

AUM SAI RAM

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to  
what lies WITHIN us “



- 1- GOD AND HIS FORM
- 2- RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY AND UNITY OF FAITHS
- 3- APPLICATION OF EDUCARE IN THIS UNITY PROCESS

## 1 GOD AND HIS FORM

The importance of the interfaith journey we wish to undertake, is underlined by the fact that a change in our inner vision of divinity (not encompassed by one form contributing to the totality of God but rather one God contributing to the totality of form) will allow us to firstly recognize the divinity in all of Gods' creation. Finally allowing us to recognize that the multiplicity of creation is but a singularity that resides within us all.

This journey sets out to achieve a comfortable balance between our chosen form of God, others chosen form of God and the true formless aspect of God (the flux between the Saguna and Nirguna aspects of Brahman – the eternal divine sport of the Lord).

“Everything is basically divine. It has the three divine elements derived from Sat Chit Ananda, the qualities of Asthi (existence), Bhaati (luminosity) and Priyam (utility). These three are common to every object in creation. When form and name are given to them, each acquires five qualities. The universe which is called Prapancha, has this five-fold characteristic. If the name and form are removed, only divinity will remain. We cannot change the appearance of the universe, but by a change in our vision, its divinity can be recognized. Go beyond name and form and attain higher vision.” BABA

“Air has no form. What is the form of water? Water is visible. Air has no form but you can experience its presence. When does air acquire a form? When a football or balloon is filled with air, it acquires their form. Water assumes the form of the container. Likewise whatever the form in which the devotee worships the divine, God appears in that form. What is the reason for this? The feelings of the devotee endow the form of the divine. This is called Bhaavaroopam (the form caused by the feeling). Meditation is the means by which the form is experienced. Whatever the feeling (about the form) which the devotee cherishes, God assumes that form (for him). The Lord appears in the form you envisage. Divinity cannot be defined in this way or that. That is why it is said that God has myriad feet, a myriad eyes, a myriad heads and He encompasses everything in the cosmos.” SS June 1995 Pg 145

## 2. RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY AND UNITY OF FAITHS

A proper understanding of religion / spirituality/unity of faiths has to be undertaken for one to use the interfaith concept as one of the myriad of tools of transformation our beloved Bhagawan has lovingly given to us. When we practically implement Bhagawans tools of transformation we connect within with our mother Sai. ***“If you accept my words and put them into practice in your life – I belong to you.” - BABA***

“God is one acceptable to all religions.

That God is truth

That God is righteousness

That God is peace

That God is love” BABA

“The Supreme, according to the Bharathiyas , is vastness itself. It rises to the high skies and roams free in that expanse. It was declared in clear terms, long prior to the historical period.” *SS Vahini Pg 3*

“It is surprising to me to note that you have been unable to recognize the relation between religion, spirituality and Educare. First and foremost understand what religion is. Religion is realization. What is to be realized? When you realize who you are, then you will realize what religion is. So, religion is realization of yourself. It is love that takes you to realization.”

“What is spirituality? Spirituality is not merely singing bhajans, performing worship, visiting temples, going on pilgrimages or undertaking any other good activity. Recognizing oneness of all beings is spirituality.”

“In the current spiritual beliefs of mankind, one cannot discern anywhere a harmonizing factor. The principles of co-ordination and reconciliation have to be expanded and expounded. Though there are religions with separate names, and the doctrines are distinct from each other, considered as human are all men. Unfortunately the apparent differences among religions have subverted the amity of all men and the feeling of international brotherhood. The experience and wisdom of great seers who have unveiled the mystery of the cosmos and their feeling of universal love are not appreciated, accepted and respected by men today. All religious dogmas except a few can be easily harmonized and reconciled. The same God is being extolled and adored under various names through varied ceremonial rituals, through the many religions of man. Since at the present time, many religions have spread worldwide , they have lost fraternal feelings and have suffered in validity thereby. There is an urgent need for harmony. Each must interest himself in understanding the practises and beliefs of the others. The principle of harmonizing is the very heart of all religions and faith.” *Sutra Vahini Pg 38*

“Let the different faiths exist, let them flourish and let the glory of God be sung in all languages and in a variety of tunes. That should be the ideal. Respect the differences between faiths and recognize them as valid as long as they do not extinguish the flame of unity.”

“Each should practice his own religion sincerely. A Christian should be a good Christian. A Hindu should be a good Hindu. A Muslim should be a good Muslim. Let each one be a true practitioner of his religion. No one should criticize or hate another’s religion. The one God is common in all.” *SS May 1996 Pg 124*

“Creeds, rituals , religions and different theologies are all derived from mans’ yearning for the vast reality beyond – and flow in the thousand different forms , fertilizing many fields , calming many communities , refreshing tired people and , at last , carrying people to the ocean of bliss” *Tossssb Pg 125*

“The Bible, the Koran, the Vedas, the Granth – all represent the same creation. All were following the voice of God. All arose from the whisper of God which, in the pure minds of the hearer, flowered into eight sounds, eight letters, and from this all words evolved. The eight sounds were the vowels and consonants of language. The Sai symbol of the five religions represents the five major religions found in India. For the west the Jewish star may be added as a sixth representation on the Sai symbol” -

*Mbai pg 191*

“No one ignorant of the path can reach the goal

No one unaware of the goal can choose the path” BABA

One’s religion, one’s teacher and one’s spiritual texts help understand the goal and help choose the path.

“The whole of mankind belongs to one religion---the religion of man. For all men God is the father. As the children of one God, all men are brothers.” *SSS 16-29*

“Whatever one's religion may be, everyone should cultivate respect for other faiths.” *SSS 16-29*

“To divide men on grounds of religion is a crime against humanity.” *SSS16-29*

“It is very easy to see diversity in unity; anyone can do that. But it requires a lot of effort to recognise unity underlying the entire diversity that exists in this world.” *SSS41-08*

“Religions are many but goal is one.  
Clothes are many but yarn is one.  
Jewels are many but gold is one.  
Cows are many but milk is one.” *SSS41-08*

“When you develop unity, there will be purity in your heart. Where there is purity, there is divinity. Unity, purity, divinity are closely interlinked and interdependent.” *SSS41-08*

“All of you should imbibe the spirit of unity. Whomsoever you come across, say, “He is my brother, she is my sister.” In this way, consider all as your brothers and sisters and conduct yourself with unity. All are the children of God.” *SSS41-08*

“Seeing unity in diversity is divinity and true spirituality.” *SSS41-08*

“Our culture teaches that there is one religion, the religion of love, and one caste, the caste of humanity. Our culture is based on love, which is latent in everyone, whether theist or atheist or nationalist. There can be no one without love.” *SSS31-18*

“All founders of religions have heard this impersonal Voice of God revealing the Aathma that activates the entire Creation. Just as the Vedhas (revealed sacred scriptures) were 'heard' and propagated as 'heard' (Shruthi), the Quran too was 'heard' by Hazrath Muhammad. The Quran has Salat and Zakat as the two eyes. Salat means prayer; Zakat means charity. Those who consider charity as a high duty and elevate their consciousness through prayers and continuous meditation on God are Muslims. Islam is a word which denotes not a particular religion but a state of mind, the state of total surrender to the Will of God. Islam means dedication, surrender, peace, tranquility.” *SSS16-14*

“Islam denotes the social community whose members have achieved supreme peace through surrender to the All-Merciful, All-Powerful God and who have vowed to live in peace with their fellowmen. Later, it came to be applied to communities that considered themselves separate and different and so hostile to the rest. Islam taught something higher. It directed attention to the One in the Many, the Unity in Diversity and led people to the Reality named God.” *SSS16-14*

“The Quran lays down that all men should cultivate the sense of unity, of interdependence, of selfless love and of the immanence of Divinity.” *SSS16-14*

“Thus Islam emphasizes the One in the Many, the urge for God which manifests in various degrees in various minds. Unity is the basic teaching of every religion. Faith in Unity is cardinal. Without it, no system of belief and conduct can be a religion.” *SSS16-14*

“God is One and the teachings in all faiths that exalt Him are all on Love, Compassion, Tolerance and Sympathy.” *SSS16-14*

“Since Islam means surrender to God, all who in a spirit of surrender and dedication, live in peace and harmony in society, do really speaking, belong to Islam.” *SSS16-14*

“Whichever may be the religion, its emphasis is on unity, harmony, equal-mindedness. Therefore, cultivate love, tolerance and compassion, and demonstrate the Truth in every daily activity. This is the Message I give you with My Blessings.” *SSS16-14*

“Develop fraternal feelings towards all. Differences of opinion can be resolved by compromise. If egoistic pride is given up, all difficulties can be overcome. From today make a bonfire of your ignorance and egoism and develop love in your hearts. Live up to Swami's teachings as far as possible and thereby redeem your lives.” *SSS20-25*

“If wealth is lost, it can be earned again. If health is lost, it can be restored with the help of an efficient doctor. But if human values are lost, human life becomes a waste. Human values are the need of the hour. They cannot be acquired solely from sacred texts nor can they be passed on by learned preceptors. They originate from within. When we develop noble thoughts and follow the path of truth in our daily life, human values will blossom in us and protect us under all circumstances.” *SSS36-02*

“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.” *SSS36-02*

“No doubt, worldly education is also necessary. But, true education is that which teaches unity among all human beings. The main principle of Indian culture is to seek unity in diversity. It is not to divide unity into diversity.” *SSS36-02*

“Spiritual disciplines determine the character of a person.  
Character determines the destiny---whether good or bad.  
Character is built up by constant practice of good actions.  
Actions, in their turn are based on one's thoughts and intentions.  
Whenever any thought arises in the mind, one should examine whether it is right or wrong, whether it will do good to society or cause harm to it.  
Actions should be based on such enquiry.  
It would be wrong to blame anyone for our misfortunes. Our thoughts and actions alone are responsible for our plight. If one entertains pure thoughts and does all actions with firm faith in God, he will be favoured with God's Grace.” *SSS19-14*

“REAL equality among men has to be achieved not by the equal distribution of material things but by

the cultivation of love, which promotes a sense of the divinity that is inherent in all beings.” SSS18-28

“Do not proclaim that this name of God is superior or more efficacious than the other. To assert that Rama is superior or that Siva is superior, or even that Sai Baba is the avatar that is fullest of all--all this only reveals that you have not understood what Divinity is. Rama is a Name that combines the 'ra' of Narayana and the 'ma' of Namassivaya, the mantras of the Vaishnavas and that of Saivites. So, Rama means the quality of Siva and Vishnu.” SSS18-28

“Study the emblem of the Sathya Sai Organisation; it declares that all faiths feed the heart with anandha , all faiths cleanse the mind of littleness, all faiths confer courage on the weak and the vacillating.” SSS12-16

“The universe around you is a pleasant garden full of charming patches of many-hued flowers filled with fragrance and nectarine elixir- each flower-bed being a religion, which attracts the loyalty of millions of seekers. The garden too is God; God dances in that garden at his own handiwork, gladdening the flowers with the magic melody of the flute. Be full of joy and love; share that joy and love with all. If you utter "God, God," and inflict pain on man, you will be spurned as a cheat. You need not cry out God, God! But, if you confer joy on brother man, god will respond with his presence, though uninvited.” SSS12-16

“Believe that God resides in all beings; speak such words, as would spread goodness, truth and beauty; do such acts as would promote the happiness and prosperity of all; pray that all worlds have peace. Expand yourselves; do not contract into your own tiny individuality. Expand into Universal love, unshaken equanimity, and ever-active virtue. That is the Path which will bring out the Divinity in you to the fullest.” SSS12-16

### 3. APPLICATION OF EDUCARE IN THIS UNITY PROCESS

What is Educare? Educare is to bring out what is within. The Atma is our innermost reality. That is what Educare should bring out. Therefore there is no difference between the three – religion, spirituality and Educare.” *SS March 2002 pg 66*

The Atma is our innermost reality. That is what Educare should bring out. When one looks deeply at the transformational significance of Sadhana and Seva , one sees that the Educare process encompasses the fullest possible spectrum of activities within our spiritual realm.

“The word Educare has a sacred inner meaning. That which is manifested by Educare cannot be seen by the eyes, cannot be heard by the ears and cannot be felt by the mind. Educare confers immortality.” *Human Values Conference Sept 2000*

“Krishna promised that He would protect the sadhus. Who are the sadhus? Those that are wearing ochre robes or those that hold Gita in their hands and preach are not sadhus. A sadhu is one who perceives unity in diversity. He will have unity of thought, word, and action. This is called education in human values, which is E-H-V. In my opinion, it is 3 H-V. It is the unity of head, heart, and hand. It is the combination of thought, word, and deed, which is the trinity of humanity.” SSS31-18

“Education must provide illumination; the darkness of ignorance and the dusk of doubt have to flee before that splendor.” SSS14-15

“Education does not end with the accumulation of information; it must result in transformation of the habits, character and aspirations of the individual. Knowledge has to be tested in daily action.” SSS14-15

“Cultivate love, kindness, the spirit of Seva , and encourage all thoughts of co-operation with others see the divinity in each one, as you must see it in your own selves.” SSS14-15

“It is only when brotherliness, devotion, dedication and discipline are cultivated that Swami can be installed in your hearts. Do everything to develop love and to share that love with all, especially with the villages from which you come and take up projects of bettering their moral and economic condition.” SSS14-15

“Faith in God promotes love. Love leads to peace. Peace prepares the way for truth. Living in truth, man experiences bliss, which is divine.” SSS21-34

“Where there is faith there is love  
where there is love there is peace  
where there is peace there is truth” SSS21-34

“Education must promote, peace, security and happiness.” SSS12-44

“Mere learning by rote, the contents of books, is not important. You should imbibe the gandha (essence) of all granthas (texts). That is true education.” SSS38-15

“The end of education is character. We should consider character as our very life-breath. Education without character is useless - like half-cooked rice. We should practise at least one or two principles and only then venture to preach to others.” SSS38-15

“First of all one should understand the principle of Unity. Unity leads to purity and purity leads to divinity. A true human being is one who strives for unity, purity and divinity.” SSS38-15

“There is only one thing that you have to learn. Develop love. The same principle of love is present in you, in Me and in everyone. I see only love in others. Hence, all are one for Me. You too should develop such feelings of love and equality. All are one, be alike to everyone.” SSS38-15

“This three-fold transformation is implicit in the term “Sai”.

"S" stands for Spiritual change.

"A" stands for Association change. This is change in one's relationships with others in society.

"I" stands for Individual change.

“SAI”--this signifies changes at all three levels---Spiritual and Individual.

This triple transformation is what Sai desires. When this transformation takes place, the whole world will be prosperous and happy.” SSS28-31

## CONCLUSION

Swami says "The truth proclaimed by all religions is one and the same. All have a common ultimate goal. All religions aim at promoting righteous conduct by transforming the attitude of man, thereby bringing about harmony. The foundation of all religions is morality. Morality is equated with selfless love. Religions were thus instituted to foster the welfare of society through the promotion of love for all beings."

## How do we practice these lofty concepts?

### Tat Twam Asi – you are that.

“That is what is meant by Tat Twam Asi in Vedanta – that thou art. Aham Brahmasmi – I am Brahman. The fundamental truth taught all sacred texts like the Bible, Koran, Granth Sahib and the Bhagawad Gita – do not hate any religion. Do not have the difference that my religion is great and the other religion not so. All are one. Be alike to everyone. Share and propagate this truth all over the world. God is in everyone. God is in you and you are in God. Strengthen this fundamental truth. When you propagate this truth, this is real seva. It is service that will take you closer to the prominence of God, (as a boat). Take the help of this boat in the ocean of life and gain proximity.” BABA

**GOD BLESS AND JAI SAI RAM**