

Service Leads to World Peace

Drakshayani Manduva

M.A. Sanskrit, M.A. English, M.A. Philosophy, Research Scholar, Dept. of Philosophy, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India

“When there is righteousness in the heart,
there is beauty in character.
When there is beauty in character,
there is harmony in the home.
When there is harmony in the home,
there is order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation,
there is peace in the world.” [1]

Character is a result of culture and interm the very purpose of education. A person considered to have an excellent character only when he practices righteousness in every field of human activity. Such situation establishes an atmosphere harmony in every home and lights the lamp of love which will spread they rays of love to every nook and corner of the world. If the entire population is endowed with excellent character there will be order in the nation. A group of such nations can influence the world community to live in everlasting peace and harmony. Thus selfless service creates a world free from hatred greed enmity, jealousy and malice. Only in such atmosphere everlasting peace can be established.

“World welfare and peace cannot be achieved without selfless service to mankind.” [2]

What is the ultimate result of selfless service. How does it help the human society and human race? What will be its contribution to establish world peace?

Selfless Service can influence humanity in various ways. Selfless service can sow the seeds of unity as, we see a number of service organizations thought the world where people work together like members of one family. When the sense of service spreads and sweeps the world, like Tsunami it engulfs millions and millions of people. The world is broken to narrow fragments of caste, creed religion and nation. A single group of service minded people who wish to serve humanity sacrificing all their comforts wealth, health and strength can help blossom a phenomenon which can totally remove hatred, greed and malice from the face of the earth. The entire world can be filled with nectarine love. This situation is leads to everlasting world peace. *What is Service*

Any work done without aspiring results, benefits, name and fame and not having any self-interest is service. This actually helps society by contributing for the prosperity of others.

How to define Service

“Whatever talent a person has should be dedicated to the service of humanity. Therein lies is fulfillment. All men are moulded out of the same Divine essence. Service to man will help the latent Divinity to blossom. It will make your

life worth while. Service to man is service to God, for He is every man, every living being. Offer your talents at the feet of God;” [3]

An act of kindness is service

An act of compassion is service

An act which makes others smile is service

An act which removes the sorrow of others is service

An act which keeps the surroundings peaceful is service

An act which showers love is called service

An act which removes the suffering of others is service

An action which gives comfort to others is service

An act which gives solace to embalm the heart is service

An act can become service Only when we don't expect any return out of it and not aspiring name and fame.

Service can be define as lending a helping hand to the needy without considering his clan, race, religion, community and nation, seeing one's chosen god in the receiver. The one who serves should not aspire for name, fame or benefit out of it. Then a feeling of oneness of humanity say brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God is felt in every moment of service. The place of service appears to the serves as a temple of God and altar of prayer.

Service as A Path To Love and Peace

“Love expresses itself in *Seva*,

Love grows through *Seva*,

Love is born in the womb of *Seva*,

And God is Love.” [4]

Serve has an innate quality of reforming and reshaping the server. An atmosphere of affection and friendship is created among people and binds them together. This intimacy with people paves a royal road to the server which can lead him to God and Internal Peace.

The ultimate goal in human life is to attain everlasting peace. One who's nature is selfless service sows the seeds of love and fragrant flowers in the vast garden which reach the divine lotus feed. These people share bliss and peace with everyone around them.

A person dedicated to service should always be ready and willing whole heartedly to sacrifice his strength, abilities, skills, true and everything he possesses. One should never aspire for any reward what so ever for his selfless service rendered by him. Because this feeling of service shall be a part of his blood stream. It must radiate in every cell of his body. One should serve till such time when service becomes his nature, service should become his breath. Oil lights the lamp but service with love lights the lives of many.

Before going to Service

Examine one's heart is full of selfless love, humility and within one's capacity. Whether one's hands are eager to

offer the healing touch, gladly spare and share time, energy and skill to help others in dire need. These qualities can germinate and grow only when the reality of unity is embedded in the consciousness. Service should start at home by fulfilling his duties towards himself and members of the family. Before offering the service refine one self. Service activity opens the mind and heart of the individual. Service is the best of all deeds. Social service is a spiritual exercise for bliss like physical exercise for healthy body. Without physical exercise body will become sick like this without social service man never experience the bliss.

Whom to serve

“Remember that the service of others is a duty you owe to yourself; for, you really need the joy that the service gives; That joy is something beyond words.” [5]

We have to serve distressed, poor and sick people to elevate them from sorrow and create hope for peaceful living. It is the best way of sadhana to lit the light of love.

How to Serve

Seva is done without expectation of reward or recognition when we feel the whole universe is our body and all the creation is our part of ourselves. In that sensitivity we have to respond to relieve our pain like when thorn get pricked in feet automatically eyes shed tears.

Service – a path to divinity

Service as a path to divinity emphasizing its impact on the transformation of the individual as an Ideal person and establishing the love of God and brother hood of humanity transcending all the differences such as caste, creed, community, language, country and all other barriers. Service is love in action. Seva is the highest form of Sadhana to attain salvation. It is the easiest way of transformation of man to God. Service to mankind is service to god.

Necessity of Service:

Service is purely and essentially for transforming our own lives and redeem yourself. Right time to serve: Seva is a lifetime programme. It knows no rest or respite. It knows no caste, creed or religion, class. One must have the urge to serve anything and at all times, whenever the need is felt. The motive and intention of doing the service should be selfless. The motive should be holy.

“Where there is faith, there is love
Where there is love, there is truth
Where there is truth, there is peace
Where there is peace, there is bliss
Where there is bliss, there is God”. [6]

Service to Man is Service to God

The same indwelling God in each one of us is being. Service is love in action. In an attempt to recognise and realise the omnipresent God embodied in all the living forms, one has to delve into the ultimate truth of serving his fellow beings with love.

Love all serve all & all are one be alike to everyone

By rendering loving service to others actually one is getting an opportunity to serve the lord himself, served in the spirit of selfless Love. What sorts of actions we perform on this earth decide either to help us get redeemed from this world or get bonded with these earthly ties of birth and death.

Seva comes under karma yoga. Our god pervades in all. Hence others sorrow has to be thought as our own and with such a feeling of empathy we should serve our fellow beings. For example when a thorn pricks our feet the tears of pain and sorrow are shed in our eyes. In the same way if we consider the whole world as one body, the pain to any being will be taken as it belonging to us, this unity helps us to widen our horizon of service.

“Start the day with Love
Fill the day with Love
End the day with Love
This is the way to God” [7]

Bhagawan emphasizes on the fact that there is no specific form of service constrained to time, place or community. Every action done with a pure feeling of selflessness without any kind of expectations becomes a holy offering as holy as the rituals prescribed by the Vedas to invoke the blessings and grace of the Supreme God.

Serve Thy Self

“What you call service to others is fundamentally service to your own self. You serve yourselves best, when you serve others best. When you relieve the distress of others, you are winning relief from your own distress.” [8]

The Vedas declare, “*Nakarmananaprajayanadhanenathyagenaikeamrutatvamaanasuh*”, [9] (Immortality can be won and experienced, neither through the performance of rites, nor through progeny, nor by the accumulation of wealth; It can be won only by renunciation.) Give up – give up, your comforts, your time, your skills, in order to help others. That is the way to gain immortality.

Discipline and concentration are the two banks controlling the floodwaters of the river of our life. In order to ensure an incessant flow of the life into beneficial channels they are needed to be instilled into one’s daily life. A person’s life is said to be a worth only when it is adorned with these jewels of discipline and concentration.

Renunciation of the worldly pleasures and a firm, steadfast faith in oneself is unduly required to achieve one’s goal.

The reinforcement of these embankments of discipline and concentration are accomplished only by service. That is true selfless, altruistic motto of service to the mankind.

Today man’s each and every pursuit is saturated with desires of many a sort of; either for wealth or fame or authority as such. Sundry cravings keep on provoking man to tread some deleterious path to fulfill his desires. Eventually this desire turns out to be a perpetual foe. The more you yield to it, the more it tries to succumb you and get you enslaved into its reins.

The embankments that protect the flow of our life are simply swept away by giving this desire an authority over the actions we perform. Ultimately, it is the desire that is refraining peace to be conferred upon us and such desire can be overcome only by generous service and philanthropic activities.

In order to achieve such pure and pristine peace man must develop the virtue of detachment from the worldly pleasures and senses and get attached and engaged in the pursuit of realizing one's own inner potential and inquiring one's own real nature. Such divine faculties can be acquired only by generous and selfless service to the mankind.

“Serve because you can have no peace, unless you serve.

It is an inner urge to experience the kinship” [10]

References

- [1] Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Golden Quotations, NanduriSomayajulu,Puttaparthi,December 2012,p25.
- [2] Compiled by:N.S.Venkatesh,Sevadal(BhagawanUvachaseries Vol.1), Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam,p.14.
- [3] Ibid,p.16.
- [4] Compiled by TumuluruPrabha, Heart to Heart(As detailed by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba),Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam,p.16.
- [5] N.Kasthuri,The Light of Love(An Account of visit of Bhagawan Sri Sathyasai Baba to East Africa),SriSathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam,p.102.
- [6] Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Golden Quotations, NanduriSomayajulu,Puttaparthi,December 2012,p.38.
- [7] Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Golden Quotations, NanduriSomayajulu,Puttaparthi,December 2012,p71.
- [8] N.Kasthuri,The Light of Love(An Account of visit of Bhagawan Sri Sathyasai Baba to East Africa),Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam,p.102.
- [9] Ibid,p.103.
- [10] Compiled by Grace J.Mc.Martin, Seva- A Flower at His Feet,Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam,p.174.