

10. Be Exemplars Of Selfless Service

Embodiments of divine Atma!

In the morning there was no time to talk about these people. Ever since our hospital started functioning, Appa Rao has been working there as an auditor. For fourteen years, he worked hard, day and night. I am pleased with his work. He came here with the sole intention of rendering selfless service, and not with any other motive. Those were the initial stages of the super speciality hospital, so there was plenty of work, day and night. He alone had to attend to everything — receiving parcels of medicines, checking them, and noting them down. In spite of being a non-medical person, he worked untiringly taking care of patients also. He is meticulous in checking all details. He has worked with full satisfaction.

All these fourteen years, he never aspired for anything. He did not accept even a one paisa. These days, everybody in the hospital earns twenty to thirty thousand rupees, but he has not taken any money. He had to climb up and down the stairs many times every day, while looking after the stores, patients, nurses, and doctors as well. He looked after so many things, all alone. He never complained to Me also. He has been adjusting himself. He has never been deficient in his work. I Myself used to see him now and then to enquire about the work. We should express our gratitude to such a dedicated worker. With much compassion toward him, I told him, “Appa Rao, now the number of patients coming to our hospital has increased by thousands. Mentally of course you are quite alert, but physically you are weak. Therefore, take rest at home. You have come to serve Swami. There was no shortcoming whatsoever in your service.”

His wife also supported him and has been taking good care of him at home, looking after his food and other needs meticulously. He has no habit of taking food outside. So, if and when necessary, she used to send his food to the hospital. Appa Rao has also been taking care of poor people in many respects. He rendered help in many heart operations to the poor people. He used to send free medicines to the homes of those heart patients even after they were discharged. He worked very hard. My heart melted at his service. How can we leave such a person who worked so hard? Everybody, including students, sought his help. I tell our students often, Help ever, Hurt never.

We do not take even a paisa from anyone for rendering medical services. Our hospital always gives and never takes. He rendered selfless service with the feeling, “This is my hospital, my Swami’s hospital.” He considered the hospital as his own and served it selflessly. Even when I was away physically, I helped him in all that he did. Since this is our first Super Speciality Hospital, he had to work very hard for its development. Subsequently, another Super Speciality Hospital has been established in Bangalore. There is an orthopedic division also in our hospital here. Appa Rao has been looking after all this. I liked his work. Before this, he worked for the government. There also, he rendered good service. As he utilised all his experience for the benefit of our hospital, today we have gathered here to honour him.

His younger brother Murthy is an electrical engineer. He is also working with us. Whenever there is any electrical problem he is called by telephone and he attends to it immediately. Even at night, he is ever ready to do service. The youngest brother, Lakshminarasimham, worked in our university as Registrar. He is also growing older and needs a little rest. He has not married, so there is no bondage. He has been totally dedicated to our university. He first joined in service volunteers (*seva dal*). He did a Ph.D. with the intention of joining our col-

lege. These three brothers have been rendering good service. They have been very helpful to us, in spite of many troubles they had to face.

Nanjundaiah has been controller of examinations. He has been very kind to all students. He has been working day and night in order to declare the results well in time. He never used to take rest even for a while. He would engage himself in correcting papers even while suffering from fever. Everybody was depending upon him. He had to take much trouble in sending results to Anantapur and Bangalore colleges. We were very much concerned at the troubles he had to face. His wife also has been taking good care of him at home, providing timely food and looking after other needs meticulously.

Hard work earns Swami's guidance and protection

The University has now grown very large. We are receiving a larger number of applications as compared to other institutes. All big officers to small clerks in all India have great regard for our institutions. Be it the hospital or the university, there is no habit of taking money for the services rendered in our institutions. We know only to give. In Sai Organisations, there is only giving and no taking.

Recently, we appointed a committee to oversee the working of the hospital and provide necessary help and guidance. We procured some new machinery also. We have even imported necessary equipment from abroad. We have in our stock a variety of books.

The University has produced many Ph.Ds. This year also, fourteen researchers got Ph.D. degrees. The students have great faith in these two people (Lakshminarasimham and Nanjundaiah).

These two (Appa Rao and Nanjundaiah) have been very helpful to us in hospital services and educational activities. All the responsibility was shouldered by them. They used to send me letters while I was not present here. I used to discuss every detail with them. I used to ask Nanjundaiah about the examination results. The results were always good. We have now decided not to burden them with these responsibilities any longer. Today, I am thanking and blessing them. These two are foremost among those who have strived hard for our Institutes. Therefore, wherever they are, Swami is always with them, guiding and guarding them. They came here only for the sake of Swami. Therefore, I wish to provide them with houses and keep them here only. Just as they had looked after the patients and the students, I wish that hereafter also they both extend necessary guidance and help to the new comers in the respective areas.

There is much to learn from these two people. What is this Organisation doing for society? How is it doing? What is their responsibility in this regard? Such details should be accorded to the new comers and necessary zeal and motivation should be inculcated.

The university was started first with undergraduate courses only. Now, studies up to the Ph.D. level are available. Our university and hospitals are now regarded as the best in India. I am very happy that you have contributed much for this name and fame. You always belong to Me. You have never thought that you are working for the hospital or the college. You have been working with the feeling, "This is ours, this is our Swami's." That is why we got all first prizes for the colleges and high reputation for hospitals. Even this information is known only through newspapers; we never proclaimed it in any manner. Our hospitals and university have become very famous indeed.

The students have learnt many things from such people and have grown up to great heights. Many of them,

who are Ph.D.s, have been appointed here so as to lead these institutions. Now, many novel subjects have been introduced along with the conventional faculties like B.Com., B.Sc., M.Com., M.Sc., Ph.D. Many deserving students are unable to get admission in other schools and colleges and are looking at us with great hope for help. I told our authorities to take such students also into our fold. We do not have any selfish motive. It is only a consideration of their parent's anguish. They have given us the responsibility of looking after the welfare and progress of their children.

New responsibilities for the two

Appa Rao and Nanjundaiah must both be given the job of keeping watch with vigilant eyes on the affairs of these institutions. In other institutions, new entrants have to pay money and take receipts. But our hospitals and university have never given any scope for such things. Here everything is free, free, free. People wonder how we are managing these institutions with so many entrants, like this, without taking even a paisa? They just come in their clothing when we admit them here. We are admitting all, including those who obtained average marks, and we are developing them into 'First class' students.

In other hospitals, patients have to spend thousands of rupees toward heart operations. But we do not charge them even a paisa. For us, love and devotion are important and not other things. "Love to love, heart to heart." We seek only this. They are all deriving great joy. Many patients are coming from Nepal and Bhutan for free treatment. In this endeavour, the students also must extend necessary help to the doctors and other officials. Our hospital and institutes have been fostered in this manner for the past twenty years. This trend has to continue in the future also. Without begging anybody, we have made fixed deposits to the tune of twenty or thirty crores for each institute; and they are running on the interest accrued from these deposits. I have made necessary arrangements in this regard. We are paying salaries at par with the government. Students of our institutes or patients in our hospitals need not worry about anything. We take care of everything.

Parents should not be sent to old age homes

You must strive to keep everybody happy. Make parents happy. Help your parents. The parents are being admitted into old age homes when they are short of money. This is not correct. You must provide necessary support to the aged parents. It is your own responsibility to look after your parents. Swami is taking care of your education and other necessities, but the aspect of parent's care is your own responsibility. Parents should not be sent to old age homes. You must keep them with you and serve them. You must work hard and take good care of them. You need not prepare special items for their sake. It is enough if you can give them whatever you are eating.

As soon as the students pass the exam and acquire a degree, they go in search of jobs.

When all women go out on jobs, who will look after chores of their homes?

When they go out for teaching other children, who will teach their own children?

When husband and wife go to offices, who will take care of their children?

(Telugu Poem)

Give priority to the fostering of children

Some people are deprived of homely food because there is no one at home to cook food. So they eat what-

ever they get. Thus, they are spoiling their own health. There is no happiness for a woman who is employed in an office. They spend their valuable time in some clubs. They do not have any consideration for their children in the house and about their timely food. One should give priority to the fostering of the children.

An officer gives a phone call to his house and tells the cook, “We have arranged a tea party at home today. Make all arrangements for the party.” But there is no tea powder, no sugar, no material for making chapatis or pakoras in the house. This is the kind of situation they have at home. Also, the children’s health gets spoiled because of inconsistent food habits and lack of parental care. They drink contaminated water and spoil their health, because there is no one at home to guide them. Why should the wife go out and work? When she goes to school to teach other children, who will teach her own children?

It is your own duty to take care of your children. It is equivalent to earning a good salary if you can teach your own children and bring them up well. One feels sorry at the state of a woman who fails to take care of her husband and children. It is enough if you are able to provide proper timely food to your children and take care of their health. If you take up jobs leaving your children at home, your entire earnings will go toward cooks, baby sitters, and cleaners. The house gets mismanaged. What you spend for the cook, caretaker, and others will work out to be more than what you earn. You can save so much money if only you attend to your own work. This is the way of life all women must adopt.

The children should also learn to render necessary help at home. As soon as you come home, find out what is available and what is not available. What is needed immediately? When there is shortage of water, the boy should not keep quiet. He should immediately rush out with a container and fetch water from the available source. He should not feel, “I am educated. Why should I carry water?” Family life involves such domestic chores.

Students must learn how to make parents happy. Parent’s duty is to take care of their children. This is the education that is essential for one and all. After having obtained a Ph.D., one need not go far away for the sake of an extra thousand rupees. If you take care of your children and do service to parents, that itself is great wealth. Today, parents are being treated like servants. It is enough if you take care of your parents, your children, and the family. That is real education. Getting a first class and struggling for a job is not a wise thing. Whatever job you take up, you must help your parents. This is what you must learn.

The students must emulate people like Appa Rao. “Help ever, hurt never.” These are the good qualities that you should learn in the Sri Sathya Sai College. Whenever any poor person comes to you, feed him first, even foregoing your meal if necessary. Instead of going to a club and spending money there, it is better to use that money for the sake of the poor. It is necessary that you learn good qualities and habits so that you may improve the society.

First set your house in order

First of all, develop love for God, fear of sin, and morality in society. Bad qualities have to be curbed and ethics must be fostered in the society. When morality is lost, what is the use of any amount of social service you do? These are the lessons that you must learn. When you follow the path of elders such as these, you can reap immense joy and goodness in life. It applies to girls also. You must learn from parents the aspects of service and put them into practice. If you make your parents happy, your children will make you happy.

What is meant by morality? It is not just earning money and depositing in the bank. You must refrain from

troubling your parents. When you have love for God, you will have fear of sin. After acquiring morality you may proceed to serve the society at large. When you are unable to attain God's love, how do you expect to win people's love? You must earn name in society in a way that people talk of you as a good and helpful person. You must learn from parents how to help.

How can morality be acquired while one is engaged in acts of sin? When you come across elders, always respect and serve them. Today I am honouring such good people, so that you will try to emulate them. This is what gives Me happiness. First take care of your children at home, and extend happiness to your parents. How can you be happy while your parents are not happy? If today you love your parents, tomorrow you will receive love from your children. You can be called educated only when you learn these two things. You may acquire big degrees, but who will love you if you do not love your parents? Society will love you when you take good care of your parents. First set your house in order and then think about the progress of society. It is with this purpose that I am honouring today these experienced elders. You should take a lesson from this and follow in the footsteps of the elders.

Gurupurnima, Prasanthi Nilayam, 2009-07-07

Equanimity of outlook (*samathwa*) is just a matter of origin and essence; water in lakes, pits, wells, and rivers is rain water, though the taste, colour, name, and forms are different, based on where the rain has fallen and how pure the container is. Divine grace is like rain – pure, pellucid, falling on all. How it is received and used depends on the heart of the person.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba