

Easwaramma Day

Narrator (Rateesh): Sai Ram everyone! Thank you all for joining us here to celebrate Easwaramma day. Today, the children of the Anderson Sai Center will present three short stories to you. These stories, chosen by the SSE children themselves along with the help of center members were made into skits, which will now be presented to you. Thank you and God Bless.

The Bird and the Ant

Backdrop of a tree and river painted on a sheet which is hung up. (Or should we use a real fake tree?) Bird will stand on a ladder/stool behind the backdrop to appear as if she is on top of the tree.

Blue cloth with flower garland border to mimic river (<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/7f/3b/a7/7f3ba7d5f5ea7448cfcac6565560bb2e.jpg>).

Or prop for river

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/4f/81/37/4f81378a3a2d3b39a6b543223a09e3ff.jpg>

Also need a leaf prop for the ant and bow & arrow for hunter

Narrator (Mahi): There was once an ant. As it was walking, it came across a river, and decided to get a sip of water.

Ant (Karthik): Oh, a river! I think I will go and drink some water. I am very thirsty.

Narrator (Mahi): As the ant went to drink the water, it slipped and fell into the river.

Ant (Karthik): Oh no! I am floating away in this river! Help! Please help!

Narrator (Mahi): Luckily, there was a bird sitting on a tree above and she was witnessing everything. She cleverly broke a leaf off of the tree, and threw it down to the ant. The ant crawled onto the leaf and safely sailed back to shore.

Ant (Karthik): Oh bird, I am so very grateful for what you have done. If it weren't for you, I would have drowned, as I am very small.

Bird (Meghana): Don't thank me. It was my duty to help you. I would be sinning if I just watched you float away and did nothing about it.

Narrator (Mahi): The next day, the Ant came back for a sip of water. This time, it carefully took a drink of water without falling in. The bird was still up on the tree. Then, the ant saw a hunter come. He was big, tall, and intimidating.

Hunter (Milan): Well,well, what should I capture today?

Narrator (Mahi): As the hunter looked around he spotted the colorful bird on the tree. He took out his bow and arrow. And as he was about to shoot...

Ant (Karthik): Oh No! The bird is in danger, I cannot let the hunter take him away! I will have to do something. I know! I will bite the hunter's leg very hard.

Narrator (Mahi): So, the clever ant crawled up on the hunter's leg, and pinched his teeth very hard, which caused the hunter to let go of his arrow and accidentally hit himself instead. The bird flew away just in time.

The next day, the ant and bird met again.

Bird (Meghana): Oh, ant! I am so thankful for what you have done for me. I will never be able to repay you.

Ant (Karthik): No, bird! You saved my life, so I saved yours. You are my friend.

Projector (Will we be able to use projector? Depends on layout of stage): A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Narrator (Mahi): The moral of this story is, "A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed". You should always help others because it is the right thing to do.

The Thief

Setting: Soup Kitchen

Sign in the background saying "Sai's Soup Kitchen". A table with big steel vessels and ladles. Volunteers dressed in scarves handing out food to raggedly dressed people seated at the table. One of the people eating the food, however, is very well dressed and stands out.

Narrator (Mahi): There was once a rich man who was the CEO of a large company. Since he was very wealthy, he funded a local soup kitchen which was run by Sai devotees. Unlike the other donors and volunteers, he himself used to eat at the soup kitchen every day. One day, a new volunteer joined the soup kitchen and he was puzzled to see the rich man eating there.

Volunteer (Mahi): Excuse me...why, sir, you look like a successful and well off person? Why are you eating here at the soup kitchen?

Rich Man (Sitara): Actually, I've been coming here everyday for a long time.

Volunteer (Mahi): Well it just seems surprising to me that a wealthy man like you would be eating at a soup kitchen. Shouldn't you be having a gourmet meal in your office? Why would you even want to eat this simple food, especially among all these poor people?

Rich man (Sitara): It doesn't matter if a person is poor or rich. What matters is that this is God's food. For Him, we are all one. The food here is pure, and you can't find that in a gourmet meal cooked by my hired chefs. You can only find that in the food here, cooked and served by these loving Sai devotees. There is purity and love in this food, for it is cooked with holy and selfless intentions.

Volunteer (Mahi): That is very true! So how did you start coming here?

Rich man (Sitara): Let me tell you a story...

~ Flashback ~ Show settings on Projector

Park backdrop

Thief (Sitara): Just another day. Time to go to "work"! *Chuckle*

Thief steals purse from a lady (Meghana) sitting on a bench who is reading a book.

Narration ongoing while scene unfolds...

Narrator (Mahi): This man was a thief. Every morning, he would sneakily steal valuable things from people.

Thief (Sitara): Aha! Got my “payment” for the day!

Narrator (Mahi): Everyday went like this. The thief would steal, and then go home. But one day...

Thief (Sitara): Well, just another day. Time to head out.

Narrator (Mahi): Today, as the thief was walking, he came across a soup kitchen. It wasn't just any ordinary soup kitchen, but one that was run by Sai's devotees. Each day, these devotees would contemplate on divinity while they cooked, offer the food to God, and then selflessly serve the food to the needy. The thief realized he was very hungry, so he decided to go inside and eat some food.

At the soup kitchen

Thief: (Sitara): The food is delicious, and I feel full and very healthy.

Narrator (Mahi): The thief then went off to do some more robbery.

Bank backdrop. Enter father and son

Thief (Sitara): Today, I will go in front of the bank, and see if I can steal something from the people coming out of there.

Narrator (Mahi): As the thief was waiting, he saw a father (Rateesh) and his son (Karthik) leaving the bank. The father had a briefcase in his hand, so the thief decided to follow them so he could steal the briefcase.

Father (Rateesh): Dear son, this money is for your college education. I want you to have a good education before I retire so I don't have to worry about you once I am old.

Thief (Sitara): **Thinking** Oh no, if I steal their money, the poor boy will not be able to go to college. No, I will not steal their money; it concerns the boy's life.

Everyone exits

Narrator (Mahi): Thinking that, the thief left. Time passed and the thief became a regular at the soup kitchen. But, he just could not steal anymore. No matter how hard he tried, he felt guilty about it.

Thief alone on stage

Thief (Sitara): Oh no! Why am I not able to steal anymore? I can't push myself to do it because I just feel guilty. What am I doing wrong?

Narrator (Mahi): As the thief wondered, he soon came to a realization...

Thief (Sitara): Ah, yes. I eat at the soup kitchen every day.

That is what is bringing good thoughts in me.

This is good though.

I should not steal anyways, it is a sin.

Thank you Baba, for showing me the way.
I will never steal again.

I will stand on my own two feet and take care of my family through right conduct.

Thief exits

Narrator (Mahi): Fortunately, the thief stopped stealing and instead used his energies to become a businessman. With time, he rose in position and one day became the CEO of a large company. Although he became very wealthy, he never forgot the soup kitchen and the effects of its pure and divine food. He funded the kitchen's activities and regularly volunteered there. And to this day, he still goes to the soup kitchen everyday to eat.

~ Present Time ~

Back at the soup kitchen

Rich man (Sitara): And that thief, was me! Can you believe it? I wasn't very successful at first. But thanks to the good food here, it provoked good thoughts in me and caused me to stop stealing. And now look at me! I am successful, and I have a big office. But that doesn't matter...for God we are all one!

Volunteer (Mahi): Wow! That is indeed a very inspiring and great story. I am so happy for you!

Projector: Good food equals good thoughts (and maybe a quote by Swami?)

There is an intricate and inseparable relationship between food, head and God. Food plays a vital role in the spiritual path. When we consume the right kind of food, it helps us in our effort to understand Divinity. As is the food, so is the mind. Only one with pure mind can understand Divinity. In order to cultivate purity of mind, you should partake of pure and Sathwic food. You should consider food as God. It is said, Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati (as you think so you become).

Narrator (Mahi): The moral of this story is, “Good Food equals Good Thoughts”. As Swami says, “As is the food, so is the head.” If we eat good and healthy food, we have good thoughts and feel good. If we eat bad food, it is not healthy for us and we may have bad thoughts. Although this story depicted physical food, these teachings also apply to all the “food” we intake through our five senses.

Recitation

Brahmarpanam Brahma Havir

A Mother’s Wish

Shadow puppet play

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHw-4UOcj40>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSVd_0AKTKc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hL28SkHf1g>

Character cut outs needed:

- *Mother*
- *Young daughter going to school (with backpack)*
- *Middle aged daughter going to interview (with briefcase)*
- *Grown daughter*

Props cut outs needed:

- *Clothes*
- *Car*
- *House*
- *Hospital*
- *Water*
- *School*
- *A hut*

Scene 1 - Mother and small daughter near a hut

Narrator (Sitara): There was a once a poor widow and her daughter. They lived in a very small village. The mother had to walk very far in order to bring drinking water home.

Mother brings water

Mother (Mahi): My dear daughter, I have brought some drinking water.

Daughter (Meghana): Mother, you have walked so far in order to bring home water for us. Your feet must be so tired.

Mother (Mahi): No my child, don't worry about me.

Narrator (Sitara): The mother loved her child dearly and cared for her. When her daughter was sick, she journeyed far to the hospital in the city, for there was no hospital in their village.

Mother taking her daughter to the hospital

Narrator: And although they were very poor, the mother worked hard to send her daughter to school.

Mother (Mahi): My dear daughter, we have very little. But I have saved enough money so that you can go to school and get a good education.

Daughter (Meghana): I know how hard you must have worked to save this money. Thank you Mother, I don't know how I can ever repay you for all the things you do.

Mother (Mahi): For now, study hard. When the time is right, I will ask something of you.

Daughter walks over to the school

Narrator (Sitara): The daughter went to school and worked hard.

(Karthik runs across stage with a sign that says "Years later")

Narrator (Sitara): Years later, the daughter finished her education and interviewed for a job. She passed the interview with flying colors and got the position.

Mother (Mahi): Congratulations on your job interview! I knew you would do well and get the job!

Daughter (Meghana): Thank you so much, you've always supported me, and I want to do something for you. Can I get you anything, like some new clothes?

Mother (Mahi): No, my daughter, it's not time. I will tell you what I want when the time is right.

(Karthik runs across stage with a sign that says "a few years later")

Narrator (Sitara): Years passed, and daughter became very successful. She never forgot the sacrifices of her mother and wanted to do something for her.

Daughter (Meghana): Mother, can I please buy you a house?

Mother (Mahi): No, my daughter, I am fine.

Daughter (Meghana): Mother, can I please buy you at least something?

Mother (Mahi): No, my daughter, it's still not time.

Daughter (Meghana): Please mother, I'm begging you, do you want anything? I'm well off now, and I want to do something for you.

Mother (Mahi): Okay daughter, I will tell you what I want. I don't need anything from you for myself. I've raised you because that's what mothers do. But now, I want you to share your love with other people the way I shared my love with you. Build schools to educate others, establish hospitals to serve people, and provide clean water to nourish everyone. That is what I want.

Narrator: The moral of the story is, "The Love of A Mother is Selfless". Mother Easwamma exemplified such love. She never sought anything for herself, but instead thought of the welfare of those around her.

Swami says that the qualities of pure love are three fold, like a triangle. One...it is selfless...two...it is changeless...and three...it is fearless.

On this day, we honor such love. We honor the spirit of pure love within every mother.
Sairam