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*"Both heaven and hell are the results of
your actions, and your actions depend
upon your thoughts. Therefore, first of
all cultivate noble thoughts. Develop
the spirit of sacrifice and human
qualities and earn a good reputation
in society. Do not get a bad name as
a sinner. Do only good. That is the
only thing that will go with you."*

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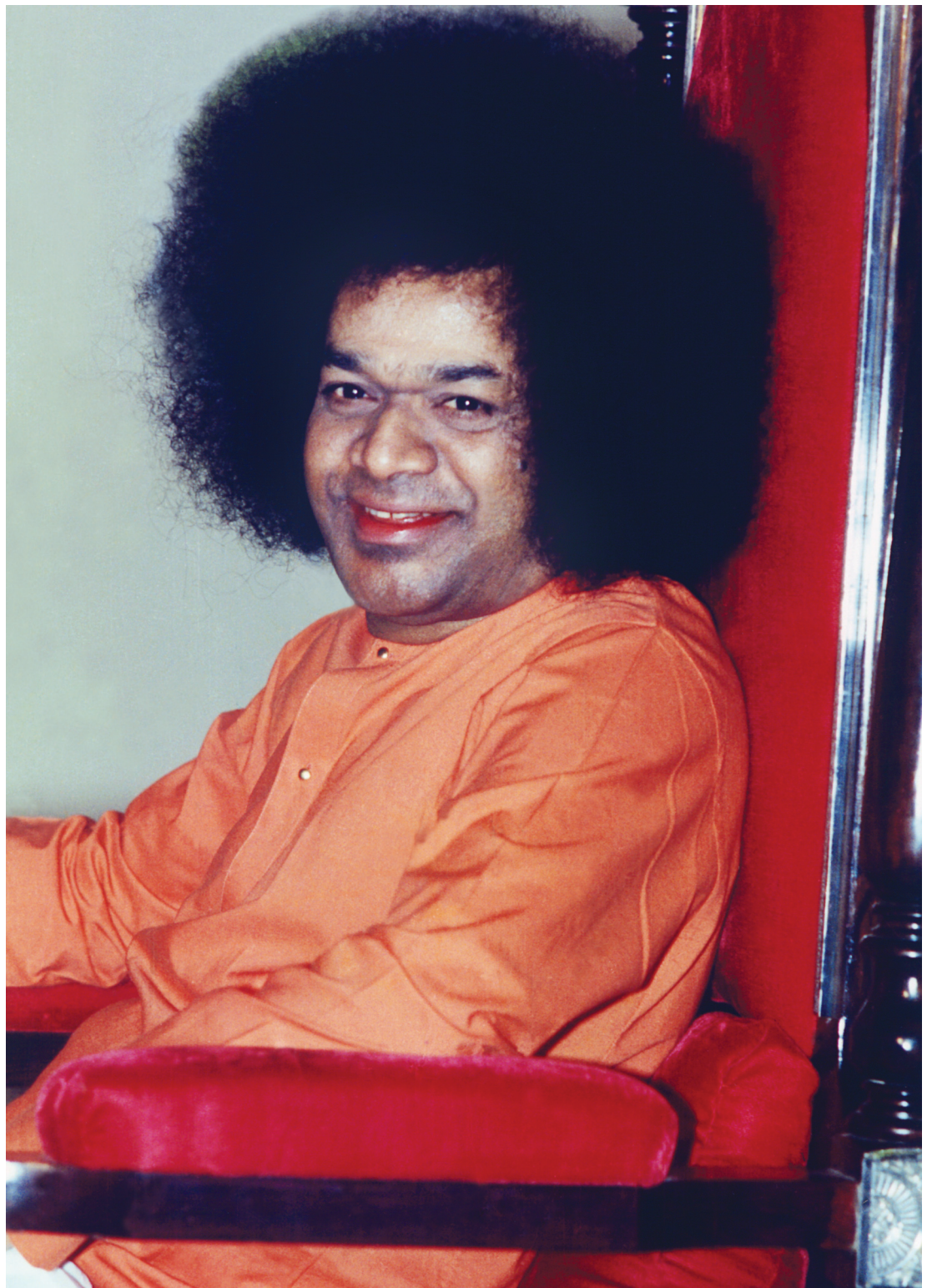
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DEVELOP LOVE FOR GOD AND SANCTIFY YOUR LIFE

*One may be the master of all forms of knowledge,
One may vanquish one's adversaries in debate,
One may fight with valour and courage in the battlefield,
One may be an emperor reigning over vast kingdoms,
One may offer cows and gold as an act of charity,
One may count the countless stars in the sky,
One may tell the names of different living creatures on the earth,
One may be an expert in eight forms of yoga,
One may reach even the moon,
But, is there anyone who can control the body, mind and senses,
turn the vision inward
And achieve the supreme state of equanimity of the mind?*

(Telugu Poem)

ONLY GOD'S NAME WILL SAVE YOU FROM BONDAGE

Students!

THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE in this world that man has not acquired. Man today has mastered all types of knowledge, he enjoys all types of comforts and conveniences, he has the means to travel to any part of the world and can understand the secrets of all the natural phenomena, yet he does not know who he is. What is the use of his knowing anything when he does not know himself? Having attained human birth and having acquired various types of

knowledge, man should first of all make efforts to know himself. When he knows himself, he will know everything else in the world in a moment. This is the main principle of Advaita (non-dualism).

Aspects of the Principle of Advaita

There are three aspects of the principle of Advaita in this world. Padārtha Advaita, Bhava Advaita and Kriya Advaita. This is a handkerchief. What is the principle of Advaita associated with it? The handkerchief is made up of threads but the basis of the threads is cotton. In fact,



cotton, threads and cloth are one and the same. They are the three different names and forms of the same thing. When you understand this, you will understand the underlying oneness of everything in this world which is changeless in three periods of time. This is called Padartha Advaita.

What is Bhava Advaita? There are thousands of people sitting here. They have different names and forms. Though

all of them. This is the underlying principle of oneness of all human beings. Even if one of the five elements is missing in man, he cannot exist. The five elements are common not only in human beings but also in all the living beings in the world.

What is Kriya Advaita? Every man in this world has some desires and aspirations, depending on his situation and circumstances. When desires are not



Look after the welfare of society and strengthen its unity. This is the purpose of your birth. You are born and brought up in society. If you do not think of the welfare of society, there can be no greater betrayal and ingratitude than this. Having been born in society, you should serve society. Your well-being is linked to the well-being of society. Otherwise, how can you be happy? Therefore, it is essential that everybody should work for the welfare of society and look after its well-being. Only then is your well-being assured.



they appear to be different, I can prove that all of them are one. Their joys and sorrows may be different, their desires and attachments may be different, their names and forms may be different, their situation and circumstances may also be different, but the same five elements are present in

fulfilled, it leads to disappointment. With limitless desires and meaningless anxiety, man craves for all that is not possible for him and ultimately becomes a victim of disappointment and frustration. Whatever work he may do, he should do it without any desire for the fruits thereof and offer



it to God with the feeling, *Sarva Karma Bhagavad Preetyartham* (all actions to please God). This is Kriya Advaita. It is only when man entertains a desire for the fruits of his actions, his desire may turn into despair and satisfaction may turn into dissatisfaction. But when you do everything as an offering to God, there will be no scope for sorrow and misery.

Four Tendencies of Man

There are four types of tendencies in man: divine, human, demonic and animal. Depending on the time, action and reason and owing to the influence of place and circumstances, one of the four tendencies becomes predominant in a person. Human beings are classified as divine, human, demonic and bestial on the basis of the predominance of one of these tendencies in them.

Who is divine among human beings? *Brahma Nishta Paro Deva* (one who is always focused on Brahman is a divine person). Devoid of ego and desires, he is always in a state of bliss, entertains sacred feelings and performs deeds which are beneficial to others. As he performs all actions to please God, all his good works become God's works. He has no thoughts other than those of God and no desire except to do everything to please God. Such sacred qualities are the hallmark of a divine being. He thinks neither about himself nor about the world; he is always immersed in the contemplation of God who is true and eternal. He is human only in form, but all his actions are divine. Where do these sacred feelings come from? They

come from the heart of man. Where does divinity manifest from? It manifests from the pure heart of man.

Sathya Dharma Rato Martya, say the Vedas. A true human being is one who follows the path of Sathya and Dharma. With total faith in the principles of Sathya and Dharma, he performs righteous actions and acts of charity without ignoring any of his worldly or family duties. His heart is filled with compassion and love. He has total faith in God and has no fear. Fear is an animal quality. One who causes fear is a beast. One who is fear-stricken is an animal. Having been born as humans, you should neither cause fear in others nor should you be fear-stricken. In this way, lead your life in a sacred manner always engaged in the service of society, earning a good name. Derive happiness from the practice of human values and share it with others. The human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are interrelated and interdependent. Sathya depends on Dharma, Dharma on Santhi, Santhi on Prema and Prema on Ahimsa. Even if you have one of the four values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema, you will not indulge in acts of violence.

Madyapana Rato Rakshasa (one who is addicted to intoxicating drinks is a demon). Due to the influence of intoxicating drinks, he loses his humanness and performs evil and demonic acts. Consumption of intoxicating drinks is one of the main causes for the rise of demonic tendencies in man. When a person is drunk, he does not know what he says or does and



whether he is doing good or bad. He loses his discrimination and fails to recognise even his mother, wife or children. He also loses his discrimination to recognise what is merit and what is sin. In this manner, he forgets his humanness and indulges in wicked acts unmindful of their consequences. Such demonic tendency is present in every man.

Jnanena Sunyaha Pasubhir Samana (one who is devoid of wisdom is verily an animal). Such a person has no sense of discrimination and no knowledge whatsoever. He is interested only in enjoying worldly pleasures and spends all his time in food, fear, sleep and procreation. These are the qualities of an animal. Not only that, he is prepared to harm those who come in the way of his so-called enjoyment. Abusing and ridiculing others are also animal qualities.

Education is Meant to Develop Righteousness

Every human being has animal, demonic, human and divine tendencies in him. You acquire various types of knowledge but you are unable to get rid of your animal and demonic tendencies. There are many in this world who are highly educated. But, is there anyone who has understood the significance of human birth? Everyone is interested in power, position and wealth, but no one enquires whether he is conducting himself like a human being. In fact, nobody questions himself how he should lead his life as a human being. People have human form, they dress themselves like human beings

As selfishness is on the rise today, man has become the victim of attachment and hatred. His selfishness has no limits. He does not give up his selfishness and self-interest till his last breath. How can such a person attain anything good in life? What has he attained as a human being? He is a burden on earth and does not deserve the food he eats. Having been born as a human being, you should help your fellow beings.



and exercise their authority, but they do not really know what humanness is. Who is a true human being? A true human being is one who does not give room to six evil qualities of Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy). What is the use of acquiring high education and accumulating wealth if one has filled his heart with Raga and Dwesha (desire and hatred)? In fact, all his education is useless. An educated person should always follow the path of righteousness.

Students should pursue such education which confers on them the sacred qualities like good character, adherence to truth, devotion, discipline and duty.

(Telugu Poem)

What is it that students are learning today? Do they have discipline? If they have no discipline and devotion, what is



the use? They should practise human values in all their endeavours. But they spend all their time pointing out the defects of others, criticising and ridiculing them. What will be the fate of a person who always thinks of the defects of others? All the defects of others will enter his heart and will be reflected in him also. Therefore, do not look at the defects of others. If you find anybody on the wrong path, try to correct him. Why should you think of the defects of others if you think you are a good person? Man today has developed fault-finding nature; he always thinks of the defects of others, and criticises, ridicules and abuses them. These are not the qualities of an educated person; in fact, they are contrary to human nature. One who practises human values will never criticise or insult others. Criticising others is the quality of a selfish person.

Sanctify your Human Birth by Serving Others

As selfishness is on the rise today, man has become the victim of attachment and hatred. His selfishness has no limits. He does not give up his selfishness and self-interest till his last breath. How can such a person attain anything good in life? What has he attained as a human being? He is a burden on earth and does not deserve the food he eats. Having been born as a human being, you should help your fellow beings. Sage Vyasa gave the essence of eighteen Puranas in two sentences: "One attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them." Therefore, Help Ever, Hurt Never. But we hardly find someone helping

his fellow men. Wherever we see, people are hurting others. Right from an illiterate to an educated one, from a pauper to a millionaire, everyone indulges in hurting others. If a pauper hurts in a small way, a millionaire hurts in a big way. They have no inclination to help others. They are not prepared to perform righteous actions and acts of charity. Then what is the purpose of being born as a human being? What is the point in amassing wealth? Education has no meaning if it is not utilised to help others.

People waste a lot of time and energy in accumulating wealth. But are they able to carry anything with them when they ultimately leave this world? They are not able to take even a naya paisa with them, not even a fistful of sand. This is the lesson to be learnt from the life of Emperor Alexander. You all know the story of Alexander who set out of his country to conquer the entire world. He came to India also after crossing the Indus river. On his return from India, he became very sick. He had many doctors but none could cure him. They told him that he was about to leave his mortal coil in a short while. But Alexander had no fear. In fact, he told others also not to worry. He was prepared for his end.

The body which is made up of five elements is weak and is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may leave one's mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death



is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature.

(Telugu Poem)

There were thousands of soldiers under his command. But none could save him from death. Then Alexander told his ministers and army commanders that they should wrap his body in a white cloth after

he was departing from the world empty-handed.

Cultivate Noble Thoughts

Everybody has to go empty-handed from this world. You will not be able to carry your bank balance or even a small piece of paper with you. Can you leave behind the address of your destination when you leave this world? You do not bring with you



Man today has mastered all types of knowledge, he enjoys all types of comforts and conveniences, he has the means to travel to any part of the world and can understand the secrets of all the natural phenomena, yet he does not know who he is. What is the use of his knowing anything when he does not know himself? Having attained human birth and having acquired various types of knowledge, man should first of all make efforts to know himself. When he knows himself, he will know everything else in the world in a moment.

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his death, keeping both his hands out and carry his funeral procession in the streets of his native town. When the people in the street enquired why the hands of the emperor had been kept out of the hearse, they should tell them that though the emperor had carved out a huge empire, had a big army and a number of doctors, nothing could save him from death, and

even a small piece of cloth at the time of your birth nor can you give your address at the time of death. Why were you born and where are you going? Your conscience is the witness of all your good or bad deeds and reveals to you whether you are going to heaven or hell. Both heaven and hell are the results of your actions, and your actions



depend upon your thoughts. Therefore, first of all cultivate noble thoughts. Develop the spirit of sacrifice and human qualities and earn a good reputation in society. Do not get a bad name as a sinner. Do only good. That is the only thing that will go with you. All your friends and relatives can follow you only up to the place of cremation. When a millionaire dies, hundreds of cars will follow him up to the cremation ground. But what will all the people do after going there? They will all return home empty-handed. It is only the Name of God that will save you from bondage and be with you always. God will always be with you, in you, around you, above you and below you looking after you always. Ignoring the Divine Name, man makes his life miserable by craving for ephemeral and transient worldly objects.

Howsoever highly educated one may be, one is unable to realise the truth of one's Self. What is the reason? The reason is attachment. Man should develop detachment to realise his true nature. What does attachment mean? When you insert the key into the lock and turn it to the right side, it opens. If you turn the key to the left side, it closes. It is the same lock and the same key; the difference lies only in the direction of turning. Your heart is the lock and mind is the key. When you turn your mind towards God, you get detachment which leads to liberation. When you turn it towards the world, you develop attachment which results in bondage and misery. You may have money and all comforts, yet you will be always restless. You will be drowned in misery day and night. What is

the way to attain peace of mind? The only way is to develop the spirit of sacrifice as propounded in the Vedas: *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). Perform good actions and spend your money on noble causes. Help the villagers who are leading a hard life. Provide education, healthcare and water to the needy people in villages. Education is for the head, healthcare is for the heart and water is for the sustenance of the body. Health is very important for the body; it is not meant to lead a life of ease and enjoyment. Health is required for performing Seva (service). In fact, it is very necessary to keep your body healthy so that you can serve society. What is the use of their good health if people do not perform any type of service? They are like living corpses.

What for has God provided head for man? Is it to think ill of others, abuse and criticise them? No, it has been provided to think of God. You should understand the intimate relationship between food, head and God. What is food required for? It is not merely for your physical health; it is for developing virtues. Why is it necessary to develop virtues? It is necessary to develop virtues to take part in service of society, help others and earn a good name. Therefore, look after the welfare of society and strengthen its unity. This is the purpose of your birth. You are born and brought up in society. If you do not think of the welfare of society, there can be no



greater betrayal and ingratitude than this. Having been born in society, you should serve society. Your well-being is linked to the well-being of society. Otherwise, how can you be happy? Therefore, it is essential that everybody should work for the welfare of society and look after its well-being. Only then is your well-being assured.

Develop Love for God

Embodiments of Love!

What does a man require to serve society? It is only love. There is nothing greater than love. When you have love, you can have everything. What is the use of reading a number of books if you do not have love? Mere acquisition of bookish knowledge will change your Mastaka (head) also into a Pustaka (book). What is the use of bookish knowledge which is not translated into practical knowledge? A man without practical knowledge is totally useless to society. Therefore, do not go on reading books endlessly. You will only be spoiling your head in the process. Put into practice at least one principle of truth that you have learnt. What you require today is practical knowledge, not bookish knowledge. Put your knowledge into

practice, experience happiness and share it with others. Do not be worried about your own life. Be prepared to sacrifice even your life for a noble cause. Having attained this human birth, it is enough if you earn a good name.

Hastasya Bhushanam Danam

Sathyam Kanthasya Bhushanam

Srotrasya Bhushanam Sastram.

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Charity is the true ornament of the hand, truth is the true necklace and listening to the sacred texts is the true ornament of the ears.)

Why do you require any other ornaments? If you wear diamond necklaces and diamond earrings, you will be afraid of thieves. These are not your real ornaments. The real ornament is love for God. Therefore, develop love for God and sanctify your life.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho...*”)

– From Bhagavan’s Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 28th July 1996.

○ Wise Lord, by virtue of the Good Mind, may I reach Thy Presence. Grant me the blessings in both worlds, the corporeal and the spiritual, attainable through righteousness; Thy rewards which bring beatific happiness to the faithful blessed with them.

*The Gathas
(The Hymns of Zarathushtra)*

A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE

THE ANNUAL SPORTS AND Cultural Meet is a major event in the calendar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), and Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions, founded and nurtured by Bhagavan. The Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2013 was held over five days from 11th to 15th January 2013 at Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine presence. The inaugural ceremony of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet was held on 11th January at Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium and the cultural events were held in Sai Kulwant Hall on the evenings of 12th-15th January 2013.

Annual Sports Meet

The Sports Meet on 11th January each year is a culmination of a month-long, intensive preparation of athletic displays, acrobatics, cultural dance routines and the like by the students from all campuses of the University and Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions. The colourful and courageous display of events unfolds in the Divine presence, in front of over 10,000 spectators seated in the viewers' galleries of Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium.

This year, the programme commenced at 8.00 a.m. when Bhagavan's car escorted by motorcycles outriders entered the northern end of the stadium. It carried a beautiful photograph of Bhagavan.

Bhagavan was welcomed by the women's brass band of the Anantapur Campus of the University. This was followed by a welcome by the captains of the University and finally Bhagavan was escorted in slow march by a special contingent that was led by the men's brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the University. When Bhagavan arrived in a grand procession at the Santhi Vedika (the stage where senior members of the Sai institutions and Trusts along with invited guests sit in the Divine presence), a Veda chanting group of students offered a ceremonial welcome with Poornakumbham and the Vice Chancellor along with senior members of the Sathya Sai educational institutions offered salutations to Bhagavan.

March Past and Sports Meet Oath

The March Past is a spectacle in itself. The training, coordination and execution of the March Past is a wonderful sight. Accompanied by the women's and men's brass bands of the University, the students of the Sai educational Institutions marched from the north end of the stadium and gathered in front of the Santhi Vedika to offer their salutations to Bhagavan. Following the hoisting of the University flag, the customary Sports Meet oath was administered to the participants and the sports torch for 2013 was lit and carried to Hanuman Hill by the mascot in the form of Cheetah to light the sports flame.



Morning Events

The first presentation of the sports events was made by the students of Brindavan Campus, SSSIHL. Their items included an enchanting folk dance of



Folk dance of Karnataka by Brindavan Campus students.

Karnataka, a musical symphony on drums and a perfectly executed presentation on motorbikes that included crisscrossing at high speed, synchronous riding and formations.

The students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, SSSIHL followed with feats on remote controlled miniature planes in the sky, while a huge structure depicting the universe in the hands of Sai was wheeled into the performing area. Their first item was a magnificent Siva dance which was



Prasanthi Nilayam Campus students performing Siva dance.

followed by acrobatics on ropes on a high structure, floor exercises, somersaults and gymnastics. A squad of students dressed as soldiers thereafter displayed elegant coordination in a gun parade, after which they displayed rare somersaults in their game of basketball.

Daring feats on giant rings that followed showcased the skill and balance of the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher



A display of skill and strength by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School.

Secondary School. Balancing acts and acrobatics on a rope on a high structure and swaying like a top amazed one and all. Their last item was colourful formations with red, yellow and blue flags. The presentation concluded with display of fireworks and soaring miniature planes in the sky. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at 10.15 a.m.

Evening Events

The evening events began at 4.30 p.m. with the ceremonial welcome to Bhagavan. The first performance was by the students of Smt. Easwaramma English Medium School who displayed their talent and skill in a marching drill, a rugby game, rhythmic exercises, thrilling dances and daring acrobatics.





A beautiful formation by the students of Smt. Easwaramma English Medium School.

Next, the students of Muddenahalli Campus, SSSIHL made eye-catching formations, depicting the advent of various Avatars of God, viz., Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varaha (pig), Narasimha (half man, half lion), Parasurama, Rama,



An impressive presentation by the students of Muddenahalli Campus.

Krishna, Buddha and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This was their first participation in the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet and their performance was impressive.

Colour, music and rhythm characterised the presentation of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School students. Beginning their programme, with a giant backdrop depicting the scene of creation, they first performed a beautiful dance to the tune of a devotional song, "Vande Sivam Sankaram" (I offer salutations to Siva). What followed was an array of colourful formations made



Colourful display by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School.

by boys and girls. This was followed by formations on circular rolling structures, and lastly a fast-paced vigorous dance by senior girl students.

Next to perform were the students of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield who displayed their



An excellent presentation of dragon dance by the students of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, SSSIHMS, Whitefield.

dexterity and balance with a lion and dragon dance. The dance of lions and fast movements of the dragons in symphony with drum beats as well as the formation of SAI through dragons were eye-catching.

The students of Anantapur Campus, SSSIHL, made the final presentation. Following a display of gymnastic feats on white hoops and somersaults on a triangular structure, they performed a dance on a cylindrical roller while maintaining perfect





Anantapur Campus students making a beautiful formation.

balance. Acrobatics on rope on a high structure followed this. Their most dazzling item was the formations they made with dexterity and agility with luminescent LED lights. The formation of the word SAI with streaks of lights in the end earned them a prolonged applause from the spectators.

This colourful inaugural ceremony of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions came to a happy conclusion with a sparkling display of fireworks. Arati at 6.45 p.m. marked the end of the programme.

Music and Cultural Programmes

As part of Sports and Cultural Meet 2013, the students of Brindavan Campus, SSSIHL and Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, SSSIHL and Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School performed dramas on 12th, 14th and 15th January 2013 respectively, while the students of Anantapur Campus, SSSIHL made a music presentation on 13th January 2013. All performances took place in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine presence.

In their drama, the students of Brindavan Campus portrayed the life and message of Sri Krishna Chaitanya, a great devotee of Lord Krishna of 16th century who gave

the message of Nama Sankirtan as the means of man's liberation. Sublime story of love for God, well-rendered devotional songs and dance routines and fabulous sets made the drama a very impressive



Drama on the life and message of Sri Krishna Chaitanya.

presentation. The final scene added grandeur to it when the entire cast danced in ecstasy with recitation of God's name whilst a magnificent replica of the chariot of Lord Jagannath was wheeled into the hall.

The drama entitled, "Sankara Digvijayam" (Sankara's journey of conquest) presented by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus portrayed the illustrious life story of Adi Sankara, who gave the message of Advaita (non-dualism) to the



A scene from the drama, "Sankara Digvijayam."



world and re-established the supremacy of the Vedas. The drama depicted the main events of the life of Sankara, and conveyed the main teachings of this great spiritual giant through powerful dialogues and well-rendered Sanskrit verses. Excellent make-up and perfect choreography added value to the impressive presentation.

The drama, “Mera Jeevan Teri Sharan” (my life at Your feet) enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School highlighted the lofty theme of surrender to God through a simple story of a young boy who at first believed that God had no role to play in the life of man, and ultimately



The drama, “Mera Jeevan Teri Sharan” highlighted the major role of God in man’s life.

came to realise through various events that God occupied the foremost place in man’s life and His grace could be earned only through total surrender. Introduction of the episodes of surrender of the Pandavas to Krishna and Vibhishana to Rama enhanced the significance of the underlying theme. Noble premise, excellent acting and dances by the students, good make-up and costumes made the drama a magnificent presentation.

The devotional music presentation entitled, “Ananta Prema” (infinite Love)

made by the students of Anantapur Campus on 13th January 2013 was based on the sublime teachings imparted to mankind by Lord Krishna in the immortal treatise, the Bhagavadgita. Beginning



“Ananta Prema,” a fine devotional music presentation by Anantapur Campus students.

their programme with soulful rendition of the Mira Bhajan, “Darshan Deejo Aaj, Pyare” (Oh dear Lord! Grant me the bliss of Your Darshan), the students dwelt on the ennobling themes of the Bhagavad Gita, such as how the impersonal God becomes personal, how the states of Samee pyam and Sarupyam (proximity and identity) lead to Sayujyam (merger), how constant practice helps in controlling the vagaries of the mind, etc. Meaningful commentary, relevant Slokas from the Gita and devotional songs brought clarity, sweetness and beauty to the message given. Excellent chanting of Slokas, melodious rendition of devotional songs and exhilarating music created an aura of devotion and transported all members of the audience to a divine plane.

Prize Distribution Ceremony

The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Sports and Cultural Meet was held on the



auspicious day of Makara Sankranti, 14th January 2013 in Sai Kulwant Hall.

All the cups, trophies and prizes for students displayed on the dais were complimented by buntings, festoons, flowers and fruits of the new harvest, along with special decorations of fresh flowers on the Samadhi of Bhagavan.

The programme commenced with a grand procession comprising the University brass band, Veda chanting group of students and a flag-bearing squad, which started at 8.30 a.m. from Yajur Mandir, the abode of Bhagavan. The master of ceremonies, Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus, SSSIHL made an introductory speech, and delved into the significance of the festival of Makara Sankranti and the prize distribution function of the Sports and Cultural Meet. Thereafter, Dr. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Warden, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, SSSIHL and Asst. Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, SSSIHL spoke about how sports teach the values of discipline, cooperation and unity to students. Outlining the difference between the sports in the University and other institutions, Dr. Baruah observed that in this University, Bhagavan is the motivation and inspiration of all sports events, and the students deliver extraordinary performances due to their love for Bhagavan. This was followed by brief talks by four students, namely, Kumari Aiswarya Neeleshwar from Anantapur Campus, Sri P. Sai from Sri Sathya

Sai Higher Secondary School, Sri T. E. Sasidhar from Brindavan Campus and Sri Hari from Prasanthi Nilayam Campus; all of whom highlighted how sports contributed to students' growth at Sai educational institutions.

The prize distribution ceremony which followed these talks began with awarding of Bhagavan's trophies to Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Smt. Easwaramma English Medium School, Anantapur Campus, SSSIHL, the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, SSSIHMS, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, and Muddenahalli, Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam Campuses of the University. Trophies and prizes to winners of inter-house and individual competitions were awarded after this. The Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad, gave away the prizes to the winning teams and individuals.

In His Divine Message that followed, Bhagavan asked the students to seek and acquire the degree of *Amrutasya Putrah* (sons of immortality) by imbibing sacred thoughts and performing sacred actions. Emphasising the importance of fostering good qualities like love, peace, truth and righteousness, Bhagavan emphasised that only good qualities could lead man to blissful experience of God-realisation. The function came to a close with Arati at 11.00 a.m.





EARTH SHINING IN GLORY

*Our Milky Way is shining with millions and millions of stars;
Our beloved star Sun along with eight other planets around
orbits the Milky Way,
finishes one orbit in 215 million years.*

*Someone in the galaxy suddenly echoed a voice in surprise.
The voice was: "See there the Earth, shining in glory; how come
it got so light?"*

*A sweet and soft reply comes,
"It is not mere light; it is the light of knowledge,
it is the light of service, it is the light of peace,
specially radiating from Prasanthi Nilayam,
when Earth completes its eightieth orbit
carrying the Great Soul in its bosom."*

(A poem composed by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,
former President of India, in honour of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
on His 81st Birthday.)

THE MESSAGE THE AVATARS BRING

REAL ANANDA SPRINGS ONLY FROM TRUTH

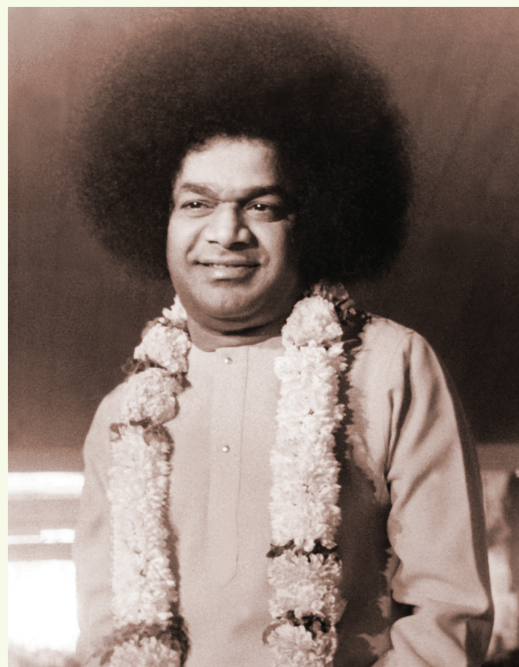
ETERNITY EXTENDS BEFORE man; space too is horizonless; but life is short and very unsure.

Therefore, man has to make the best use of the years allotted to him in this world, and try to become one with the Absolute, so that these entrances and exits may be ended. That is his Dharma, the duty he has to do for himself. Know that Dharma and live according to its dictates – that is the meaning and purpose of life.

Be Focused on the Atma

The Almighty, who has made creatures evolve into human beings, comes down as man whenever man forgets or ignores this basic duty. The Rishis (sages) of India, through the process of purifying their intuition, discovered this fact and sensed the message that the Incarnations bring, the Avatars carry. Many times in human history, Avatars have come and awakened man. But the animal past, and the demonic delusion drag him into the mire, where he foolishly revels in sensual, physical and transient trivialities.

This is a splendid chance to fulfil your human existence. The happiness that you hope to derive from kith and kin, from wealth and worldly fame, is but a pale



Every deed must take man nearer the goal; it must be a step in the pilgrimage to God. It must cleanse the emotions, correct the attitude, clarify the path and co-operate in the consummation. This has to be the constant care and vigilance of every seeker and aspirant to bliss.

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shadow of the Ananda (bliss) that resides in the spring of your heart, where God dwells. Try to contact that spring; go to the very source; be centred in the Atma or God within. Few seek real Ananda; many are led away by the pseudo-Ananda of the senses, the intellect and the mind. Real Ananda springs only from Sathya (truth). And Sathya is the Dharma or duty of each to himself. Seek truth, serve truth, be truth.

Peace and Joy Emanate from the Heart

Truth will reveal itself when the heart is saturated with love. Man's nature is fundamentally truth; his breath is fundamentally love; his blood is fundamentally tolerance. Falsehood, hatred and faction are characteristics of beastly or demonic natures. They are acquired from society, or ignorance or greed. Today man is shaped by the head, rather than the heart. It is cleverness that is admired, that pays. But peace and joy emanate from the heart, not the head. The heart teaches compassion, awe, reverence, humility, equanimity, sympathy – qualities that bind men in love, and turn them towards righteousness and the source and sustenance of the universe, namely, God. The pursuit of property and possessions cannot uplift the heart into the heights of bliss. You are contemporaries of the Avatar who has come to guard and guide; you have the capacity to catch the message and canalise it into action and activity. Make the utmost of this chance. The message can be grasped only by those who yearn to know the duty, to which

they have to be loyal. Or else, it will sound hollow and mechanical, like the prattle of a gramophone record. But if the heart is ploughed by that yearning and made ready for the seed, the harvest will certainly follow.

Surrender your Judgement to God

Arjuna was the brother-in-law of Krishna; he was a close companion and even a chum of the Lord for many decades! Krishna, remember, was 84 years old, at the time of the Kurukshetra battle, when He served Arjuna as a non-combatant charioteer! But yet, it was only on that battlefield that the message of the Bhagavadgita was imparted to Arjuna! Why? Arjuna developed the requisite attitude for the reception and retention of the message only then.

First Arjuna was puzzled about his duty and was tremendously anxious to get light thrown upon it. He was torn between two paths, and in spite of all his discrimination and detachment he was at a loss to discover what his Dharma was. Ultimately, he surrendered his judgement to God and declared, out of the deepest recesses of his heart, in indescribable agony, "I am Your disciple; I dedicate my entire being to Your Will; tell me what to do and I shall obey."

Every Deed Must be a Step in the Pilgrimage to God

Arjuna is also called Partha – the name applicable to all men, for, it is derived

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CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

CULTURAL PROGRAMME BY ODISHA DEVOTEES

SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA Organisation of Odisha organised an excellent cultural programme on 27th December 2012 as part of Odisha devotees' pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam. The first item of the programme was a drama entitled, "A Crisis in Values" enacted by the inmates of Sai Karunalaya and Bal Vikas students of Odisha. The drama showcased the decline of values in human society through a discussion held in a court



The drama, "A Crisis in Values" showcased the decline in values in human society.

of animals. During the discussion, the wise old monkey informed the assembly of animals about the advent of Sai Avatar and also about His leaving His mortal coil. Meanwhile, an ethereal voice assured the animals that they would be protected when they followed their Dharma. In conclusion, the drama highlighted the values taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and

emphasised that mankind would be saved only when man adhered to Dharma in life. The drama which commenced with a beautiful peacock dance came to a close with soulful rendition of the song, "Hum Ko Tum Se Pyar Kitna" (You know how much we love You) dedicated to Bhagavan.

The next item of the programme was a bouquet of devotional songs, "Sai Symphony" offered to Bhagavan by the Sai Youth of Odisha. The singers, both boys and girls, sang specially composed songs which included, "Antar Jyoti Jalao Sai" (Oh Sai, light the inner lamp), "Yahan Bhi Sai Vahan Bhi Sai" (Sai is here as well as there), "Teri Sharan Mein Aaye" (we have taken refuge in You). The melody of the songs and sweetness of music combined with devout feelings of the singers and cast a spell on the devotees. This was followed by Bhajans which were also led by these singers. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to the singers as well as the cast of the drama. The Bhajan, "Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam" in Bhagavan's voice marked the conclusion of the programme, which ended with Arati at 6.45 p.m.

BHAKTI SAMARPAN: A DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

A group of Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth from Sikkim presented a devotional





A devotional music presentation by Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth of Sikkim.

music programme, “Bhakti Samarpan” (devotional offering) in Sai Kulwant Hall on 28th December 2012 as part of their pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam. Beginning their presentation with a prayer song, “Deva, Namo Deva” (Oh God, I offer salutations to You), they next presented a Rajasthani folk song and followed it up with a Qawali, “Sai Ke Darbar Mein” (in the court of Sai). They brought their presentation to a close with a group song, “Sai Hain Hamare Pran” (Sai is our life breath). This was followed by Bhajans which were also led by the Bal Vikas children of Sikkim. As the Bhajans continued, singers and musicians were felicitated and clothes were presented to them. The programme that started at 5.00 p.m. came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

MAYUR PANKH: A MUSICAL DANCE DRAMA

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Rajasthan presented a musical drama entitled, “Mayur Pankh” (peacock feather) on 29th December 2012 as part of Rajasthan devotees’ pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 28th to 30th



A musical drama, “Mayur Pankh” by Bal Vikas students and youth of Rajasthan.

December 2012. Enacted by the youth and Bal Vikas children from Rajasthan, the drama portrayed some important episodes from the life of Lord Krishna through music, dance and lyrics, saturating the entire milieu with devotional fervour. The scenes of the drama like Yashoda seeing the universe in child Krishna’s mouth, Krishna’s Rasa Leelas with Gopikas and Krishna showing Viswarupa (Cosmic Form) to Arjuna were effectively presented with beautiful props. The drama which began at 5.00 p.m. came to a close at 6.00 p.m. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were presented to the cast. Bhajans that followed were also led by Bal Vikas children of Rajasthan. After distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme came to a close with Arati at 6.20 p.m.

SAI VISION: A DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

A group of devotees called LASA (Love All Serve All) from European countries, viz., Austria, Greece, Hungary, Poland,



Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany made an excellent musical presentation, "Sai Vision" on 30th December 2012. Commencing their programme at 5.00 p.m. with the song, "We are here to call You, Swami," the singers presented in all 11 songs in English, German, Greek, Polish



Devotees from European countries offering a devotional music presentation in Sai Kulwant Hall.

and Hindi, saturating the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. After enthraling the devotees with their soul-stirring rendition of devotional songs for about one hour, they brought their programme to a close with the song, "Sai Avatar." At the conclusion of this programme, the singers and musicians were felicitated and Prasadam was distributed to all. A brief session of Bhajans that followed concluded with video screening of the Bhajan, "Sathyam Jnanam Anantham Brahma" sung by Bhagavan. The programme concluded with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ALUMNI MEET

On the eve of the New Year 2013, the alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School,

Prasanthi Nilayam came from many parts of the world to express their gratitude to Bhagavan who moulded and shaped them in their formative years with caring love and divine guidance. The programme presented by them on 31st December 2012 comprised talks by the alumni followed by a bouquet of beautiful songs and a video of Bhagavan's Discourse.

The first speaker was Smt. Sonia Thakar who studied in the Primary School from 1996 to 1998. Expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for His loving care, the speaker said that studying under the direct care of Swami was a wonderful experience with values coming to the fore at every step as a continuous learning process. The best way to express gratitude to Swami, she said, was to keep Him always foremost in our thoughts, words and deeds. The second speaker was Sri Sai Gunaranjan who studied in the Primary School from 1987 to 1995. Praising the teachers for their dedication and diligence, the speaker observed that their example was a great ideal for all of us to emulate.

These speeches were followed by beautiful songs interspersed with narration



Devotional music programme by Primary School alumni.



of experiences of Bhagavan's unbounded love and compassion. The songs rendered with deep devotion by the alumni included, "Pyare Sai Hamare" (our Beloved Lord Sai), "Tu Pyar Ka Sagar Hai," (You are the ocean of love), "There is someone above to Guide me," "Maula Maula Mere" (My Master) and "Mother of Mine." Video screening of Swami interacting with students in olden days alongside the entire presentation made the programme all the more lively.

What followed this was a short video of Bhagavan's Discourse, in which Bhagavan praised the hard work and dedicated service of the teachers and excellence achieved by the Primary School students under them in every field, be it music, dance, drama, sports or any other activity. Bhajans that followed Bhagavan's Discourse were also led by the alumni. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

JOYOUS NEW YEAR DAY CELEBRATIONS

The New Year 2013 was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great piety and enthusiasm. As per the custom followed since over a decade, the alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning came to Prasanthi Nilayam from all parts of the world to celebrate it in the Divine omnipresence of Bhagavan and offer their gratitude to Him.

On the New Year Day, there were music and cultural programmes both in

the morning and evening in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated for the festive occasion. In the morning, the programme began with Veda chanting at 8.30 a.m. This was followed by a thrilling band music display by the students of the Institute who played five beautiful numbers on their brass band. Bhajans and Prasadam distribution followed this. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at 9.30 a.m.

The Institute alumni made their musical offering to Bhagavan in the evening. The theme of their presentation this year was "Love is My Form." The programme began at 4.45 p.m. when a flag bearing squad and Veda chanting group of alumni came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a procession from Yajur Mandir and offered their salutations at the Samadhi of Bhagavan. Various offerings including a New Year cake, chocolates, new issue of the magazine "Vidyullekha," new CDs of Bhajans, etc., were then made at the Samadhi.

After these offerings at the Samadhi, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Dr. C.S. Srinivas from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh who had the rare opportunity of serving in Bhagavan's hospital as a doctor. Narrating various incidents of Bhagavan's divinity, Dr. Srinivas observed that Bhagavan is present in the heart of millions of His devotees though He has cast off His physical form. The second speaker was Sri Anil Kumar who narrated various incidents highlighting the unique bond of love between Bhagavan and His students. Praising the discipline, devotion and high



character of Bhagavan's students, the learned speaker observed that society was waiting to make these students the leaders of the country.

After this, the alumni played a few scintillating tunes on their brass band. Beginning with an invocatory piece



Institute alumni making their devotional music presentation.

dedicated to the Divine Mother, they followed it with evergreen numbers which included, "Love is My Form," "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin." This beautiful presentation was followed by a bouquet of devotional songs interspersed with nostalgic stories of student days of the alumni. The presentation included specially composed songs, a Kabir Bhajan, a Qawali and an English composition. The session concluded with the Bhajan, "Sathyam Jnanam Anantham Brahma" sung by Bhagavan. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m.

ANNUAL ALL INDIA CONVENTION OF BAL VIKAS ALUMNI AND GROUP III STUDENTS

The "Annual All India Convention of Bal Vikas Alumni and Group III Students"

was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 12th and 13th January 2013, wherein about 2,000 delegates from various parts of India came to participate. The theme of this year's convention was, "Bal Vikas – the Pathway to Excellence."

The first session of the convention held on 12th January 2013 began in Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.30 a.m. with Veda chanting by Karnataka alumni followed by a group song, "Sathya Sai Bhagavan Ne Jnan Ki Jyoti Jalai" (Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba lit the lamp of knowledge) sung in harmony by all the participants. In his Inaugural Address which followed, Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, exhorted one and all to bring about individual transformation to transform the world, expand the institutions set up by Bhagavan and make Sai a part of their life. This was followed by inspiring talks by three alumni who narrated how Bal Vikas moulded their lives, helped them to achieve excellence in their work and brought about their spiritual transformation. These speeches were followed by a musical presentation by the alumni of Karnataka who enthralled



Participants attending a session of the convention in Sai Kulwant Hall.



the audience with melodious rendition of four sweet songs. Bhajans that followed were also led by Bal Vikas alumni. The programme of the first session of the convention came to a close with Arati at 10.15 a.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

The session of the convention held on 13th January 2013 in Sai Kulwant Hall started at 8.30 a.m. with chanting of Vedic hymns by the alumni and Bal Vikas students of Tamil Nadu. Four alumni and Bal Vikas students thereafter addressed the gathering, narrating their experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity and sharing the valuable lessons learnt by them as Bal Vikas students and devotees of Swami. After these speeches, a compendium of articles, "Bal Vikas: the Pathway to Excellence" written by Bal Vikas alumni was released by Smt. Sarla Shah and Smt. Vidya Srinivasan. It was followed by felicitation of Bal Vikas alumni who made outstanding contributions to their field of study, to society and to the Sai Organisation. Bal Vikas alumni working in various Sai institutions at Prasanthi Nilayam were also felicitated for their exemplary dedication to Sai Mission. An enrapturing musical presentation, "Our Swami" by the alumni of Maharashtra and Goa followed these ceremonies. Presented in lilting tunes and sweet rhythm, the melodious songs were in a variety of languages, viz., Konkani, Marathi, Telugu, Hindi and English. Bhajans by the alumni of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana followed this. This session of the convention concluded with

Arati and distribution of Prasadam at 10.40 a.m.

Two sessions of the convention were held in Poornachandra Auditorium, wherein short speeches were made by Bal Vikas alumni and illuminating talks were delivered by Sri Anil Kumar and Sri Nimish Pandya. Besides, Bal Vikas alumni of Assam and Odisha performed beautiful folk dances in these two sessions.

12TH ANNIVERSARY OF SSSIHMS, WHITEFIELD

To celebrate the 12th anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru, the staff and students of the Institute came to Prasanthi Nilayam and presented an enrapturing cultural and music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 20th January 2013. Speaking on this occasion, the Director of the Institute, Dr. Swarna Bharadwaj outlined the progress of the Institute and gave away Smt. Easwaramma gold medals to two staff members for their meritorious work. In a video clip of Bhagavan's Inaugural Discourse that followed, Bhagavan said that He had dedicated His entire life for the good of mankind and this super speciality hospital was one such step in that direction. This was followed by talks of two doctors of the Institute, Dr. Nandita Ghoshal and Dr. Srikanth Sola, both of whom narrated how Bhagavan's Divine inspiration continued to help in excellent functioning of the hospital.

The Director of the Institute thereafter administered an oath to the entire staff

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Idle Mind

Chinna Katha

F IRED WITH THE SPIRIT of service, a very active young man joined the army even without informing his parents. In the army, he earned the appreciation of his officers by his hard work and diligence. Memories of his house did not bother him as he was constantly absorbed in his work. After a certain period



Unnecessary thoughts caused disturbance in the mind of the young soldier when he had no work.

of time, soldiers in the army had no work to do as there was a temporary ceasefire. Since the young man was without any work, many thoughts started agitating his mind. Plagued by many worries, he sat under a tree and thought, "I do not know how my parents, sister and brother would be. They must be worried on not seeing me."

As the thoughts of his house rampaged his mind everyday, he was in a state of constant turmoil. The officer noticed the change in the young man and understood the situation in which he was placed. One day, he called him and said to him, "Dig a four feet long and four feet wide pit at

this place." The young man completed the allotted work with the help of a spade and reported this to the officer. The officer looked at the clock and noted the time. Finding that there were still two hours before the young man could be given rest, he said to the young man, "My dear! Put the soil dug by you back into the pit." The young man did accordingly. He felt tired by doing manual work for nearly five hours. But this did not dampen his spirits. That night, he had a sound sleep without any thoughts disturbing his mind.

Next day, the officer called the young man and asked him, "Did any thoughts upset you when you did the work yesterday? Did you get sound sleep at night?" The young man replied, "Sir, I had no disturbing thoughts yesterday." Then



The officer advised the young soldier to keep himself always engaged in some work or the other.

the officer said to him, "See! You were beset with unnecessary disturbance and agitation when you had no work. Therefore, always keep yourself engaged in some work or the other."

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

Sathya Sai devotees throughout the world joyfully celebrated 87th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba by conducting devotional programmes and offering selfless service to the needy.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE SATHYA SAI CENTRE OF Nairobi celebrated Bhagavan Baba's Birthday by undertaking devotional and service activities for the nine consecutive Sundays preceding 23rd November 2012. During the nine-week programme, the morning devotional activities commenced with chanting Omkaram, Navaratnamala, Ashtottara



Serving food to needy children in Kenya.

Shatanamavali and Nagar Sankirtan, followed by Sathya Sai volunteers lovingly serving food to about 500 needy children living in nearby slums. The evening activities, attended by 75 to 100 devotees, included Bhajans and talks by guest speakers.

MALAYSIA

On 23rd November 2012, five Sathya Sai Centres in the State of Johor Baru celebrated Bhagavan Baba's Birthday under the theme, "Honour Our Parents Everyday (HOPE)," a programme that was attended by over 500 members, their families and friends. In a display of inter-racial harmony and unity, the celebration started with devotional songs in Tamil, Mandarin and English, and Indian and Chinese students took part in a drama entitled "Respect our Parents: the Legend of Kuan Yin, Goddess of Mercy." A cast of 36 students aged 5 to 19, in resplendent costumes and accessories, took part in the drama.

The HOPE programme was initiated by the Sathya Sai Centres of Southeast Asian countries to address the problem of teenage delinquency since loss of traditional and age-old wisdom handed down through generations had become a cause for deep concern. As part of the programme, symposiums on human values were organised for students, along with talks on science and spirituality.

U. S. A.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Flushing, New York, in the Mid-Atlantic Region, celebrated



Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday on Sunday, 18th November 2012. Dr. (Mrs.) Sarojini and Dr. Rupak Changkakoti, alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam, shared Swami's message of love with devotees. Later, Dr. Rupak offered a memorable musical tribute, comprising "Sai Katha" and other beautiful songs rendered during his college days in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Also as part of the Birthday celebrations, supplies were collected for families affected by Hurricane Sandy and an orientation conducted for Hurricane Sandy storm relief volunteers.

Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated by Region 8, comprising Southern California, Las Vegas area of Nevada and Hawaii, on 17th November 2012, at Woodrow Wilson High School auditorium in Long Beach, California. Young adults, children and devotees from all segments and different faiths of the Sai community worked in unity to create a memorable devotional experience. About 450 people attended the programme.

The Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Glendale, California, also in Region 8, celebrated Bhagavan's 87th Birthday on 23rd November 2012. The daylong celebrations began at 6:00 a.m. with Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Gayatri Mantra and Ashtottaram, followed by Veda chanting and Bhajans. A service project to help victims of the recent catastrophic Hurricane Sandy in the New Jersey area was undertaken by packing 150 kits of

blankets and toiletry items. The ladies wing sewed quilt blankets for the needy.

DUBAI

On the auspicious day of Friday, 23rd November 2012, the Sathya Sai Service Organisation celebrated Bhagavan Baba's Birthday at Sri Sathya Sai Mandir, Dubai. The morning session, attended by about 200 Sathya Sai devotees, commenced with Omkaram and Suprabhatam, followed



Distribution of gift packs on Bhagavan's Birthday.

by Bhajans. The evening Bhajans session was attended by about 480 Sathya Sai devotees, and the occasion was filled with divine vibrations as the devotees experienced the presence of the Lord. Alongside the devotional programme, a total of 1,008 packs of nine food items and a blanket were packed and distributed to needy residents at three labour camps. Sathya Sai youth launched a Seva project by distributing 450 toiletry packs, dry rations, sweets and blankets to fishermen in two labour camps located in Jumeirah.



GREECE

More than 100 Sathya Sai devotees attended Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday celebrations at the Patission Centre in Athens, Greece on 23rd November 2012. The programme included



Sai volunteers distributed gift bags to celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday in Greece.

listening to a Discourse of Bhagavan and viewing the video, "Who is Sathya Sai Baba?" followed by Bhajans. Devotees of all ages participated by chanting and singing the glory of Bhagavan Baba. Sathya Sai volunteers distributed gift bags, non-perishable food items, clothes and shoes to mothers and their children, all residents of the "Mother Teresa's Order" home.

TAIWAN

Bhagavan's Birthday, which coincided with the 16th anniversary celebrations of the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) programme in Taiwan, was organised on 18th November in the city of Taipei. About 200 people attended the celebrations. Following a brief introduction to the SSEHV programme,



A presentation by children on Bhagavan's Birthday in Taipei.

a cultural presentation was performed by Sathya Sai Kindergarten children, students of the Chinese SSEHV programme and Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) students of the Tienmou Sathya Sai Centre. A drama entitled "Who Am I?" and a short skit on "Unity of Faiths" was also performed by the children. The programme concluded with a song titled "This Little Guiding Light of Mine." On 23rd November, Bhajans were offered at the Tienmou Centre, followed by loving service at two homes for the elderly.

BELARUS

Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations were organised in the cities of Minsk, Vitebsk, Baranovichi, Lide and Mosir. At the Sathya Sai Centre of Minsk, the celebrations included a study circle on Bhagavan's teachings and His universality. The programme also included short videos on Bhagavan and His works, followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. In the Sathya Sai Centre of Vitebsk, celebrations included Bhajans, spiritual songs, poems and paroemias (proverbs). Talks on Bhagavan's Mission and a bouquet of songs, poems, sketches and video presentations comprised the





A section of devotees participating in Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations in Belarus.

programme at the Baranovichy Sathya Sai Centre. A video presentation of the Russian choir performing in Prasanthi Nilayam was screened. The celebrations ended with Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam.

BELGIUM

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday was joyfully celebrated by the Sathya Sai Centre of Brussels. The programme commenced at 10.00 a.m. with the reading of three quotations of Swami, followed by 17 Bhajans. Subsequently, the Brussels Centre gave a presentation on the service activities at the Poverello Home, where the homeless, the hungry, the sick and the elderly come to seek food, warmth and compassion. In the evening, a presentation of the proceedings of two International Sathya Sai Organisation meetings was given by two devotees, along with a slide show of pictures taken at the meetings. The celebrations concluded with a music programme by a musical group

from the City of Liege, who presented a medley of spiritual songs.

EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador, Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated on 25th November 2012. The programme started with Veda chanting, prayers and Bhajans, followed by a keynote speech by Dr. Hector Castaneda on "Practical Spirituality," a play titled "Boldness" and a video presentation.



Devotees participating in Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations in El Salvador.

Bookmarks and an audio compact disk titled "Embodiments of Love," with poems and songs sung by Bhagavan were distributed along with the Prasadam. A special exhibit was displayed of banners, presenting Bhagavan's life, teachings and humanitarian projects.

NORWAY

Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations began on 22nd November 2012 with chanting of 108 Names of Bhagavan, followed by meditation and prayers. On 23rd November, the programme included



Paduka Puja (worshipping the sacred sandals of Bhagavan), Bhajans and a flute recital. The event concluded with readings from Bhagavan's Birthday Discourses and distribution of Prasadam.

– **Sathya Sai International Organisation**

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Andhra Pradesh participated in the National Book Fair held at Hyderabad from 14th to 25th December 2012. The book stall put up by the Trust was adjudged as the best book stall in its category for its responsive attendants, arrangement of books and satisfied visitors to the stall. A large number of books were purchased by the visitors and many orders were received for delivery of books at the houses of the visitors.

Assam: The 1st anniversary of Sai Madhuram, the renovated office of Sri Sathya Sai Trust, NER and Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Centre, was held on 19th December 2012 at Rupnagar, Guwahati. The programme started at 8 a.m. with Abhishekam of the idols of Lord Ganesh and Shirdi Sai Baba. It was followed by Vedic chants and prayers by the students of Bal Vikas and Ved Vidyalaya School of Rupnagar, Guwahati. In the evening, a wonderful devotional music programme of songs and Bhajans was presented by the ex-students headed by Dr. Sunam Gyamtso from Sikkim accompanied by Dr. Neil Bardoloi, Rupak Sharma and Kaustav Dutta, who enthralled the devotees and other people present there in full capacity of the hall.

Delhi: Sanathana Sarathi golden jubilee exhibition, "Journey with Sai" was organised at Sri Sathya Sai International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi from 2nd to the 9th of December 2012 by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Delhi-NCR. The exhibition provided a deep insight into the Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the work and activities of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and specifically Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Delhi-NCR. People from different socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds visited the exhibition including several hundred school students from a dozen schools and many beneficiaries of the Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme. The exhibition was also visited by several eminent spiritual



Sanathana Sarathi golden jubilee exhibition, "Journey with Sai" at Delhi-NCR.

leaders and representatives of various faiths and spiritual organisations.

As part of the exhibition, several music and cultural programmes were held at Sri Sathya Sai International Centre. This exhibition, which is travelling all over the country, is now all set to move to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Karnataka: Bhagavan's 87th Birthday was celebrated at Brindavan Ashram with great devotion and solemnity on 23rd November



2012. The morning programme started with Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan which was followed by Veda chanting, Narayana Puja and Bhajans. The evening programme included Jhoola Mahotsava (swing ceremony) and a devotional music concert by renowned musician Bombay Krishnamurthy. A large number of devotees participated in the programme.

Kerala: A two-day Sri Sathya Sai Mahotsavam 2012 was held at Cherthala, Alleppy District on 8th and 9th December 2012. The Mahotsavam was formally inaugurated by Sri K.C. Venugopal, Union Minister of State. He spoke at length on the various service activities that were being undertaken by the Sai Organisation. More

...continued from page 18

from Prithvi (earth). It means earthly, earthborn. So, this situation is a reminder to every man on earth. If only you cultivate a deep yearning for guidance about your appropriate Dharma, and if only you surrender your will, your intellect, your emotions, your impulses to God, He will lead you to Himself, and endow you with supreme bliss.

...continued from page 24

that they would dedicate themselves in the service of mankind and would work in the hospital with the spirit of sacrifice. Three beautiful songs were then presented by the students and staff of the Institute, all

than 4,000 active workers and devotees attended the programme. A workshop for office bearers of the Organisation was held on this occasion. There was wide media coverage of the event.

“Indira Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2012” for education and social work was awarded to Dr. K.S. Supriya, Principal, Sri Sathya Sai English Medium School, Velland and District Education Co-ordinator, Thiruvananthapuram of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala by Global Economic Progress and Research Association, a national organisation. This award is given for outstanding services in various fields to strengthen India’s unity and economic development.

Every deed must take man nearer the goal; it must be a step in the pilgrimage to God. It must cleanse the emotions, correct the attitude, clarify the path and co-operate in the consummation. This has to be the constant care and vigilance of every seeker and aspirant to bliss.

– **From Bhagavan’s Discourse in Prasanthi Nilayam in July 1970.**

of which were interspersed with video clips regarding the functioning of the hospital. This well-planned and well-rehearsed presentation came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

Sathya Geeta, Bhagavan’s pet elephant, which was brought to Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2007 after the passing away of legendary Sai Geeta, breathed her last on 22nd January 2013 at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences

EPIP Area, Whitefield, Bengaluru – 560066

Tel.: 080-28511500 Extn. 415, Fax: 080-28411502

Email: registrarblr@sssihms.org.in

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru is offering 4 years course leading to Bachelors degree in Nursing (for Girl Students only) and 3 ½ year courses leading to Bachelors degree in Anaesthesia Technology, Cardiac Care Technology, Imaging Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology and Perfusion Technology (for Girl Students only). Applications are invited from candidates who fulfil the eligibility criteria as given below.

Age: Candidates should have completed minimum 17 years and maximum 25 years of age on or before 31st of December in the year of application for admission.

Qualification: 10+2, PUC or any other qualifying examination conducted by Boards / Councils / Intermediate Education established by State Governments / Central Government and recognised as equivalent to two year Pre-University examination by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences / Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Subjects in 10+2 / PUC: Candidates should have passed subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English (PCBE) individually and must have obtained a minimum of not less than 45% marks put together in all these subjects. For B.Sc. Imaging Technology, the candidate should have passed Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English with an aggregate of 45%. Candidates desirous of applying can download the application form from the website and send the same by post. Incomplete applications, applications in a different format and applications not meeting the eligibility criteria will be rejected. The applications will be entertained from 1st March 2013 to 30th April 2013. The date of entrance exam will be intimated separately.

For further details log on to www.wfd.sssihms.org.in

– Director

Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School

Alcot Gardens, Rajahmundry – 533101, East Godavari Dist., A.P.,

Ph.: 0883 2430989 (Affiliated to C.I.S.C.E., New Delhi)

Admission to Class I (boys only) of Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, Rajahmundry, will take place in June, 2013. It is an English Medium, wholly residential school following I.C.S.E. syllabus.

Prospectus and Admission Forms may be obtained from the school from 10-02-2013 by paying ₹ 50/- either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn from any Nationalised Bank in favour of Correspondent, Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, payable at Rajahmundry. For obtaining the application set by post, please send a Demand Draft with a self-addressed cover (size 15 cm x 24 cm) and ₹ 15 stamps.

Last date for issuing the forms is 30th March 2013 and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before 10th April 2013.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st std. is between 5 years and 6 years as on 31st August 2013.

– Correspondent

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital

Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134

Email: hmrgh@sssihms.org.in, Phone 08555-287256, Fax: 08555-289409

Applications are invited for the following posts:

Consultant / Senior Resident in the Department of OBGY

Qualification: MBBS + MD / DGO preferably with minimum 3 / 6 years of experience in the Department of OBGY.

Scale of Pay: Consultant: Basic pay ₹ 47,390 + allowances. Senior Resident (with PG Degree) Basic pay ₹ 25,350 + allowances. Senior Resident (with Diploma) Basic pay ₹ 21,000 + allowances.

Consultant in the Department of General Surgery

Qualification: MS / DNB in General Surgery, preferably with minimum eight years of experience in the Department of General Surgery.

Scale of Pay: As mentioned above.

Apply to the Medical Superintendent, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam, with full bio-data and a photograph immediately.

– Medical Superintendent

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital

Whitefield main road, Whitefield, Bengaluru – 560066

Email: hr.ghwfd@sssihms.org.in, Phone 080-28452330

Applications are invited for the following posts:

Senior Resident – General Medicine No. of vacancies: 1

Qualification: MBBS + MD / DNB

Minimum Experience: 1 year and above in a recognised institution.

Basic pay: ₹ 25,350 + allowances

Senior Resident – General Surgery

No. of vacancies: 1

Qualification: MBBS + MS / DNB

Minimum Experience: 1 year and above in a recognised institution

Basic pay: ₹ 25,350 + allowances

Junior Resident - Paediatrics

No of vacancies: 1

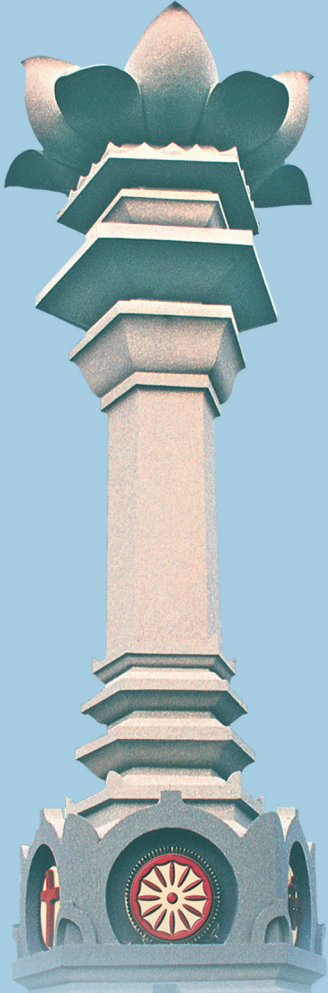
Qualification: MBBS

Minimum Experience: 1 year and above in a recognised institution

Basic pay: ₹ 15,000 for the first year

Interested candidates may apply to the Human Resource Officer with full bio-data and photograph immediately by courier or post to the address mentioned above.

– Medical Superintendent



Prayer, Dhyana, Yoga

Prayer is the very breath of religion; for, it brings man and God together and with every sigh, nearer and nearer. Dhyana is the process of listening to the song celestial, the flute of Krishna, with the mental ears alert on the melody. Yoga is merging of the mind in the bliss of self-forgetfulness, when the music fills the consciousness. Words like these do not completely denote that inexpressible ecstasy which one gets while 'back home,' after this long exile.

– Baba

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