this becomes the purpose of Veda chant, then for sure we will experience happiness beyond comprehension while chanting. Thank you, Jai Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you so much. Sister Gayathri?

Gayathri: Sure brother Sathya, for beginner Vedam learners I will just summarize with these four points. I'll say, show up, be engaged, practice and stay the course and let Vedam take care of the rest. Thank you so much, Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you so much sister, it was really pleasure having you. Brother Akshay?

Akshay: As Swami teaches all of us about the three P's you know: purity, patience, perseverance. I think if we apply these teachings in learning Vedam chanting, I'm sure we will all succeed. As mentioned before, I had many challenges while learning it and it took me a very long time to correct and improve my pronunciations but believe me brothers and sisters, the effort is worth it. The joy and satisfaction that one can experience if we diligently make the effort to learn and chant correctly and share the same as brother and sister were saying. Share the same with others, I would feel that this would redeem our lives with this. Om Sai Ram.

Sathya: Thank you so much brother and my last sharing will always be connected when we chant the proper rhythm. In fact, sometimes we do it so mechanically and so quickly like you know if we start Vedam for instance we start to end. That's what the speed has been, that's what the looking forward is but that should not be the mentality. Whether it's a short chant or a long chant, when we start chanting, it is essential that we are connected and experience the chant and that energy is the one that will go out to the universe and be back to us. So that, for me, has been the greatest message for myself and what I would like to share with all of you.

Now I'm going to end only with Swami's message and if we can look at our slide at the front, Swami has said that it's very essential to remember "The Vedas belong to those who value them, who are moved by thirst for spiritual uplift, who desire to practice them and who have faith that they will benefit by that practice." This is from *Sathyam, Shivam, Sundaram* Volume 2, and the next message is from *Sathya Sai Speaks* Volume 20. Swami says "The Vedas seek to promote good thoughts, eliminate ideas of evil and help mankind to live a good life. Hence, they must be cherished and fostered. If the injunctions given in the Vedas are followed by mankind, they will be freed from all afflictions. Most of our troubles have arisen because we have forgotten the Vedas."

Dear brothers and sisters, always remember that we should not forget Vedas. Swami says Veda is the richest of all and nothing beyond. The Veda chanting has no differences of caste creed or community. Let us learn, chant, and experience the vastness, the richness, and the ultimate message of Vedas for self-realization. If you have any questions dear brothers and sisters listening to all our satsangs; I am sure that you know you have your own experiences that you want to share, you have questions that you want to ask, please email us at yaveda@sathyasai.org. Jai Sai Ram.

With that, I'm going to move on to the announcement that today's webinar has come to an end and the next webinar is on 6th February. Brothers and sisters let's have a one-minute collective prayer for silence of the pandemic that's happening in the world. Let's pray that through all the Vedic recitations that we are doing, all the chantings that we are doing, all the silent prayers that we are saying, everything goes to the universe and let everything be in peace and let prosperity prevail and let self-realization be our ultimate goal. Thank you, Swami, for guiding us through this process and allowing us to learn Vedam. It was only You and You only Swami who has given us this opportunity. We surrender our lives to Your lotus feet Swami. Jai Sai Ram!



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