

**SUVARNA BAL MAHOTSAV**  
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**BLESSINGS BY SWAMISHRI**

Our Indian culture and philosophy should be taught from the cradle – the instructions for which we find in the scriptures as given by God. First, one has to understand one's (true) form. Because, we understand that the physical body we see is our form. We believe this. However, the body is perishable' and it dies. We see this, yet our attachment for it is not overcome. Because of this, we face many difficulties and obstacles in our businesses and other works. But the scriptures say our work, whether it is political, social, business or any other, should be done with commitment in order to run our country. We want to do work for the country and also for society. All this has to be done, but the scriptures also tell us to keep faith in God and have spirituality in life. They also teach us the philosophy that 'I am *atma* and by offering devotion to God I have to attain salvation.' The other thing we are told is that the body we have attained should be used for the salvation, progress and good of mankind.

For our own salvation, we have been blessed with two principles. If we concentrate on these two principles properly then we will be able to do our work very peacefully and attain salvation as well. On this topic, Bhagwan Swaminarayan has said, "*Nijātmānam brahmarupam dehatraya vilakshanam; vibhavya tena kartavyā bhakti Krishnasya sarvadā.*" – that is, believe one's *atma* as *brahmarup* and offer devotion to God. I am not the body. I am *atma*. Consolidate this belief, that the *atma* is eternal, immortal and full of happiness. It has no ego, no jealousy, no feelings of 'mine' and 'yours'. It is eternal. It is never destroyed. After leaving this body, if it has performed good karmas, it will attain God. If they are not good then birth and death await. So, if all these talks, which are our foundation, are strengthened, then we can do all our tasks properly and with ease.

When Yogiji Maharaj toured the villages, he gathered children for the evening *arti*. They came readily to the mandir to play the gongs and drums, and for the *prasad* afterwards. In this way Yogiji Maharaj sat the 5-50 children from the village and gave this message to them daily. In every talk, he explained to them that their purpose in life is to worship God. So you should offer devotion to God. And he made them memorise, '*Swami ane Narayan, Akshar ane Purushottam, Atma ane Paramatma*'. So, he had a lot of love for children. He did not have any distinctions of small or big, therefore, he sat with them and talked to them. Whoever came he talked about this so that this knowledge is attained.

And even in worldly duties he advocated love for the country, patriotism, love for society and sacrifice for society. Together with this he also gave them knowledge of *dharma* and spirituality. He never felt that he was such a great *mahapurush* that he could not sit with or meet children. Whether poor or rich, a tribal or someone big – with all, with the same love and without reservation – he talked and developed a rapport and thought that if such a society is developed then the country will progress and there will be peace. It is with this spirit his Bal Mandal runs. And, today, we see that it is doing great work. This was his principle. One poet has written:

*"Uchā Uchā sabkoi chāle, nichā na chāle koi,  
Jo koi nichā chāle, sabse badā hoi."*

This ideal was in Yogiji Maharaj's life. Today, we see this principle in the life of our country's president, Kalam Saheb. In spite of his services to the nation and busy schedules he has specially come to this children's programme. He has put aside his work and made time for this programme. He did not think that, "I am the president and as president what do I say to children? Why should I go?" He has put aside all his other works and taken the time to come here. So, the love for children I had seen in Yogiji Maharaj, that abundance of love I have seen in him today. Yogiji Maharaj did not think that, 'Will the children understand his talks or not?' But, believed and often said, "What I say will be understood by the children." We may feel as to what can they understand at a young age. But these words (talks) will some day bear fruit. The president is on such a high post, still he has come here to sit with children. In the question-answer session, he has given answers with great love and affection. He has given solutions to their enquiries, and that is also a great thing. Normally, one who is of high status would not be interested in children's questions or talks; but he has noble feelings for them. He comes from a very poor family and he is aware of various situations. When he was small, he had not kept a desire to become big but to remain the smallest in this country, meet all people and listen to their questions and give solutions for the good of the country and for their love for the country. By the year 2020, he wants to make India a developed nation. He has such great thoughts. In terms of wealth and prosperity the country is developed and that is a necessary thing. But together with it spiritual development and such virtues in us is our wealth. That spiritual wealth has to be preserved. In developing externally we also have to develop just us much internally, so that the difficulties that exist today between people – bias and dislike, partiality of 'mine' and 'yours', etc – all disappear. We have to remove all the faults in us and attain virtues. Everyone has virtues. Some have one, some two, some five; there may be faults, too, but there is no need to look at them. We want to progress, so look only at the good in all. By accepting the good virtues of those who are small or big, we will gain many virtues. And if we look at others' faults, our virtues will disappear and faults will increase. This was a principle of Yogiji Maharaj. He always looked at the virtues of others. Kalam Saheb, too, wishes to do good for all and have good feelings for all. So we should understand things in this way.

We congratulate and thank Kalam Saheb very much for coming here and sharing his love with the children and for spending a lot of time. His secretary showed him a paper, but he continued (answering questions). Out of his love for children he has spoken fully and said everything. He even answered the questions and explained what he wanted to say. Also, he made everyone take pledges. Yogiji Maharaj also used to make others pledge that 'I will speak the truth, will not watch cinema and will not eat out.' He (Yogiji Maharaj) made people pledge this for the country and for their own liberation, since if such determination is developed in life then one can progress. It is a matter of helping others. He said one should do good for the country and for society.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan initiated 500 sadhus and He said to each of them, 'When you go to the villages, the people will reject you, insult you, persecute you and beat you. Still, you should tolerate it all, since you are born to help and liberate people. And you inspire them to live morally and be free of addictions. Therefore, daily, between morning and night you make five people pledge to live morally and without addictions.' Bhagwan Swaminarayan had given that instruction to the sadhus, and it was given today by him (the President) by making the children pledge to free five people from addictions.

It is a difficult thing to shun addictions in today's circumstances. Yet the children in their campaign had endeavoured. Some children were even beaten, but they did not give up. In the time of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, the sadhus suffered many beatings, but they continued the work of freeing people from addictions. And in this way, thousands of people had taken the noble path. So, the president has such noble thoughts and feelings that all people become good. Truly, this is an

important thing. We pray to God that these thoughts of his become a reality, his health remains good, and everyone in the country understands this message and starts living and working in this way. His presence here and his love for the children will greatly encourage them. You will understand these talks in your life and will remember that Kalam Saheb had come and talked to you like this – and these talks will bear fruit. The seed is true, and true seeds grow.

Bharat is our country. Many great men, incarnations have been born in Bharat and their words with us. Today, whatever difficulties we live in, our culture and our values have been sustained because their words have been passed on from generation to generation. And even one or two of those words in our lives have the power to sustain us. We feel that of what effect are these talks? But if we accept these talks then our country will certainly progress and prosper and, spiritually, virtues will illuminate it. There will also be peace in the country and everywhere. So again, we thank and congratulate Kalam Saheb for coming here and encouraging us all.

We also thank Advani Saheb who has specially taken time out to come here. He also very much (supports) our activities and believes that in India such activities, spiritual things and the *dharma* and command given by Him (God) will bring peace and benefit to India. Thus, he, too, feels like this and our congratulations to him for doing great work for the country.

The Governor, though he is aged, has taken interest in this activity by being with us here today. We thank him and bless him for encouraging the children.

We also thank and bless the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendrabhai, who has also taken time out to come here and encourage the children with his address.

May good work be done, may there be peace in society, in Gujarat, throughout the country and everywhere. May all the questions which plague India be all slowly resolved – whether they are questions of Gujarat or other states. And may there be an awakening of *dharma* in all. We also thank all the dignitaries who have spared their valuable time to come and grace this assembly and for listening patiently and thus inspiring the children.

We pray that may God do good for you all, liberate all and spread good feelings in all.