



*"Reading is not completion of the journey. It is only the first step. Read for the sake of practising; not for reading's sake."*

Sathya Sai Baba on May 18, 1968



### **ABOUT THE DISCOURSE**

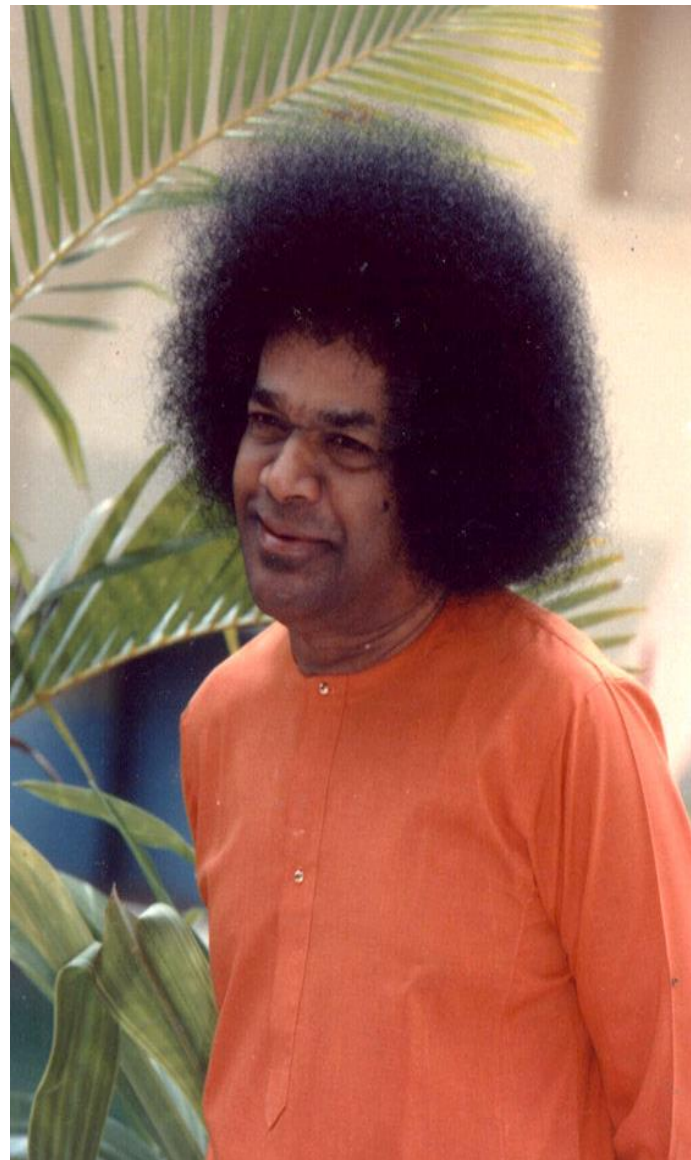
During Summer of 1978, the first All-India Bal Vikas Gurus training camp was conducted in Brindavan, Bangalore. Over 150 gurus attended this 6 day training camp which included lectures, discussions and Q & A with Bhagawan. Our first discourse for study, 'New version for Gurus,' is from this training camp. [Sanathana Sarathi 1978, Archives and Sathya Sai Speaks, vol 14, #3]

### **Saints & Seers Of All Lands Are Equally Great**

In the Bala Vikas classes you must try to have children from various faiths, so that friendship between them can grow into understanding, and the understanding into love. Do not talk about differences between religions in the beginning; rather stress the obvious similarities, so that the tender minds in your charge are not confused. Tell your pupils stories from the scriptures of all religions so that they can realize that the saints and seers of all lands are equally good and great. Let the children realize that prayer is universal and that prayer in any language addressed to any Name reaches the same God. Let them understand that God can be invoked through a picture or an idol to fulfil man's sincere desire, provided it is helpful to others as well as to oneself. Love can bind all children together for they have not yet learned to hate. Love can, similarly, unite all mankind, provided man is cured of greed, envy, desire, and attachment. The Guru should bring into his pupil's way the common factor of good advice about human conduct contained in the scriptures of all religions.

The Vedas teach that man should adore and worship God in gratitude for His benedictions. The Bible teaches: that he should pray for peace and practice charity. The Quran would have man show mercy to the suffering and to surrender his will to the All High. The Buddhist texts teach the lesson of detachment and sense-control. The Zendavesta exhorts man to get rid of evil propensities and shine in his own innate glory.

The Guru has to imbibe all these qualities and then teach them to his pupils by precept and example.





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How can SSE teachers, identify and teach the similarities in different religions in order to bring out the innate common goodness from within?
- 2) What are some of the techniques to teach children about, "Prayer is universal and has no barriers of religion or language"?
- 3) How to help children understand "Love binds all mankind" by practicing gratitude, peace, detachment and surrender?

## LIFE APPLICATION

### Suggestion:

Read and understand about different faiths/religions and share the findings as a group. (The facilitator can assign smaller teams for each religion)

Or

What is your practical take away/life application that you want to commit to Swami based on today's discussion? Either individually or as a group.



We would love to hear from about your study circle experiences, any interesting questions/ insights that you would like to share, please send an email to [saispiritualeducation@sathyasai.us](mailto:saispiritualeducation@sathyasai.us)

