

Our Divine Mother - Navaratri, a time to celebrate

Today is Guruday and the second day of Navaratri, a festival in honor of our Divine Mother, which lasts nine (Nava) nights (Ratri). In India, it happens, especially with women, that Shirdi Sai Baba is sometimes also called 'Mother Sai'. They feel Baba's nurturing quality as maternal, what perhaps may surprise some senior students because Baba showed himself often very strictly. Maybe it is a mirror principle ☺ or simply just what is best for everyone.

Navaratri could be compared with a nine-day harvest festival or Thanksgiving. It is a colorful festival that honors the abundance of maternal qualities and its various manifestations. Two pujas (ceremonies) commonly are held daily and the altar area is richly decorated with banana trees, many flowers, oil lamps, incense, special vessels with decorated coconuts as a symbol for HER, fire ceremonies, ringing bells, lights rituals (Harathi), Bhajans ... India with its spiritual wealth !

Where is the Divine Mother in Her greatness in our lives?

This is perhaps the best question during those days for ourselves. How could we honor our mother better than celebrating the abundance of Her love by giving Her a sacred place in our lives and a wonderful expression of it?!

Interestingly, some words from Swami Kaleshwar appeared this morning, though in a different context mentioned, they are fitting very well to this subject: 'You are like a fish in the water - and still asking for water?' Enjoy finding some answers for yourself.

Singing is an expression of abundance in the most natural way. Jaya MA (No.55 in bhajanbook of Shiva Sai Mandir, Penukonda) is one of the most beautiful bhajans to express our love and appreciation for our Ma (Mother). Again and again the words of **Jaya Ma**, which are an exclamation of joy and the fullest confidence that SHE blesses our lives and all is well and will be. Our Divine Mother is full of unconditional love (**Prema**) and wisdom (**Gnyana**), where the SHE is is also HE (Shiva-Shakti) and all-encompassing bliss (**Sadananda**) is Her essential form (**Rupini**). With Her supreme consciousness (**Para Brahma**) She gives (Pradayini) us liberation (**Moksha**) from all entanglements of this world.

Jay! Here is the [link](#) (s.CD Prayers) to sing along. Enjoy Sabeenamayi

