



# Celebrate 'Parents' Worship Day'

And Not Valentine's Day (14<sup>th</sup> February)

## The supremely benevolent message of Param Pujya Sant Sri Asaramji Bapu, the benign well-wisher of mankind.

India is the sacred land of holy rishis, munis and divine incarnations. In ancient times, people would greet each other by saying, "Rama-Rama!"

How great the idea hidden behind this custom is! They uttered the Lord's name twice to signify that the same consciousness of the Supreme Lord abides equally in both people greeting each other, and that they offer their salutations to That. Such divine spirit alone represents pure 'love'. A pure, guileless and selfless sense of affection, free from desire, is called love. This custom helped people to remember the Lord even while meeting each other.

Today, such pious feelings of pure and selfless love have given way to the degenerative passion and lust, which has now come to be accepted as love. 14<sup>th</sup> February is celebrated as 'Valentine's Day'. Young boys and girls in the west exchange greeting cards, chocolates and roses with each other on this day.

Revelries like 'Valentine's Day' that encourage people to live an immoral life are the prime factor behind widespread rejection of traditional sexual codes in many countries. This has caused the degradation of such nations. Even after spending crores of dollars on 'abstinence only' campaigns in schools, governments of these nations have failed to solve the consequent problems.

Now this evil custom has infiltrated into our country as well. Therefore, now it is our duty to preserve our traditional moral values by boycotting the celebration of 'Valentine's Day.'

While naming this day (Valentine's Day) as the 'Youth's Disaster Day' and awakening the people to its terrible consequences, His Divine Holiness Pujya Bapuji has this to say: "King Claudius of Rome must have been very well aware of the power of celibacy; that is why he had forbidden his military forces from getting married, so that they remained physically and mentally fit enough to win wars. Prohibition of marriage was forcibly imposed on the armed forces, and hence St. Valentine, who himself being a Christian priest could not have been an opposer of celibacy, had got them married secretly. Later, he was found guilty and the king had him hanged to death. Then in the year 496 AD, Pope Galessius began to celebrate 'Valentine's Day' in the memory of that saint.

"Those who celebrate 'Valentine's Day' in the present manner, do in fact insult the saint himself; for they try to start a love-affair before their actual marriage by sending Valentine cards to one another. Had St. Valentine supported this system, he would not have solemnized the marriages in the first place.

"Do celebrate the day of love (Valentine's Day), but with self-restraint and for true development. If young boys and girls meet, it will only lead them to ruin.

"What a sharp contrast is there between this western celebration of Valentine's day, which promotes nothing but passion, lust and promiscuity and our own glorious culture wherein there are holy festivals like 'Raksha Bandhana' and 'Bhai Dooj' spreading such pious feelings as 'परस्परं भावयन्तु ... 'May there be mutual goodwill among us'. —'let us work for the all round prosperity of one another' and तन्मे मनः शिवसंकल्पमस्तु ... 'May my mind be always blessed with auspicious thoughts'.

"In the future, they will breed irritability, emptiness, depression, frustration, premature old age and death. Indians, therefore, should guard against blindly aping such things. You are sons and daughters of Mother India. Celebrate 'Love Day,' wherein children pay respect to parents and parents shower affection on their children. Will you do it my darlings? The west is on a ruinous path. People there are falling prey to sexually transmitted diseases and depression celebrating the likes of 'Valentine's day'. Why should you imitate them?

"My dear young people and their parents! You are born on the pious land of India. You are the descendants of farsighted rishis. Shun 'Valentine's day' which, in the name of love, debilitates the youth. O parents and their children! Love each other beholding the Lord in the other one and let your hearts be filled with Divine Joy. Not the false joy of sex, but the Joy of God, the Love of God and the Bliss of God.

मातृदेवो भव । पितृदेवो भव । बालिकादेवो भव । कन्यादेवो भव । पुत्रदेवो भव ।

‘May the mother be thy God. May the father be thy God, may the little girl be thy God. May the daughter be thy God. May the son be thy God’.

‘Valentine’s day’, the day of love, should in fact be the day of loving the Lord abiding in every heart.

May all good come to the people of India and of the world! My brothers and sisters in India! Your conduct should be exemplary. It should help bring peace and happiness to my brothers and sisters of the whole world. Why should you ape the west? Rather they should get blessed following your footsteps.”

All patriotic citizens must make their respective contributions (in whatever form possible) towards the building of a strong future nation by engaging themselves in this act of national welfare.

## How to celebrate ‘Parents’ Worship Day’?

\* On this day, children should bow to their parents and the parents should shower love on their children who in turn should embrace their parents with all affection. This will foster true love. May children see divinity in their parents, and the parents awaken divinity in their children.

\* Children should worship their parents with flowers, tilak, etc. and parents too should apply tilak to the children and bless them.

\* The worship of the parents will transform ego and lust into love and divinity; and the parents’ blessings will bring supreme good to the children.

\* Read stories such as –Child Ganesha’s circumambulation of the earth, Bhakta Pundalik and Shravan Kumar’s devotion to their parents. Or one may read while the others listen thereto.

\* On this day children should make this pious resolve: “I will respect my parents and elders. It is my duty to obey their commands that are only meant to guide my life on the path to greatness; and I will certainly fulfil it.”

\* The parents should distribute the pious books such as ‘Bal Sanskar’, ‘Divya Prerana Prakash’ (The Secret of Eternal Youth in English), ‘Tu Gulab Hokar Mahak’, ‘Madhur Vyavahar’ (Winsome Behaviour in English) according to their respective means and also resolve to read these books themselves and get them read by their children for a while regularly.

\* Present the stories of the great devotees of their parents, viz. Sri Ganesha, Pundalik, Shravan Kumar, etc. in the drama form.

\* Play the songs – (1) ‘Māta-Pitā-Guru-Prabhu charnon me...’ (From the cassette – Bhajan Deepanjali) (2) ‘Bhulo sabhi ko tum magar...’ etc. \* On this day, organize a collective recital of the ‘Sri Asaramayana’ and conclude it with distribution of sweet prasada among the children. \* Get the following pious messages written on cardboards and affix them at the venue of this programme.

1. bahuta rāta taka pair dabāte, bhare kaṇṭha pitu āśiṣa pāte.

2. putra tumhārā jagata meṁ sadā rahegā nām | logoṁ ke tumse sadā pūraṇa honge kām ||

3. mātrdevo bhava | pitrdevo bhava | ācāryadevo bhava |

\* Read the supremely philanthropic message of Pujya Bapuji yourself and get it read by others as well. Celebrate ‘Parents’ Worship Day’ and not ‘Valentine’s Day.’

### A Request to Guardians and Teachers of Bal Sanskar Kendras

We call upon all the guardians to celebrate ‘Parents’ Worship Day’ either at their respective homes or collectively on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The co-ordinators of Bal Sanskar Kendras may invite the children’s parents to their centers and organize collective programmes. Do take effective steps to reach this pious message of Pujyashree to as many people as possible. Get it published in the local newspapers of your area. Do not forget to send a written description and relevant newspaper cuttings (if any) of the programme to the Head office of Bal Sanskar Vibhag, Amdavad.

Contact :

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## Devotion to the Parents & the Guru

Our Indian culture aims at getting the children scale great heights in their tender age itself. It has a very systematic arrangement for inculcating the most ideal and benevolent pieces of knowledge into children in the forms of very simple and aphoristic precepts. Our culture declares:

**mātradevo bhava | pitṛdevo bhava | ācāryadevo bhava** | i.e. ‘May the mother be thy God, may the father be thy God, may the teacher be thy God’. The parents and the Guru are our well-wishers, hence we should not only respect them but also salute and worship them seeing Divinity in them. The sense of respect is enough to ensure obedience, but to enrich it with the sweetness of love the sense of reverence is the pre-requisite. This sense of reverence does ensure that the act of obedience doesn’t become a means of further bondage, but a natural and nectarine piece of work equalling the act of worship.

It requires power to take water up. Power is used even in the lift that takes things upstairs. If the water has to get evaporated and fly upwards it does have to bear the pains of being heated. Even the ball has to be hit hard in order to go up in the air. But O dear students! How wonderful is the eternal culture of India that has in it this most efficacious formula of attaining progress in life as given by the ancient rishis and saints, making the very task of Self-elevation a spontaneous act of blissful sport.

Whoever took recourse to this formula did himself become worthy of respect and worship. Lord Sri Rama established such a great standard of revering, serving and worshipping the parents and the Guru considering them to be manifest forms of divinity that even today He is being hailed as the greatest ever human being to have observed the highest moral standards in his life. Known as Nanda-nandana and Yashoda-nandana i.e. the son of Nanda and Yashoda, even Lord Sri Krishna happened to flood the household of Nandaji with downpours of nectarine bliss, thereby pleasing them to the core; and then staying at the ashram of His Guru –Sandipaniiji, He served Him too with great love and sincerity. When Emperor Yudhisthira performed the ‘Rajasuya Yajna’ Lord Sri Krishna took upon Himself the service of washing the holy feet of the invited Gurus, saints and Brahmins. By virtue of such sincere devotion to His duty did He make it into the hearts of millions as the most adorable ‘Karmayogi Lord Sri Krishna.’ Lord Ganesha, Grandsire Bhishma. Shravana Kumara, Pandalika, Aaruni, Upamanyu, Totakacharya, etc. are just a few fragrant flowers of the pious garland of devotees of their respective parents and Gurus.

Totaka, the disciple of Adi Shankaracharya who was considered by others as an ignorant and fool, took the formula – ‘**ācāryadevo bhava**’, i.e. ‘may the teacher be thy God’ to the bottom of his heart and stuck to it firmly enough. And the result is a well-known fact today that by the benign grace of the Guru he went on to gain knowledge of all the scriptures even without having to go through them, thereby earning great renown and honour. Even in this present age, a young boy used to massage the feet of his father till late in the night. His father would tell him repeatedly to go to sleep, but through loving insistence he would still continue to massage his father’s feet. Pleased with his tireless service, his father would bless him:

**putra tumhārā jagata meṁ sadā rahegā nām | logom ke tumse sadā pūraṇa honge kām ||**

“My son! You will earn eternal fame in the world. The people would get their wishes fulfilled by your grace.”

He also served His revered Mother with great diligence unto the very last moments of her life. As a youth, alike Lord Rama and Lord Krishna, he too spent a life of great austerities and diligent service with a reverence mixed loving devotion to the holy feet of the Guru. The trying pains and testing miseries borne in the Guru’s place finally turned out to be the givers of Supreme Bliss. Today, that very child has grown up into a great saint and is revered the world over by millions. While delivering *satsanga*, this great saint, at times, alludes to some particular incident of his life in His Guru’s company and repeats the following couplet of Kabirji:

*“The misery that comes one’s way as a test at the Guru’s place,*

*Kabir says that he is ready to sacrifice a million happiness in exchange thereof.”*

The Satguru is the only Supreme well-wisher in the world. ‘**ācāryadevo bhava**’ –these scriptural words are not merely words alone but are the personal experience of all great saints.

‘**mātradevo bhava | pitṛdevo bhava | ācāryadevo bhava** |’ This aphorism can be seen in its manifest form in the life of this great saint; and this alone has fructified in the form of His revered Mother and Gurudeva choosing His pious lap alone to rest their heads on in the last moments of their life. Now, guess out the name of that young boy who went on to set such a sublime example of devotion to the parents and Guru. Today’s children should take lessons from these great examples of devotion and by propitiating their parents and the Guru drive the apple cart of their life towards true prosperity.

## Never Forget Your Parents

You may forget all else, but never do forget your parents;

They have done you countless good turns; forget this not.  
They worshipped many a stone-idol, to bring you to this world;

Don't be stone-hearted to crush their loving heart ever.  
They reared you by feeding, while themselves remaining hungry.

They nurtured you with nectar; don't return it with venomous words.  
They pampered you catering to every whim and fancy of yours.

It is now your turn to fulfil their expectations; don't forget this.  
You may be earning crores; but that isn't greater than your parents.

If you don't serve them your money is worth nothing; have no pride.  
If you want to be served by your children, do serve your parents.

Mind you, it is the eternal law – 'As you sow, so shall you reap'.  
She slept on the bed wetted by you, giving you the drier side.

Never wet the mother's nectarine eyes with tears of grief.  
They spread flowers on your path wherever you went.

Don't become a thorn in their eyes or on their path.  
Money can be earned, but can the parents be ever regained?

Always remain devoted to the pious feet of your parents.

## Salutation to the Parents the Guru and the Lord...

Salutation to the parents, the Guru and the Lord,

Numerous favours have they done to us;

(1) The pains your mother took to raise you can't be paid back ever,

She taught you to walk and gave her affectionate shelter,  
She brought you up in her lap and made you wise enough.

Salutation to the parents, the Guru and the Lord,

Numerous favours have they done to us;

(2) Father earned money and fed us to make us worthy

He got us educated and taught us the art of living.  
He saved money painstakingly and left it all for us

Salutation to the parents, the Guru and the Lord,

Numerous favours have they done to us;

(3) Guru revealed the spiritual essence by dispelling all darkness.

Lit the lamp of devotion and showed us the path of God-realization  
Showered His Unmotivated grace on us, how supremely generous He is!

Salutation to the parents, the Guru and the Lord,

Numerous favours have they done to us;

(4) By the grace of the Lord we got the human body and met the saint

Made us the best being by giving us power, wisdom and knowledge  
He readily delivers the one who takes refuge in Him.

Salutation to the parents, the Guru and the Lord,

Numerous favours have they done to us.