

# FREE TO SOAR

One windy spring day, I observed young people having fun using the wind to fly their kites. Multicolored creations of varying shapes and sizes filled the skies like beautiful birds darting and dancing in the heady atmosphere above the earth. As the strong winds gusted against the kites, a string kept them in check.

Instead of blowing away with the wind, they arose against it to achieve great heights. They shook and pulled, but the restraining string and the cumbersome tail kept them in tow, facing upward and against the wind. As the kites struggled and trembled against the string, they seemed to say, "Let me go! Let me go! I want to be free!" They soared beautifully even as they fought the imposed restriction of the string. Finally, one of the kites succeeded in breaking loose. "Free at last" it seemed to say. "Free to fly with the wind."

Yet freedom from restraint simply put it at the mercy of an unsympathetic breeze. It fluttered ungracefully to the ground and landed in a tangled mass of weeds and string against a dead bush. "Free at last" free to lie powerless in the dirt, to be blown helplessly along the ground, and to lodge lifeless against the first obstruction.

How much like kites we sometimes are. The Lord gives us adversity and restrictions, rules to follow from which we can grow and gain strength. Restraint is a necessary counterpart to the winds of opposition. Some of us tug at the rules so hard that we never soar to reach the heights we might have obtained. We keep part of the commandment and (pardon the pun) never rise high enough to get our tails off the ground.

Let us each rise to the great heights God has in store for us, recognizing that some of the restraints that we may chafe under are actually the steadying force that helps us ascend and achieve.

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**"A diamond in its rough uncut form looks like a mere piece of glass. It is only after the jeweler cuts, grinds, polishes and sets it, does it acquire luster and value. Likewise, sorrow and misery are the cutting tools. They grind, cut and polish the character until we emerge like rich shining gems, a worthy offering to God. Disraeli has said that there is no education like adversity and Ghandhiji stated that discipline is learned in the school of adversity. Strictly speaking, then, we have to welcome sorrows as necessary for the sharpening and building up of our character. This however, is much easier to write about than to put into practice. And there is no one who knows it better than our Beloved Lord. The Lord cannot bear to see the bhaktha (Devotee) suffer and so, when He is instantly by our side, ever ready to extend all the strength and courage that we need to face the crisis. When we are tossed round in the stormy seas like pieces of driftwood, it is His guiding Hand that comforts and supports, that leads us to the shores of peace and serenity." THE SAI INCARNATION**

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA  
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