



SSSIO-USA National SSE Enrichment
Who is Driving
SSE Group 4 Breakout Room 1
July 17, 2021

Exercise Flowchart



H Human value / sub value to practice

A Age appropriate

B Beneficial

I Involve family or community

T Time allocated

S Spiritual Principle



Create one or more life application



Check if the spiritual principle resonates with the story



Check if the Letters of acronyms in place with your life application



Add rest of the components and create a lesson plan

Exercise Flowchart

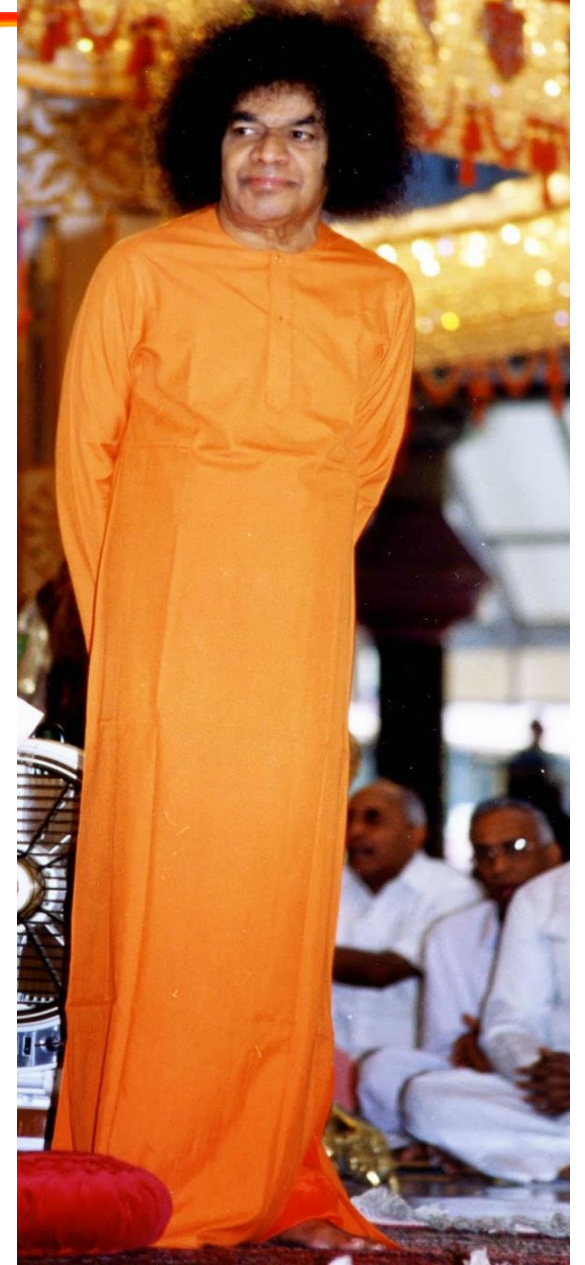


Please note down your takeaway from this exercise

Also, please feel free to submit your Life Application for the stories using the Google Form link below.

This can be done after the workshop as well.

<https://tinyurl.com/SSE-Life-Application>



Journey with Swami



Value: Right Action

Sub-Value: Surrender, Patience

Spiritual Value: Develop a one-to-one relationship with Swami

Quote:

“If You look to Me, I look to You” (Thought for the Day; Prashanthi Nilayam)



Journey with Swami



Mom: Hi Maya. What are you doing?

Maya: Hi Mom. I am just thinking about how happy I am that you and Dad have decided that I am finally ready to drive on my own. It feels like I have been waiting forever for this day!

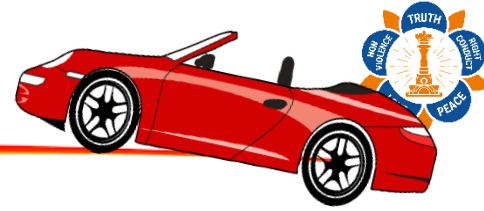
Mom: I know you are excited, but you know, Maya, while on my walk today I heard a nice story by Geeta Ram Aunty that I think will help you be a better driver. Can I share it?

Maya (uninterested): Um, sure mom.

Mom: So Geeta Aunty, had two twin boys, used to fight to sit in the passenger seat, in their younger days. In an effort to diffuse the situation, Aunty said the passenger seat is for Swami. That helped settle the fights, but when Aunty went to see Swami he spoke to her about keeping the seat empty and not filling it with things. If she truly believed that Swami was sitting in the passenger seat (as she was teaching her kids) then she shouldn't put anything there right. She must keep the seat open for Swami.



Journey with Swami



Mom: Maya, I have been praying to Swami to be with you as you drive, and I felt He answered my prayers through her talk. So, Maya, henceforth I am going to require that you try to think of Swami as sitting in the passenger seat and keep the seat empty. Think of it this way....he is the eternal companion who has a brake on his side and can stop the car whenever needed.

Maya: Okay mom. If it makes you feel better, I will do it...

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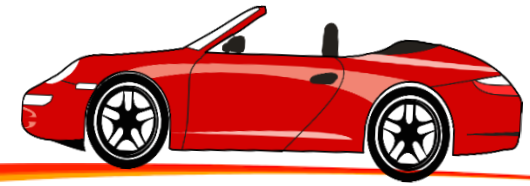
Maya starts driving and is a little more nervous than she anticipated.

Maya: (looking at empty passenger seat): Okay Swami, I promised Mom that I would think of you as sitting here, so let's go for our first drive Swami...

The car ride goes smoothly.



Journey with Swami

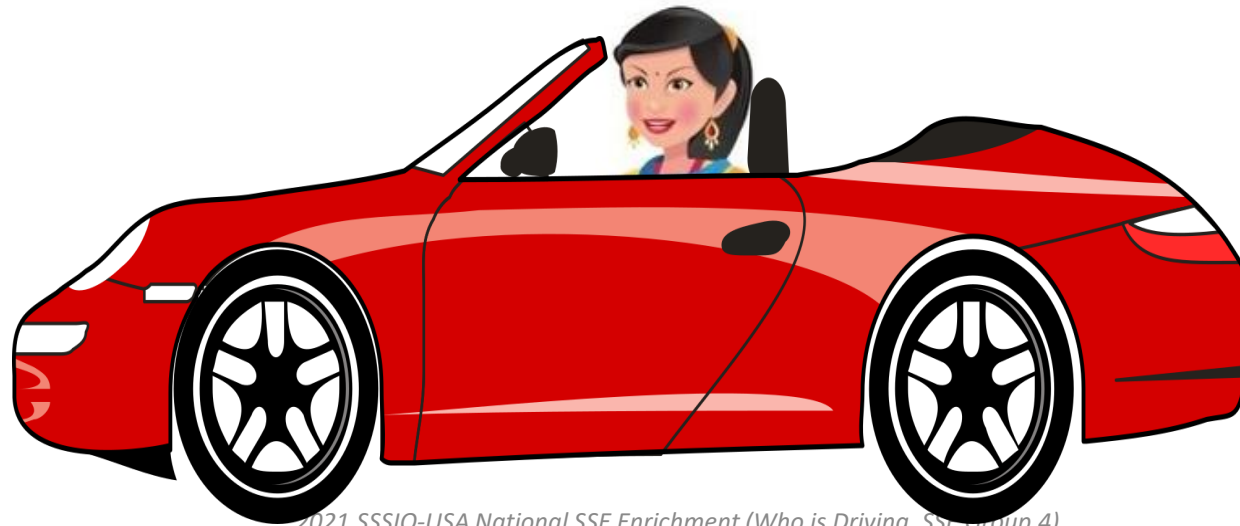


(And as the days rolls by Maya gets more comfortable driving and slowly lets mom's advice drift to the back of her mind. A few weeks later, she is in a hurry and puts her backpack on the passenger seat and forgets about "Swami's presence" ...)

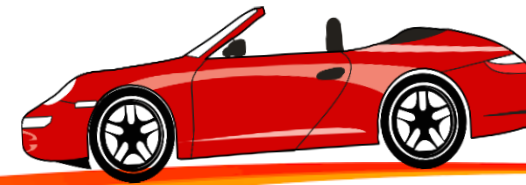
Maya: Oh my gosh I am so late. I better take the highway to save myself a few minutes.

(As she is driving, she is trying to merge lanes and forgets to look in her blind spot and almost crashes the car. The other driver honks very loudly at her and Maya is completely shaken. She pulls over and reflects)

Maya: That was so close! Swami! I forgot to make space for you! I am so sorry Swami. I won't make this mistake again.



Journey with Swami



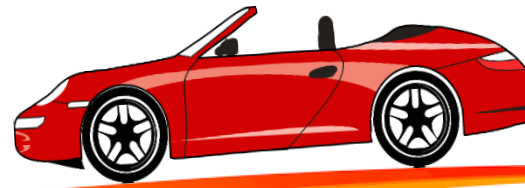
With new conviction, she dutifully saves Swami a seat in her car everyday becomes evermore aware of who is driving. As she does this, she starts to have conversations with Swami about her every day life asking her to help Him with her studies, her social interactions and forms her own connection with Swami her eternal companion and the true driver of her life.



Hi Swami. Ready to go to school? I have a huge exam today.

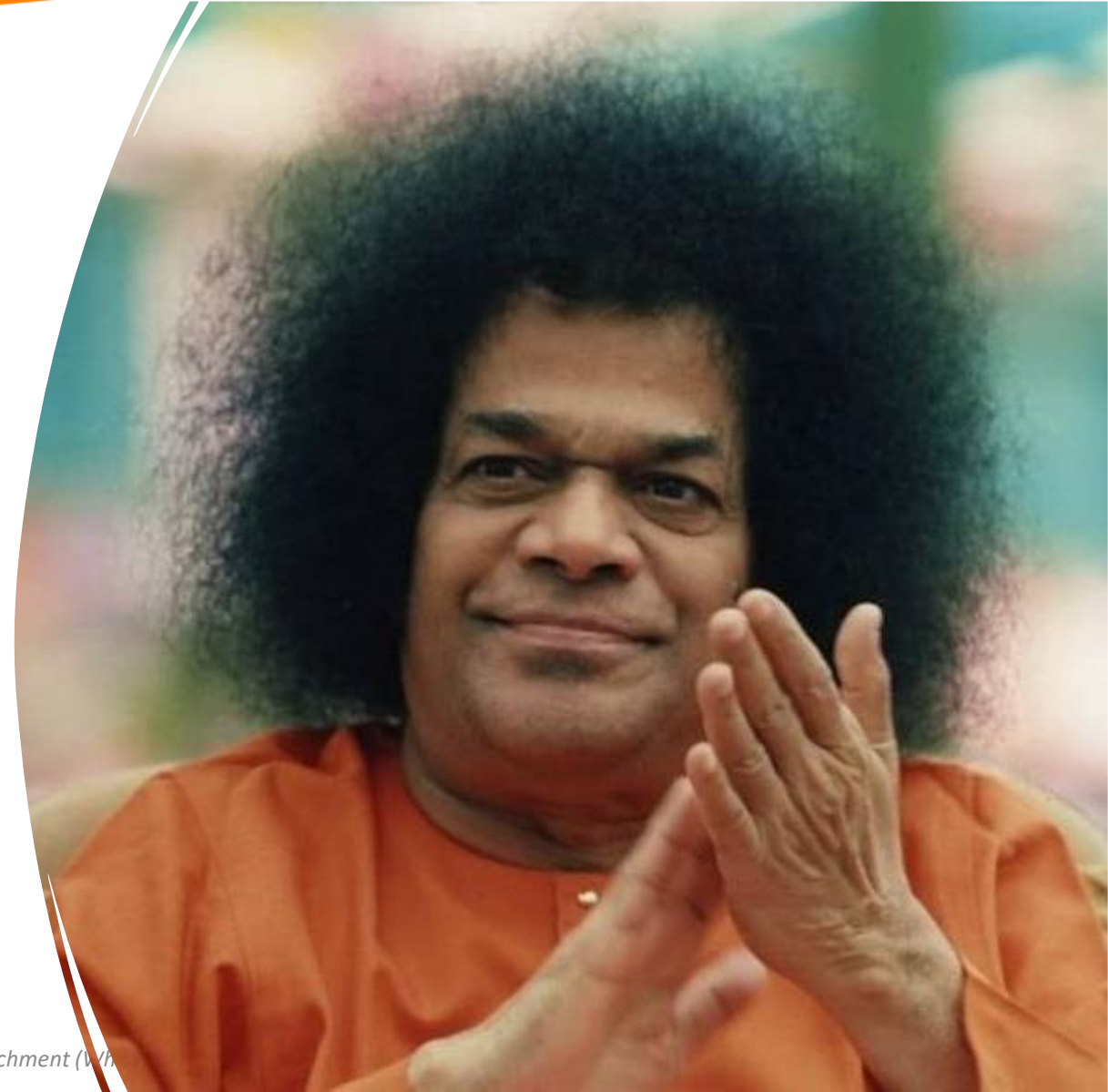
Hey Swami, could you help me with that too?

Journey with Swami



Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think you can relate to Maya's experience?
2. How would you have reacted to her mom's request?
3. How did introspection help Maya?
4. Can you think of a situation where you had to have a conversation with Swami about something critical?
5. How does "If You Look to Me, I look to You" relate in this story.





SSSIO-USA National SSE Enrichment
God is the Driver - Life Application
SSE Group 4 Breakout Room 2

July 17, 2021

God is the Driver



Value : Truth

Sub Value : Faith

Spiritual Principle:

*To achieve anything in this world,
self - confidence is the first step.*

Quote :

**“Faith in God. Faith in yourself.
That is the secret of greatness”**

- Divine discourse to teachers Prashanthi
Nilayam, Aug 14, 1983



God is the Driver



I was asked by Bhagavan to take up assignment as the Principal of the Whitefield College, affiliated to Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.



Working with Swami is like working with fire. One needs perfection of the highest order to live with the epitome of perfection. I was nowhere near that standard. I know of people who had lived with Him and were burnt, due to their inability to cope with His expectations. I hesitated a lot to take up the job. I was in no doubt that I lacked that kind of devotion to be in Swami's divine presence. But Swami had commanded that I join. I am sure that Swami knew my predicament.

God is the Driver



I had enjoyed considerable happiness in serving the mission of Bhagavan as the State President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organizations. That afternoon, I had my lunch and was unable to sleep even for a little while. I was rolling from side to side, unable to come to a final answer to Swami's call.

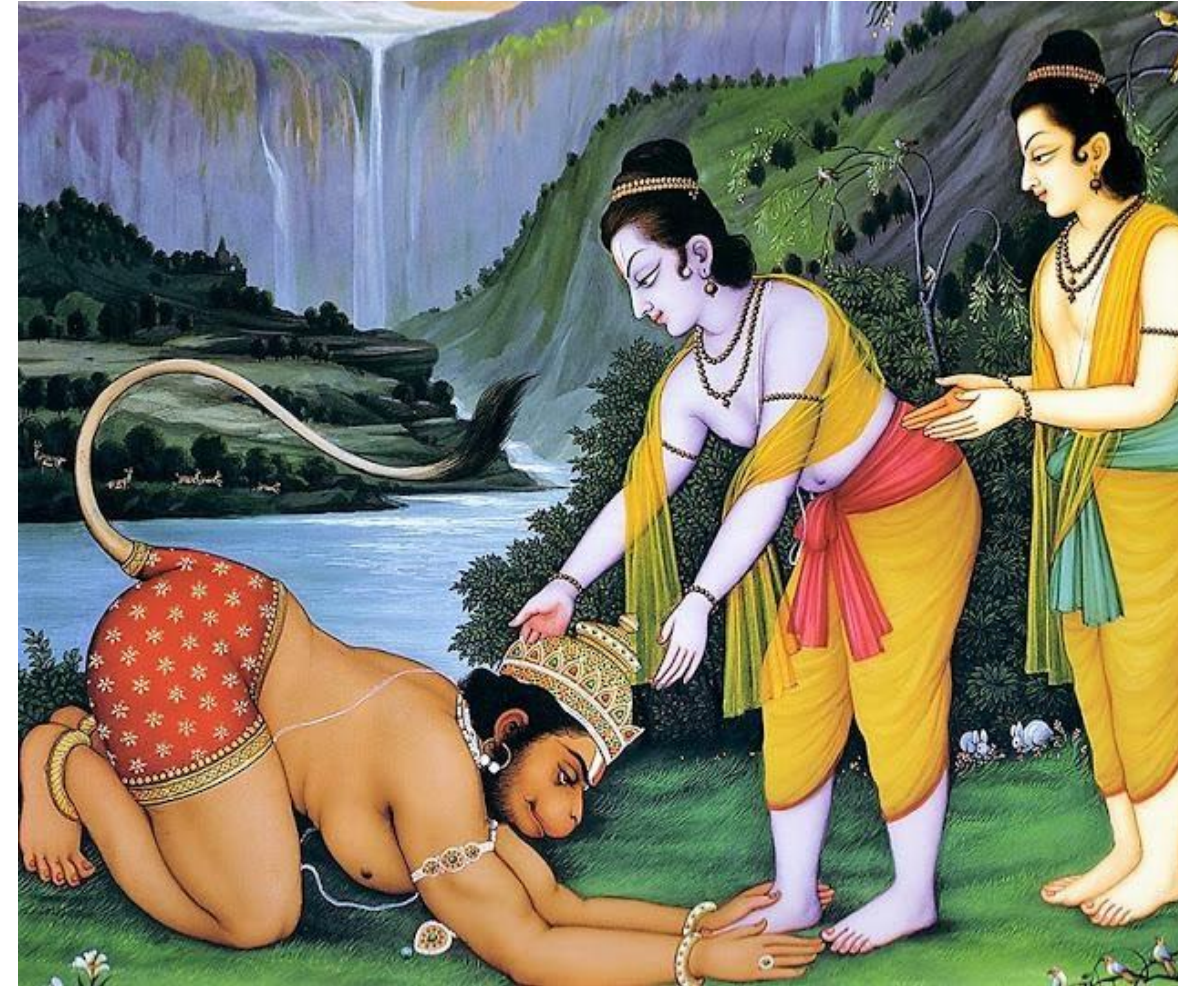
That evening, Swami, in His conversations to the chosen few at Kodai, narrated some incidents from the sacred epic Ramayana. He asked me to translate the same. He started recounting the conversation between Lord Rama and the vanara kings and the soldiers when Rama and Lakshmana were in search of Mother Sita.

God is the Driver



Rama was asking the vanara kings as to who was ready to accept the assignment of crossing the ocean to go to Lanka, the kingdom of Ravana and find out the whereabouts of Mother Sita.

When Lord asked Hanuman, he alone, of all the warriors there, immediately agreed to undertake the task. Then Rama asked Hanuman, “Do you have the experience of crossing the ocean? Have you seen Sita before?”

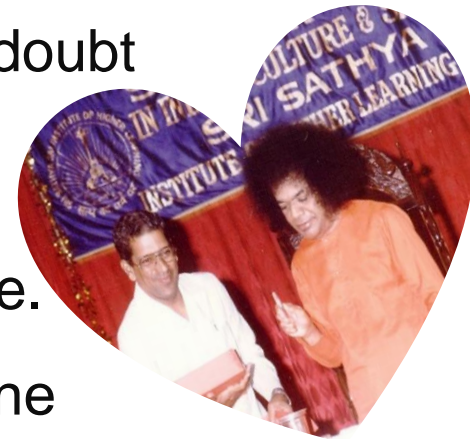


God is the Driver



Hanuman replied in the negative for both the questions. When Rama asked how he had agreed to do the job, Hanuman replied, “Lord! I have not crossed any ocean, nor do I have any knowledge of Mother Sita. But I am confident that when you assign to me the task of searching for Mother Sita, you would give me the strength to cross and the knowledge to find her out. Why should I have any doubt about doing the work?”

As Swami was narrating this story, He looked at me with a mischievous smile. Swami’s message to me was straight and unambiguous. I accepted the Divine Mission

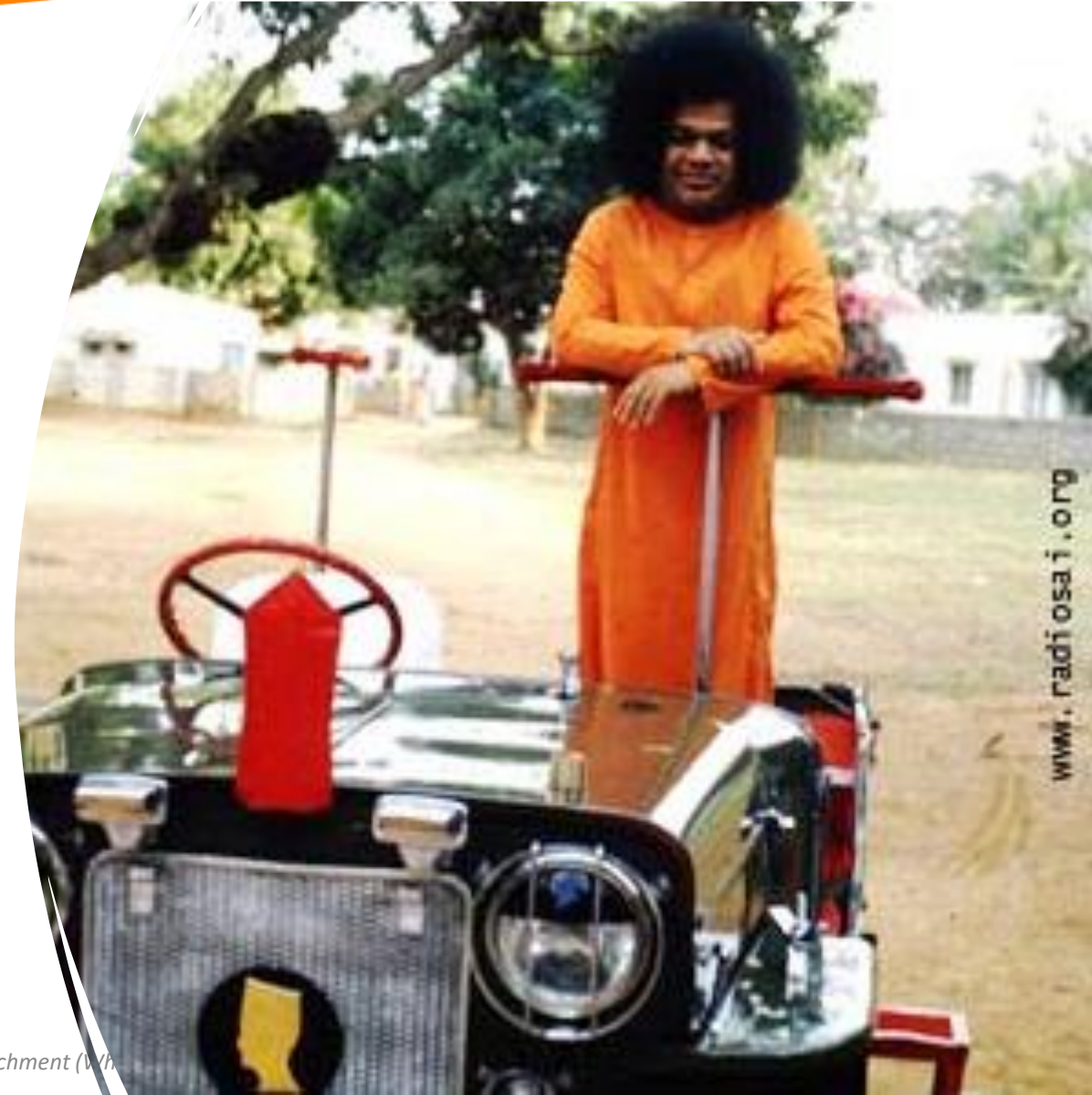


God is the Driver



Discussion Questions:

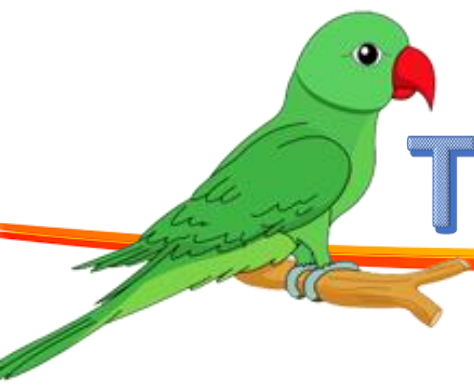
1. How did faith help Hanuman?
2. How can you tell when Swami has asked you to do something ?
3. What attitude(s) should one have when undertaking any task?



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SSSIO-USA National SSE Enrichment
Tread Gently- Life Application
SSE Group 4 Breakout Room 3
July 17, 2021



Tread Gently

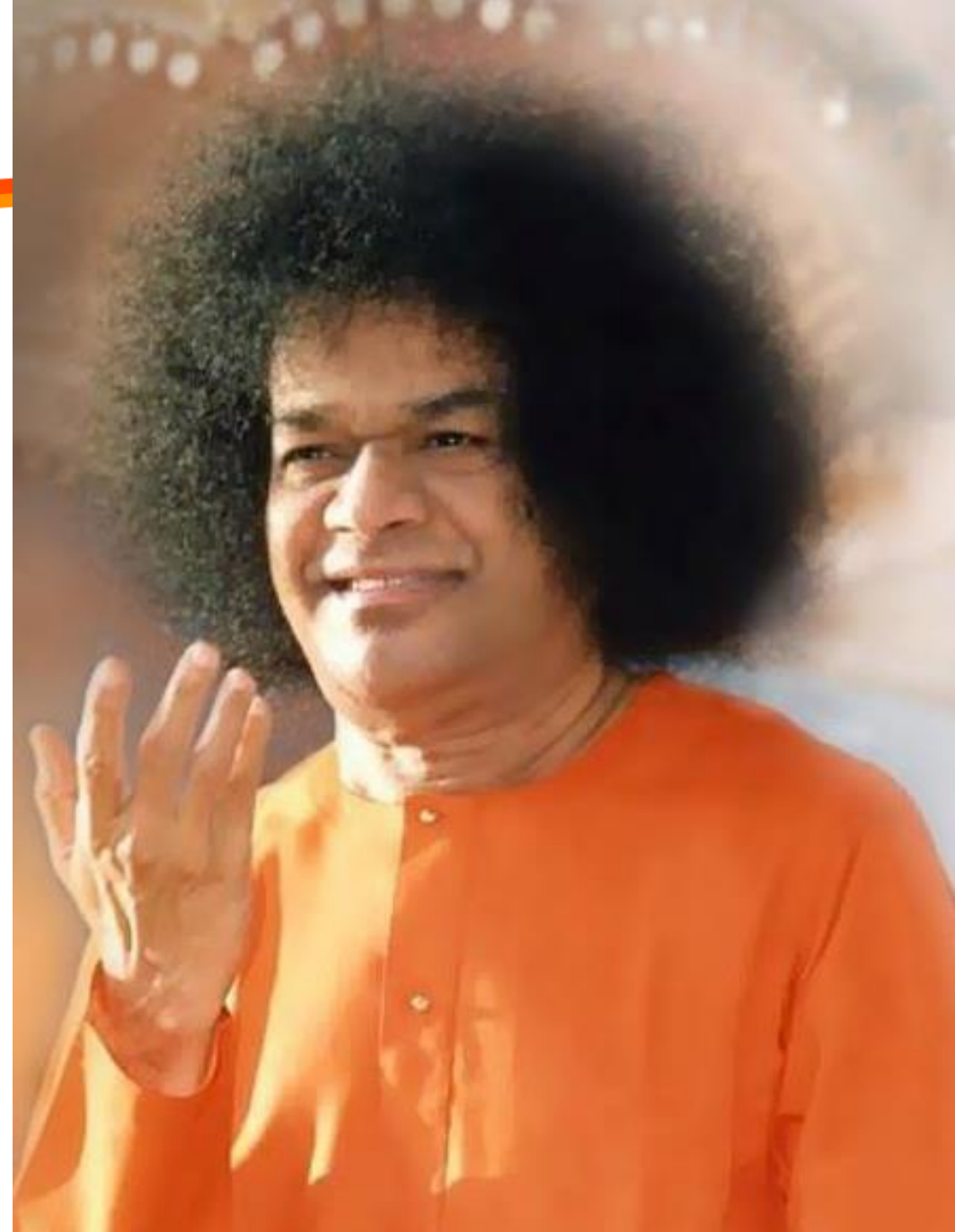
Value: Right Action

Subvalue: Responsibility

Spiritual Value : To understand that God and Creation are one and the same. To act reverentially and responsibly.

Quote

Whatever man seeks to achieve, he has to rely on Nature. Nature is not anyone's private property. It belongs to God. Without the grace of the Lord no one can enjoy the benefits of Nature. Not realizing this truth, some people embark on the exploitation of Nature, out of arrogance and self - conceit. This is highly misconceived. ~SSS, Vol 22Disc. 17

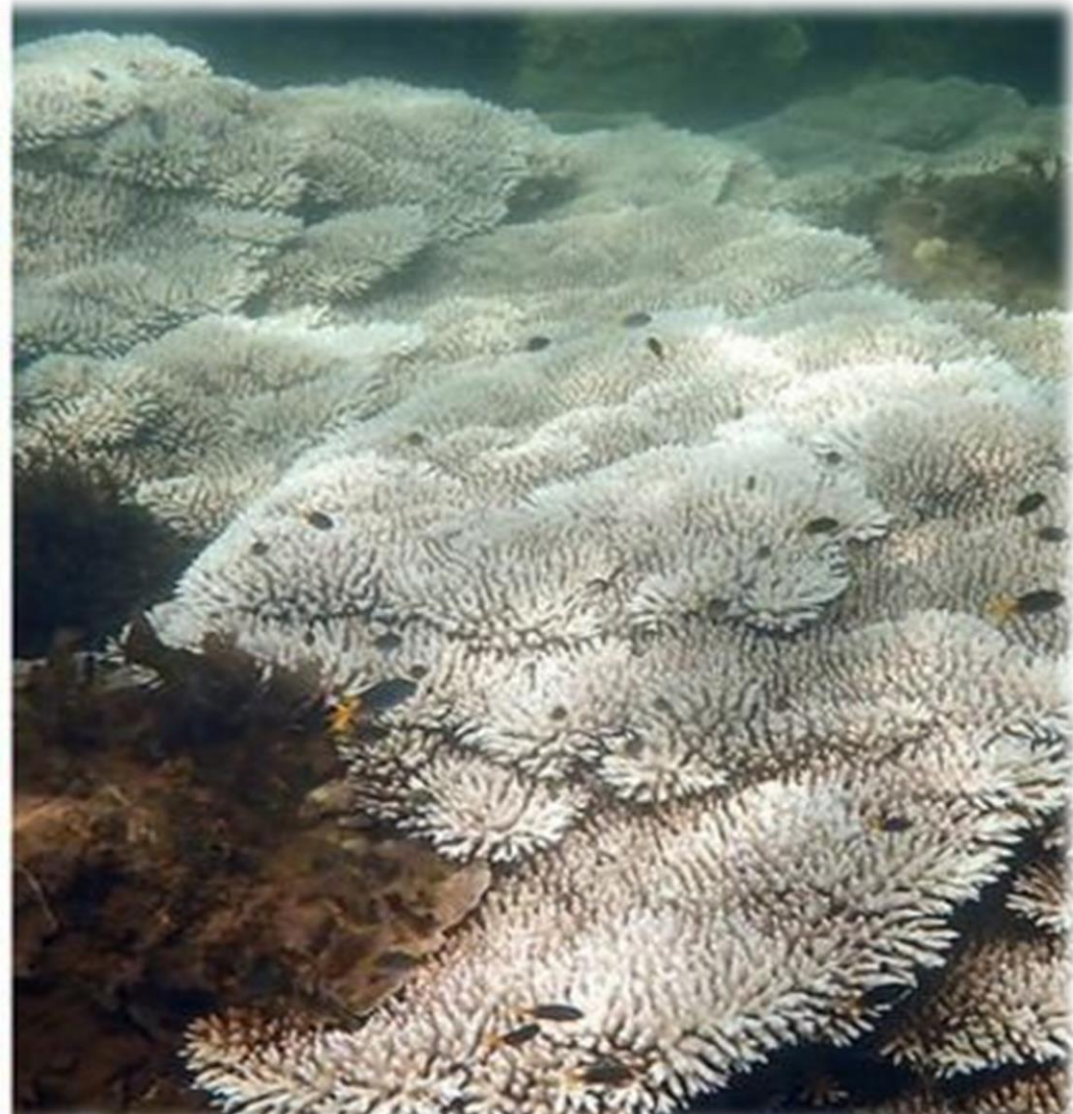




Tread Gently



- Coral Reef Before and After





Tread Gently



CELL PHONE TOWER AND ITS CAUSES





Tread Gently

-Be Careful how we treat god's creation

Who gave the wonderful colors to the feathers of the peacock?

Who gave the red beak to the green parrot?

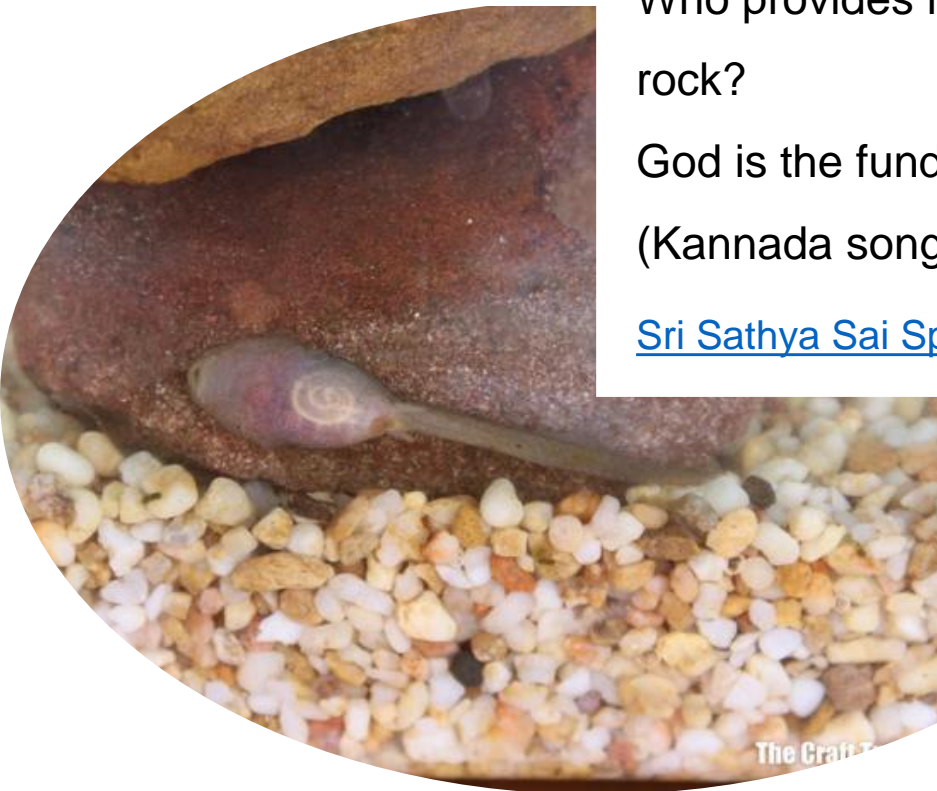
Who planted the tree on the mountaintop and watered it?

Who provides food to sustain the tadpole in the crevices of a rock?

God is the fundamental basis of all creation.

(Kannada song)

[Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol 29 \(1996\)](#)



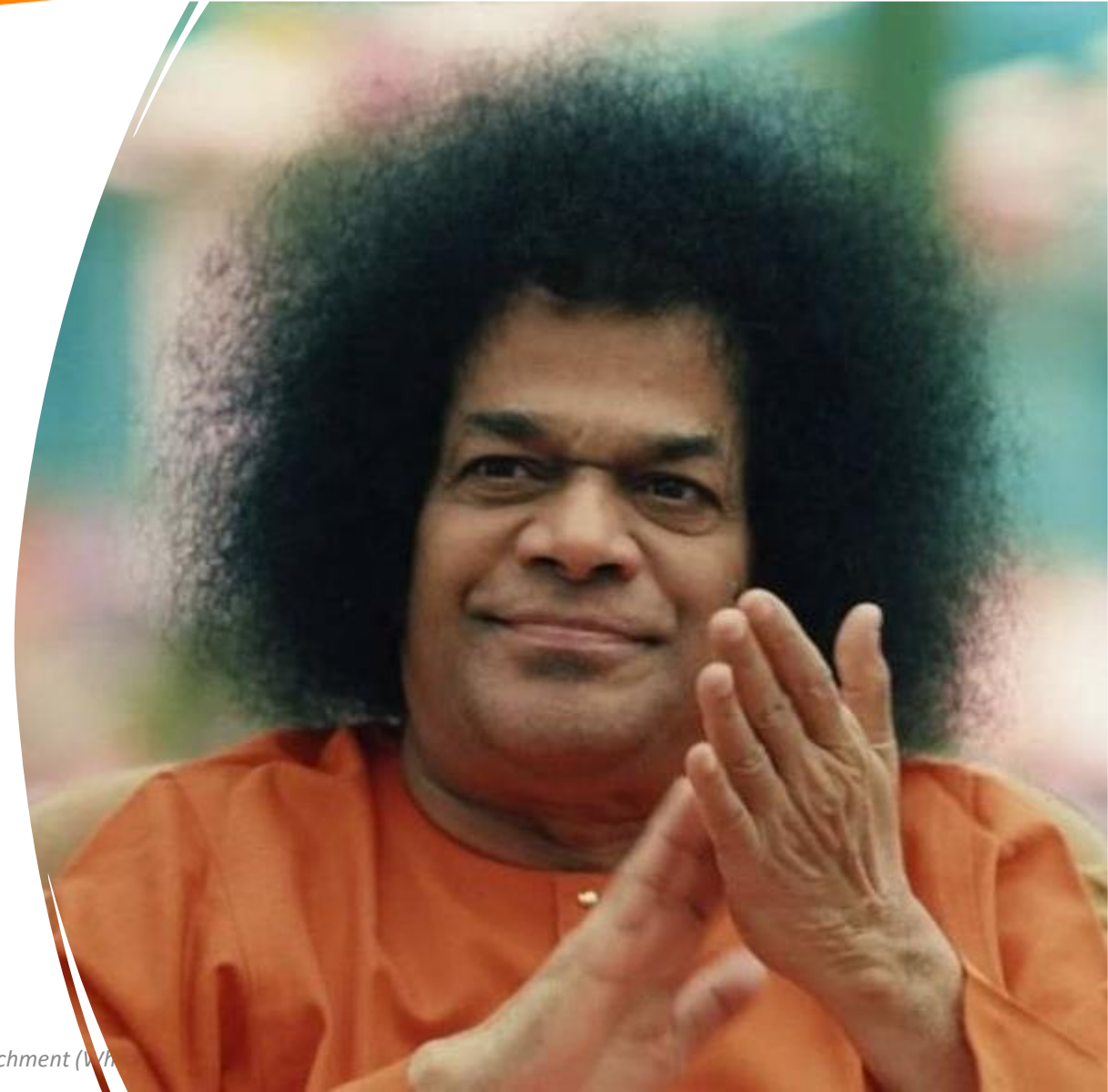


Tread Gently



Discussion questions

1. Who is the driving force behind the creation?
2. How can we save the destruction?
3. What steps should we take to help our ecosystem?





SSSIO-USA National SSE Enrichment
Follow the Inner Swami - Life Application
SSE Group 4 Breakout Room 4

July 17, 2021

Follow the Inner Swami



Value : Truth

Sub value : Discrimination

Spiritual Value: To balance one's priorities.

Quote: Discriminate: distinguish what is good, what is beneficial, what is harmful; then stick to the good, whatever the obstacle. - SSS 6:40, 174; Venkatagiri, Mar 27, 1968



Follow the Inner Swami



Harish (fictitious name) - He leaves home at the age of 18 to go to college. Excited to be away from home. Parents: Be careful. Be mindful of why you are going to College. Don't waste time, stay focused and study well.

Harish: Yes, I will. (waves them goodbye)

In college: Among friends -

Friend one: Hey Harish, welcome to college. We are all new just like you.

Friend two: Let's hang out together.

Harish: Thanks, we are friends.

(time goes by)

Harish sits to study and do class assignments.

Friend one: Hey Harish, what are you doing? We have a game tonight and why don't you come with us?

Harish : No thanks, I have assignments to complete.

Friend two: Come on, you can always do it later. There is plenty of time.

Harish: I guess, I can. Game Night doesn't happen every day. Let's go.



Follow the Inner Swami



Following day Harish sits down to study again for a test and some friends call him.

Friend one: Harish, we are going for a movie tonight. Come join us.

Friend two: Yes, it will be a lot of fun. Let's go.

Harish: No, I have a test to study for.

Friend one: You are smart. You will do well. Let's go.

Harish: Alright, let's go.

Swami: (Inner Voice) : Harish, you must study. Your parents work hard and pay for college. Please don't go.

Harish: I have studied enough. I can't miss the movie and disappoint my friends.

Follow the Inner Swami



Harish's parents call: **Harish ignores their call and tells them** – 'mom/ dad please, don't disturb me. I am busy studying for a test tomorrow'.

Harish: (praying) Swami, please help and guide me. I made a mistake. I thought my friends were most important. I ignored your advice.

Harish: I am sorry, mom and dad. I not only failed in college, I failed you and Swami.



Follow the Inner Swami

Parents: Don't worry about what has happened. Work hard now and we will help you through.

Harish works very hard in studies also, takes up a job to pay for college. He stays away from socializing. He eventually graduates with flying colors.



Follow the Inner Swami



Discussion questions

1. Do you think Harish was right in enjoying his independence? If so, should he have put a limit?
2. Should he have avoided friends?
3. Have you ever encountered a situation like that of Harish?
4. If so, what actions would you have taken?





SSSIO-USA National SSE Enrichment

Flying Lessons From God? Life Application

SSE Group 4 Breakout Room 5

July 17, 2021

Flying Lessons from God?



Value: Nonviolence

Subvalue: Respect for life

Spiritual Value : Following your conscience (ie., God) results in Love and Respect for life.

Quote: Many people call themselves devotees without understanding the meaning and significance of the term devotion. Devotion does not mean performing rites and rituals. True devotion lies in obeying the command of the Lord and spreading His message... One has to worship God both in times of pain and pleasure. - SSS, Vol 31 Disc. 45



Flying Lessons from God?



Some months ago, I was flying our Piper Seneca G-BBLU twin engined aircraft on a test flight with another pilot, Julian. We departed from Biggin (Hill, Airport, Kent), and during the test flight the undercarriage/wheels failed to extend/lower down. So, in fact we would have to land without the wheels which could be disastrous.

We were overhead Maidstone about 20 miles east of Biggin Hill Airport. We flew back to Biggin and joined 2000ft overhead, the airport asked if we wished to declare a problem, as they confirmed that our wheels were not down. We said no.

We tried to extend the undercarriage/wheels, they failed. Julian, my pilot, said, “Singh, we have two choices, First, we land and crash, and hope for the best. Second, we ask Sai Baba, but what can He do - this is a mechanical failure.”

Flying Lessons from God?



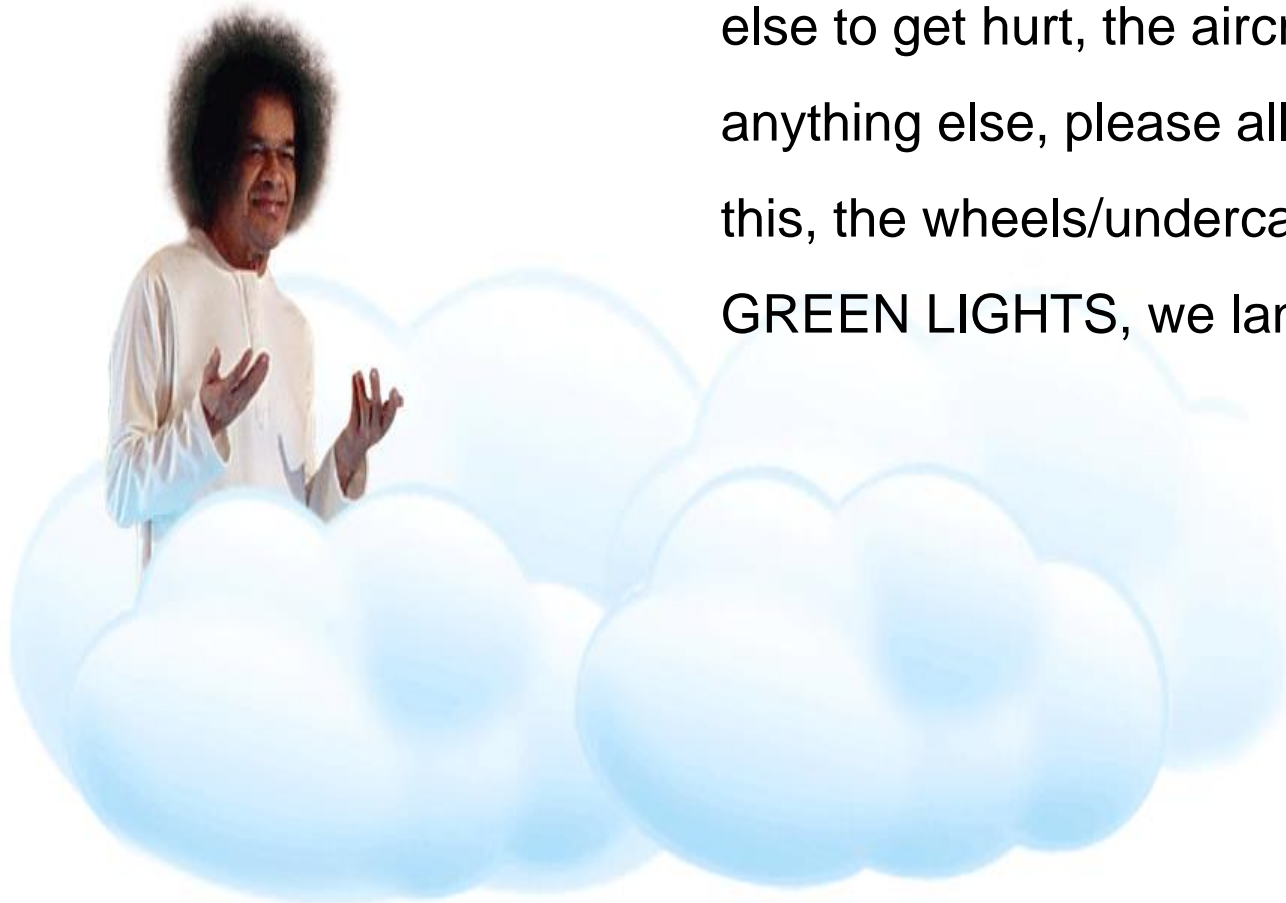
So, I said OK, we will ask Babaji but only if we both ask together. So we said: “Dear Baba, Dear God, please help us, the undercarriage/wheels will not lower even on emergency extension, please lower it so we don’t get hurt.”

Suddenly, this voice boomed in the cockpit: “Amarjit (Singh) you both are more worried about not hurting yourselves, what about the aircraft, the ground, the air, any other lives which may be hurt, and what about the trauma, the very Air, the 5 elements of creation (it) will hurt in the crash.”

Flying Lessons from God?



We understood His message straight away and we said, 'Dear Babaji, please extend the undercarriage, we do not want anything else to get hurt, the aircraft, the ground, and insects on the ground, anything else, please allow us to land safely. As soon as we said this, the wheels/undercarriage came straight down locked. We had 3 GREEN LIGHTS, we landed safely.'



Flying Lessons from God?

On later inspection we found the Hydraulic Fluid aluminum pipe had burst due to corrosion and there was no way, apart from Divine intervention, the undercarriage would have extended, as even the emergency extension had failed. We landed safe and sound.

We then thanked Sai Baba. Lots of Divine Love, from Amarjit.



Flying Lessons from God?



Discussion questions

1. In a situation like this have you prayed for someone else other than you?
2. Was it a coincidence or a miracle?
3. What was the underlying message that Baba conveyed to the pilots?





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