

## Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Develop love for all, Love is God, Live in Love. Love is the only bond that can unite all and make us Realise the ONE reality behind all the seeming Diversity.

Love is the origin of the whole universe.

We should harmonise our thoughts, words and deeds. We should always speak the Truth and share the message of Love.

The tongue is the most important sense organ. If the tongue is conquered, it virtually amounts to conquering all the other sense organs. Do not utter lies, carry tales, criticise or scandalise others and avoid excessive talk. These tendencies deprive man of peace of mind.

Love all Serve all.

## Sikh

In Sikhism love towards God and His beings is given a high value.

Guru Nanak said: "If you want to play the game of love then abandon yourself and go to Him".

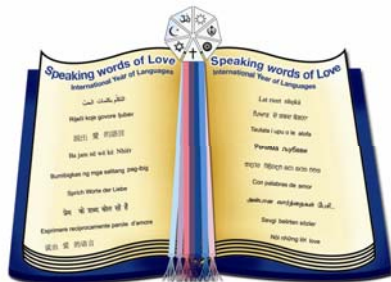
Love is exemplified by:

The Lotus flower which loves the water, tossed about by the waves it blossoms forth.

Or the way the fish loves the water. Without water the fish cannot live; the more the water, the more the happiness, the greater the peace of mind and body.

Or like the water has love for milk. When heating the milk, the water bears the heat and prevents the milk from burning.

Guru Gobind Singh the tenth Master said: "Only those who love the Lord can achieve God realisation. Without love all other efforts are of no avail".



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## Interfaith Annual Gathering 2008

### Year of Languages

### "Speaking Words of Love"



## Aboriginal

For Aboriginal people, the land has a spiritual connection: it's our mother. The human spirit is born from our land and returns to it upon death. The land supplies us with everything that we need for living.

The Dreaming tells of the journey and the actions of Ancestral Beings who created the natural world. The Dreaming is infinite and links the past with the present to determine the future. It is the natural world, especially the land or country to which a person belongs, which provides the link between the people and The Dreaming.

A "Welcome to Country" acknowledges and recognises the ancestral spirits who created the lands, and allows safe passage to visitors. To give visitors access to our land and resources is one of the most precious gifts an Aboriginal person can give.

## Baha'i

Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's Holy Dispensation. What a power is love! It is the most wonderful, the greatest of all living powers. Love gives life to the lifeless. Love lights a flame in the heart that is cold. Love brings hope to the hopeless and gladdens the hearts of the sorrowful. In the world of existence there is indeed no greater power than the power of love.

Love is heaven's kindly light.

Love is the light that guideth in darkness.

Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind.

Be thou a summoner to love. Love thou the children of men and share in their sorrows.

O FRIEND, in the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love . . .

## Brahma Kumaris

Everyone wants to be loved for who they are. When I appreciate others fully and speak words of love that boost their self-esteem, this helps them to pass on loving words to others. Even though I may not see the results immediately, love always works.

My love is a gift, free from any expectation of return. In the deepest part of my soul is a selfless desire for others' happiness. I infuse this warmth into everything I do and every word I say. When I listen with my heart to the hearts of others, I can then speak to everyone words that let them know of the loveliness I see in them. With a big heart I can naturally love myself and others, with all our idiosyncrasies.

### **Buddhist**

True love is love without selfish desire or attachment. It is selfless and does not ask for anything in return. Selfless love is also an *encompassing* quality and encompasses many good qualities such as kindness, compassion, honesty, integrity, consideration and selflessness.

The Lord Buddha always spoke with good-will. He spoke words that were timely, truthful, beneficial and kind. He defined such speech as 'skilful speech' and encouraged others to speak in the same manner. By developing selfless words of love, one would be engaging in such skilful speech by default.

When the art of speaking selfless words of love (skilful speech) is developed and utilized, one is able to transform oneself, one's neighbours, communities, countries and even the entire world! This is the power of skilful speech; the power of speaking words of selfless love.

### **Christian**

What a significant year this is: a year that upholds and celebrates the diversity and beauty of language in all its forms. Words which make up the world's languages evolve through time, but the underlying purpose of words and language is to communicate.

Throughout his ministry Jesus used words of love and compassion which communicated a message of worth, value, empathy and acceptance to all. Jesus' words were contradictory to the messages sent by those in authority in that day. His words of love and justice were ultimately what caused those in power to have him put to death. As those who choose to follow the example of Jesus, our challenge is to speak the same words of love, communicating to those rejected and oppressed by society that they are loved and are of worth.

### **Hindu**

Prayers and devotion to God are part and parcel of a Hindu way of life. God is love and love is God. Peace and coexistence are important pillars of Hinduism. Human beings are all divine and love is inherent in them.

Expression of love is more important than feeling it. Unless you express it, the recipient will not enjoy the happiness that love confers. We express our love to each other by a smile, glance, handshake or hug.

Today the world is full of conflicts. Some of the reasons for these are lack of love, and respect for opinions and views of others.

Hinduism offers a pleasant way of living and guidance to live a life full of love and affection for others. It preaches acceptance of others and kind-heartedness to the needy.

### **Jewish**

Humankind's most powerful tools to preserve and develop heritage are our languages. We celebrate shared heritages through languages as these are humanity's most precious, fragile treasure.

As a multicultural community it is a challenge and responsibility to ensure that the mother tongue continues to be taught and spoken at home and in the workplace.

Rabbi Akiba said the essence of the Torah was 'ahava/love': "You shall love the Eternal, your God, with all your heart and soul and with all your might and you shall love your neighbour as yourself".

In expressing our love for humanity we help people express their own love of God. By cherishing each other and working together to make this a better place for all, we witness to our love of God and humanity, expressing the essence of the Torah.

### **Muslim**

Love is like a light, loveless-ness is like darkness. Darkness cannot have a source. Darkness is the state when there is no light, but there must always be a source for light. There can be no love without a source as there can be no light without a source.

ALLÂH (Almighty) is the Source of love. One of Allah's names is Al-Wadûd with two different meanings. Al-Wadûd means both "the Most Loving One" and "the Most Loved One". This name denotes both "the Ever Loving One" and "the One Wishing to be loved", distinguishing this Name from others.

Wudd expresses a special kind of bestowed love. Bearing an extract from its Giver (Almighty), this love is eternal. The Qur'ân states: "Ar-Rahmân will bestow (eternal) love (wudd) onto those who believe and do righteous good deeds." (19:96)