

SRI SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Divine MOTHER'S LOVE

Study Guide
EASWARAMMA DAY 2021



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The Chosen Mother

The Name Revealed Her Purpose On Earth

Who is Easwaramma? She is the mother of *Ishvara*. This was not the name given to her by her parents. But after her marriage, Kondama Raju (Swami's grandfather), being one of wisdom and blessed with a vision of the future, started calling her Easwaramma (mother of *Ishvara*). She was christened as Namagiramma at the time of her birth. Kondama Raju told her that Easwaramma was the most appropriate name for her as he fore-saw that she was going to become the mother of *Ishvara*.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 33/Ch. 9,
6 May 2000, Easwaramma Day*

The Divine Will & Her Role

"I resolved on My birth. I decided who should be My mother". On December 31, 1970, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba announced thus, in an answer to a question from the Editor of 'Nav Kaal', the Bombay Daily. "That is to say...", the Editor stuttered. "That is to say," Baba interrupted him, "I resolved on My birth. I decided who should be My mother. Mere humans can only choose the one, who is to be the husband or wife.

But, the Mother was chosen by the son in the Rama and Krishna incarnations and then too, as now, the task, for which the birth was decided upon, was the same – the conferring of Prema on all and through the fostering of Prema, the cultivation of Righteous Living among Mankind."

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 33/Ch. 9
"Easwaramma, The Chosen Mother" by N. Kasturi*

The Sacred Bond Between Swami and Mother Easwaramma

You may or may not be aware, but even after 30 years of her passing away, Mother Easwaramma continues to express her love for Swami in several ways. Even to this day, she moves around in her physical body. At times, she comes to Me and expresses her motherly concern for My well-being.

Once she cautioned Me not to accept handkerchiefs from everybody. I told her that I had to accept when people offered it with devotion. She said, "Swami, no doubt there are crores of such noble persons. But there are also a few evil-minded persons who may smear poison on the handkerchief and offer it to You. This can prove dangerous when You use it to wipe your lips". I promised her that I would follow her advice. Even to this day she makes her appearance in My room. The boys who sleep in My room too have witnessed this. Whenever she comes and talks to Me, and they sit up on their beds and listen.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 34/Ch. 8,
6 May 2001, Easwaramma Day*

One day, I asked the boys for a belt to keep the silk Dhoti tight around My waist. The belt that they gave Me had a shining buckle and could be seen through the robe I wear. I did not want to use it lest people should think that Sai Baba wears a gold belt. After this, one day Easwaramma came to My room early in the morning and started talking to Me.

Then Satyajit, Sainath and Srinivas woke up and wanted to know with whom I was conversing. They wondered how anyone could enter My room since the lift was locked and the key

was with them. Then I told that *Griham Ammayi* (Mother Easwaramma) had come. I showed them the belt that she gave me. It had no buckle. There are many such noble mothers in this world. **But Easwaramma was the chosen one. I chose her to be My mother (cheers).** That is the intimate relationship between Mother Easwaramma and Myself.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 34/Ch. 8
6 May 2001, Easwaramma Day*

The Importance of Mother's Role in a Child's Character

After Swami declared His mission to the world at the tender age of 14, His mother remained an important part of that mission. Through Easwaramma, Swami taught us that mothers are the embodiment of the Divine qualities of sacrifice, compassion, patience, devotion, forgiveness, forbearance and most important to me – confidence. She had developed the confidence to become the Divine Mother to all the women with whom she came into contact in the ashram. With Swami's encouragement, she began interacting with devotees, taking care of them, listening to their hardships etc. With her profound wisdom, she used to help others. In the small village of Puttaparthi, Swami made societal changes to uplift the status of women, which was unheard of at that time. During the ninth day of the festival of *Dassara*, women in the ashram were allowed to chant the sacred "OM."

Easwaramma told Swami how happy she was with the blessings He has bestowed on these women of all castes and races. When Mother Easwaramma became widowed, Swami still allowed her to take part in every prayer and yagna in the ashram—again, God showing society not to ostracise and isolate widowed women. Mother Easwaramma was the person who impressed

upon Swami to remain in Puttaparthi and being the dutiful son, He listened!

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 34/Ch. 8
6 May 2001, Easwaramma Day*

The Divine Pranks of Swami with His Mother

From that day onward, Easwaramma never stayed at home; she started staying in Prasanthi Nilayam. Every day, in the morning and evening she used to come upstairs and talk to Swami. She also understood My Divinity very well. When I appeared in the form of Lord Siva to her, she would ask, "What Swami? Why are you adorning the snakes around your neck?" I would act innocent, "Well, I don't have snakes on Me". She would move away saying, "Look, there are some snakes inside". But later, on not finding any snake inside, she would ask for forgiveness. Like this on many occasions, she had the experience of My Divinity. Similar was the case with Kausalya and Yashoda.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 32/Ch. 14,
6 May 1999, Easwaramma Day*

The Mother's Love – Innocence and Purity

Mother's love lives on for all times, long after her passing away. Twice she appeared in the night. The boys sleeping in my room noticed her presence. Those boys had not seen her at any time. They wondered who the old lady could be. The key of the lift was in their hands and there was no staircase leading to the apartment. How did she manage to come here? When the boys asked this question, Swami woke up. I went near her and asked her why she had come again. She replied, "I cannot live without seeing You often. The moment I see You, I feel happy". After saying so, she gave me some piece of advice, "Swami, all persons describe themselves as devotees. But no one can tell who real devotees are and who are fake.

Totally dedicated devotees will be ready to carry out anything You ask them to do, but there are others who come for their own self-interest. By coming to You they get their desires fulfilled and forget You thereafter. In this matter, You should be very careful". Swami replied, "I shall take due care. There is no need for you to tell me". After hearing this, she laughed and left the room. I am conveying to you this episode as direct testimony to the greatness of mother's love. She might have given up her body, but she is always with Swami. She said, "I have performed many sacrifices

for Your sake and have done many kinds of pujas. I realized the proof thereof. For 40 years I was with You. My life has its fulfilment."

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 31/Ch. 22,
6 May 1998, Easwaramma Day*

QUESTIONS

- What are the ideals conveyed by Swami through the life of Mother Easwaramma?
- Illustrate how Mother Easwaramma is an exemplar of an ideal mother?

Embodiment of Simplicity and Compassion

Easwaramma and Subbamma used to feel ecstatic watching Me sing Pandari bhajans and dance to their rhythm. Sometimes, her husband Pedda Venkama Raju would give Easwaramma some money for the household expenditure. Once two annas were remaining with her out of this money. One could buy two bags of puffed rice for two annas those days. So, Easwaramma bought two bags of puffed rice with the two annas and distributed to the children. She always used to give away whatever she had with her.

She was the embodiment of sacrifice. She used to talk lovingly to all those who came to her. When devotees would feel sad that Swami was ignoring them, she would console them saying, "Whatever Swami does is for your own good."

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 33/Ch. 9
6 May 2000, Easwaramma Day*

She had compassion towards young women who were widowed by fate. The love with which she treated these women blossomed wider as she

watched Swami and she became more than their own mother to an ever-increasing number of women in distress. Devotees discovered in her a never failing source of strength and wisdom.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 36/Ch.10

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 38/Ch. 11

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 33/Ch. 9

"Easwaramma, The Chosen Mother" by N. Kasturi

The Seeds for Swami's Humanitarian Work

Once, mother Easwaramma was returning from the Chitravathi river with a vessel full of water. An old woman was walking along with her with great difficulty, unable to bear the burden of the vessel filled with water. Easwaramma enquired "Mother! Are you feeling difficulty in carrying the vessel full of water?" The old woman, who was perspiring and unable to keep pace with her, replied, "Yes, mother! I am unable to carry this vessel for such a long distance but, I have no children to help me in this task. I, myself must

carry this vessel full of water every day". These words of agony were imprinted on the mind of Easwaramma.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 37/Ch. 10,
6 May 2004, Easwaramma Day*

After walking for some distance, she saw a small boy holding a slate and pencil in one hand and carrying a heavy load of books in a bag hanging round his neck. He was unable to walk, but he had to continue his journey to the Bukkapatnam School. Easwaramma enquired of the boy, "My dear son! What for are these slate and pencil? Why are you carrying such a heavy load of books?" The small boy replied, "Mother, I am carrying these books so that I can note down all that the teachers teach me". Easwaramma kept all these incidents in her mind.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 37/Ch. 10,
6 May 2004, Easwaramma Day*

After walking for some more distance, she came across a frail lady carrying her infant child on her shoulders proceeding toward Bukkapatnam. Easwaramma again enquired of this lady, "You appear to be frail and weak, unable to carry the child. Why should you to have to walk such a long distance up to Bukkapatnam?" The lady replied "Mother! What else can I do? There is no doctor in this remote village who can give some medicine for my child. He is suffering from cold and fever. I have to take him to the Bukkapatnam hospital". This incident also made an imprint on the mind of Easwaramma.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 37/Ch. 10,
6 May 2004, Easwaramma Day*

Once Easwaramma came to Me and requested, "Swami! Several poor mothers have come here along with their children. They have no food to eat. Kindly bless them". Then I rendered them proper help and thus fulfilled Easwaramma's wish.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 38/Ch. 11,
6 May 2005, Easwaramma Day*

On another day, she came to Me and expressed her anguish thus, "Swami! Small children of five years age are daily walking to Bukkapatnam and back to attend to school. How can they study after walking such a long distance daily?" I called their parents and advised them, "These tiny tots can learn more from their mothers than from their teachers in a school. Instead of sending these small children to such a long distance for education, you first teach them what little you know. You teach them at least two or three alphabets which you know". Later, I established a school in Puttaparthi and fulfilled the wish of Easwaramma.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 38/Ch. 11,
6 May 2005, Easwaramma Day*

QUESTIONS

- How did Mother Easwaramma show what contentment is?
- Mother Easwaramma was an embodiment of strength and wisdom...how do you think these ideals were expressed?

Humanitarian Appeal to Swami

Healthcare & Educare

One day Easwaramma came in when I was having My food. When others tried to follow her, she told them not to come. She held both My hands and pleaded, “Swami, there is no hospital in our village. Consequently, when the children become sick, mothers are forced to carry them to Bukkapatnam. I am unable to see their suffering. My children and others’ children are one and the same for me. So, kindly construct at least a small hospital in our village”. I promised her that I would fulfil her wish and accordingly I built a big hospital, which was inaugurated by the then Central Minister, Bejawada Gopala Reddy. Easwaramma’s joy knew no bounds. The whole day she did not feel the need for food and water as she felt highly contented and overjoyed. She caught hold of My hands and expressed her happiness as her wish was fulfilled in a big way. I told her, “Be happy”. After some time, she approached Swami again and wanted a school to be built in the village. As desired by her, I got a school constructed. Initially, it was a small one.

Later on, I made it into a big building. She was very happy. She went to the school, kissed the children and showered her love on them. She was extremely happy and said, “In this Age of Kali, it is my good fortune to have a son like You, who has done whatever I wished”. Then she wanted the village to be provided with drinking water. I promised that it would be done. I found that bore wells were being dug to overcome water scarcity. But they become useless within a short period of time. So, I got a big well dug in the Old Mandir.

If the intention is good, the result also is bound to be good. As My intention was good, a copious spring of pure water gushed forth even at a depth of seven feet! At the back side of the Mandir, an entrance was provided for people to collect water.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 33/Ch. 9,
6 May 2000, Easwaramma Day*

Mother Easwaramma too had such noble desires. As Sai’s glory began to spread far and wide, she came to Me one day and said, “Swami, I am pained to see small children of our village walking all the way to Bukkapatnam to attend school. Please construct a small school”. Conforming to her wish, I established a small school. After some time, she wanted a small hospital also to be established here. She said she could not bear to see the mothers taking the trouble of carrying their children to Bukkapatnam for medical treatment. Accordingly, I got a small hospital built.

The small school that I established has become a big university today. The small hospital that I constructed has become a Super Specialty Hospital (cheers). These mighty tasks could be accomplished because of the *Sathya Sankalpa* (noble wish) of Mother Easwaramma and *Nitya Sankalpa* (Divine Will) of Sai. Her last wish was to provide drinking water to the village. She pointed out that the women had to take great pains to draw water from deep wells, which had almost dried up. I immediately provided drinking water to the village. Now under Sri Sathya Sai water Supply Project, I have provided drinking water to the entire district of Anantapur.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 34/Ch. 8,
6 May 2001, Easwaramma Day*

QUESTIONS

- Mother Easwaramma is known for her humility and compassion for the distress. How did Swami fulfil her humanitarian wishes?
- In what practical ways can we emulate Mother Easwaramma in our day to day life?

An Exemplary Devotee

Served and Breathed Swami

As a mother, her love for all was pure, self-less and unconditional. It was mainly through the teachings and Grace of Swami that she succeeded in the assignment of expanding and deepening her love. Swami, in His elucidation of Dharma, has revealed that woman represents the concretization of God's beneficence. Easwaramma had a natural aptitude for spiritual endeavour, being endowed with fortitude and modesty. She was intelligent and vigilant. Easwaramma, as the closest devotee of Sai, was aided by Him to uplift herself to the heights marked out for the ideal woman.

During the summer course in Brindavan in 1972, she was sitting in the hall one day, after breakfast. Swami was upstairs. Suddenly she called out, 'Swami, Swami, Swami.' Swami responded, "I am coming, don't go!" Gokak, who was there, was surprised at that. Swami rushed down. She held Swami's hands and said, "I am completely satisfied with this Summer Course. It is not only the students who are getting benefited".

"Even I have developed a broad mind. Swami, I am going!" She offered her *pranams* to Swami and passed away peacefully. Everyone aspires to a peaceful death. People who have evil feeling will not die such a death. Easwaramma did not have

even a trace of evil feeling in her. That is why she was always joyful.

I shall point out a small incident concerning the goodness of Easwaramma. The Summer Classes were on at Bangalore. In the morning at 7, breakfast had to be served to the students. They went round with *Nagara Sankeerthan* (street singing of spirituals) and returned at 6. I gave them Darshan (audience). Then, I went for my bath. Meanwhile, Easwaramma had finished her bath; she drank her coffee as usual quite happily and took her seat on the inner verandah.

Suddenly proceeding to the bathroom, she cried out. "Swami, Swami, Swami," thrice. At this, I responded: "Coming, Coming". Within that period, she breathed her last. What greater sign of goodness is needed? She had no need to be served and nursed. Swami will come to the memory at that time only for a very few. The mind will usually seek and stay on some object or the other, some jewellery or valuables.

From the ground floor, she called: "Swami! Swami!" I replied, "Coming, Coming," and she was gone. It was like the elephant's calling and the Lord proceeding to bless it – the two wires achieving connection, the release happening instantaneously.

This is the authentic consummation that life must strive for. Beside her at the time she had her daughter moment is the fruit of holy purity. It is the sign of an ideal adorable life. Such attitude must emerge of its own accord and not by means of some external force. Here is an example to learn from.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 16/Ch. 11,
6 May 1983, Easwaramma Day*

Swami – An Ideal Son

Before Easwaramma passed away, Swami fulfilled all her three wishes. Easwaramma's desires were very simple! Her desire to have a small primary school for the children in Puttaparthi blossomed into the Sathya Sai University, which provides integral education from primary to doctoral level, free of cost, combining academic excellence and exemplary character. Inspired by this, Institutes of Sathya Sai Education, Sathya Sai Schools, and Sathya Sai Education in Human Values programmes provide value-based education in many countries around the world.

Her second wish to have a small hospital in Puttaparthi has expanded into two Super Specialty Hospitals in Puttaparthi and Whitefield along with two general hospitals. These temples of healing provide primary to tertiary healthcare

and modern state of the art medical care, completely free of cost. This has sprawled into a global health mission providing free healthcare to hundreds of thousands of needy people through medical camps, medical clinics and mobile clinics.

Her third wish was to provide drinking water for residents of Puttaparthi. This has developed into the mammoth Sathya Sai Water project which is providing water to millions not only in Puttaparthi but also in other states in India. This has inspired Sathya Sai devotees across the world to start water projects in Africa, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, El Salvador and other countries. Thus, the small wishes of the mother paved the way for gigantic humanitarian projects all over the world.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 32/Ch. 14

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 36/Ch. 10

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 38/Ch. 11

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 33/Ch. 9

“Easwaramma, The Chosen Mother” by N. Kasturi

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 35/Ch. 9

QUESTIONS

- List the qualities and virtues of Mother Easwaramma based on the above incidences.
- What stops us from acquiring having such noble values and virtues?

Her Love for Children

She loved children and so naturally, they cuddled in flocks around her. She would forget her physical ailments when engaged in story-telling. Invariably she rounded up the tales with emphatic messages on humility and honesty, love and loyalty.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 36/Ch. 10
Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 38/Ch. 11
Sri Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 33/Ch. 9

“Easwaramma, The Chosen Mother” by N. Kasturi

As a little child I was fortunate to have met her every time we visited Prasanthi Nilayam. Mother Easwaramma used to stay in a small room at the back of Swami’s residence and we children used to run up and down to find out her whereabouts, to receive her blessings. Since we did not speak Telugu, we missed the opportunity of conversing with her, but her kindness and few words were sufficient to fill our hearts with joy.

Mother Easwaramma led an exemplary life and truly embodied Swami’s teaching of ‘love all and serve all’. Though she did not have formal education and she was shy and reserved, she was a chosen instrument in Bhagawan’s mission, the inspiration behind educational and medical institutions and water projects. By her example, I learnt that if you have noble aspirations, opportunities present themselves to serve the Lord. I’ve learnt that it can be anything – your time, physical energy, good thinking, positivity, prayers, good company, inspirational and encouraging words.

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She imparted a sacred teaching to the children, saying, “My dear ones, you are going to school to study. Whatever you learn, put it to proper use. Only then will you be called truly educated and earn the appellation Sakshara. If you do not make proper use of your education, you become a *rakshasa* (demon). Make efforts to earn the title of Sakshara”. Then she told Me, “Sathya! At any time and under any circumstances, do not cultivate hatred toward anybody. Love all and You will be loved by all”. In fact, there is no trace of hatred or enmity in Me at any time. I love all. That is why everyone loves Me. If we do not love others, how can we expect others to love us? Give love and receive love. It is not a one-way traffic. You should give and take. In this manner, mother Easwaramma taught the children many sacred ideals.

Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 36/Ch. 10,
6 May 2003, Easwaramma Day

I want to tell you an incident that speaks of her immense compassion and love for children. In those days, students from various States and countries attended Summer Classes. Gokak, who used to conduct the classes, was a strict disciplinarian. He was a man of great character and sacrifice. He was a great academician too. He was conducting the classes in an exemplary manner.

One day, the students were having lunch in the dining hall. One of the boys got up and went outside before others could finish their meals. Gokak, who watched this through the window,

called him and chided him for his act of indiscipline. “When your fellow students are having their food, you should not get up in the middle even though you have completed your meals. It amounts to insulting them”. Saying so, Gokak suspended him from the classes. The boy was in tears, but Gokak was not moved.

The boy came to mother Easwaramma’s room, fell at her feet and started crying. He told her about the harsh punishment meted out to him by Gokak. He pleaded with her to come to his rescue. Easwaramma consoled him and sent him away. She was sitting on the steps where Gokak would pass by. After a while Gokak came there.

She offered her Namaskar to him and he reciprocated the same most reverentially. Then she said, “When I did Namaskar to you, you reciprocated the same. In the same manner, if you punish others, you will be punished in return. The boy out of his innocence has done a mistake. Please forgive him and allow him to attend the classes”.

Then Gokak replied, “Mother, if I forgive him, it will set a bad precedent for others. Anyway, I will forgive him only for your sake”. In this manner, she would go out of her way to help and provide comfort and solace to others.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 36/Ch. 10,
6 May 2003, Easwaramma Day*

When the mother’s heart is pure, her children too would be pure-hearted. One should respect one’s mother and never hurt her feelings. When Swami

was staying in the Old Mandir, one day there was an unusual crowd.

Sensing danger, Easwaramma came to Me and said, “Swami, these people seem to be having some ulterior motive. I am afraid they may try to harm You. I am unable to sleep peacefully”. I infused courage in her, saying, “Be fearless. The body is bound to perish one day or the other. So, give up body attachment”. Those days I used to sleep all alone in a thatched hut. That night, as Easwaramma feared, some evil-minded people set the hut on fire from all four sides.

There were raving flames all around. Seeing this, Subbamma and Easwaramma came running. When they reached the spot, they found to their utter amazement, there was a heavy downpour on the hut. However, there was absolutely no rain in the surrounding area (loud applause). When I came out of the hut, both were overjoyed to see Me safe and sound.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 34/Ch. 8,
6 May 2001, Easwaramma Day*

QUESTIONS

- Mother Easwaramma lead an exemplary life and truly embodied Swami’s teaching of “love all and serve all”. Illustrate with examples.
- What can we learn from Mother Easwaramma’s life?



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