



## The Sarva Dharma Symbol

The Rev. David R. Graham  
[Adwaita Hermitage](#)  
Late 1980s

[Swami Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba](#)  
[Sarva Dharma Symbol Sticker](#)

The drawing at the top of this page was made by Mary Graham after the original drawn on the back of an envelope by [Swami Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba](#) in 1972. Its title is The Sarva Dharma Symbol and it is part of [The Divine Proportion](#), a coloring book for children that was developed at Adwaita Hermitage.

[Swami Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba](#) is all that God is. The Sarva Dharma Symbol He gave for Mankind to treasure in the heart and to place the principle It proclaims into practice. Its origin is Divine. Its message is the unity of all man's religions and of all beings. The Sarva Dharma Symbol proclaims the essential and complete Divine Message for this and for all ages:

You are Mine,  
I am yours,  
Rest in Me in Peace.

The Sarva Dharma Symbol employs a primal geometry called Divine Proportion, Golden Section or Golden Proportion. Its basis is the pentagon, the sides of which relate to its diagonals as the the Divine Proportion relationship.

The Divine Proportion symbolizes the universal and invariable standard of perfection and beauty. It is a special relationship between two differently sized elements of one thing: for example, between the long side and the short side of a rectangle. Not all relationships may be called the Divine Proportion. Only one relationship, or proportion, may be called by this Name. And that is when the elements of the one thing are related to one another as 1 is to 1.6, or more precisely, as 1 is to 1.6180339... . The Divine Proportion is represented by the Greek letter phi.

For example, when the short side of a rectangle is 6,765 feet and the long side is 10,946 feet, these two differently sized elements of one thing -- a rectangle -- are related to one another as the Divine Proportion. The sides of this rectangle have the proportion or ratio (relationship) of 1:1.6 and the rectangle is called a Golden Rectangle.

There is a technical way to describe the Divine Proportion: that point at which an entity differentiates itself such that one element is to the other element as the entity is to the one element. For example, the Divine Proportion is that point at which a line divides such that the long segment is to the short segment as the whole line is to the long segment:

$$a : b :: a + b : a$$

We use the Divine Proportion when we want to indicate the Divinely Beautiful, the Sublimely Potent, the Supremely Holy. All over the world, since the beginning, the Divine Proportion is used for this purpose. The Divine Proportion is Ursprache, Original/Universal Language. Greek temple facades, Gothic cathedral ground plans, elevations and windows, European and other stationaries, Japanese tea gardens and the Boeing 747 are engineered from the Divine Proportion.

The Divine Proportion organizes plants and animals and even rivers. It is not a man-made ratio or a man-made standard of Beauty. The Divine Proportion is primal, Ur-, the Loveliness and Harmony God is and uses to create the Cosmos. He sets the Divine Proportion at the root of the world. The world issues from the Divine Proportion. The Divine Proportion is independent of human whim and artifice. It is the Ur-Form or Arche-Type by means of which Life has to become manifest. Without the Divine Proportion, there is no Cosmos, no Life. The Divine Proportion is the Logos, the power and depth of God identically in both reason and reality.

The Divine Proportion is not something we can argue about or dismiss if we want to. It is prior to and subsumes all whether we recognize that It is and does or not. It is the Logos. *Vocatus Atque Non Vocatus, Deus Aderit:* Called or uncalled, God is present. The words are from the Delphic Oracle and were inscribed by Carl Jung over the door of his house.

We should therefore revere the Sarva Dharma Symbol and imbibe its meaning. The Sarva Dharma Symbol defines the lineaments of world peace, unity and prosperity. Politics, economics, sociology and psychology on their own or together cannot bring forth those desirable

outcomes. The Divine Proportion points to, motivates toward and in some sense is those outcomes. It is the proper "ecology of mind," to use Gregory Bateson's term for a desirable eschatological end-state. We must be little Divine Proportions, little presences of Sublime Beauty, which is Bliss ... God. We will have a happy and worthwhile life, and all of our desires will be fulfilled, if we do this one thing. Such is the wonder, the beneficence of Swami's gift, the Sarva Dharma Symbol.

