



## Teachings of the Eastern Masters

“The belief in the existence of God, the faith and devotion for Him, is itself the earthen lamp that is the devotees’ heart and when the wick burns bright with the oil of love, the flame of knowledge appears.

“Without love, knowledge is dry. Of what use is it to anyone? Without love, there is no satisfaction. But that love should be undivided.

“O, how can the power and greatness of love be described? Everything is insignificant before it. And unless one has deep love in the heart, all the listening and reading is fruitless.

“In love resides true devotion. In it lies all the peace and renunciation, and *mukti* (liberation, realization), with all its wealth, stands behind it too!

“But love does not arise without faith and know that where there is faith, there is God. From faith is born absolute, profound love. Ultimately, to cross the ocean of worldly life safely, faith alone is the means.”

## Commentary

Shirdi Sai Baba often says there are only two things necessary for nurturing our relationship with God and fulfilling our potential as human and Divine: faith and patience (endurance). This is the basis of whatever specific spiritual practices we do.

Faith includes a perspective that everything comes to us from God for the Good, even if we cannot understand or perceive it. Cultivating this perspective makes us more receptive, attentive and attuned to God: if He is the source and essence of all, then He naturally increasingly becomes our point of focus. Whatever is going on outside in the life of the individual ultimately becomes “Self-referral,” as the TMers say, and brings you back to Him.

This perspective, this focus, allows us to relax so we are receptive to the Silence that enlivens and gives meaning to knowledge. Merely collecting information through reading all the scriptures, the Vedas, etc. is an intellectual exercise that isn't ultimately valuable if there is no receptivity and attunement in a relationship with God through love.

This week's quotation is from the *Shri Sai Satcharita*, Chapter 48, v. 26-30.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy New Year!

Love,

Erin