

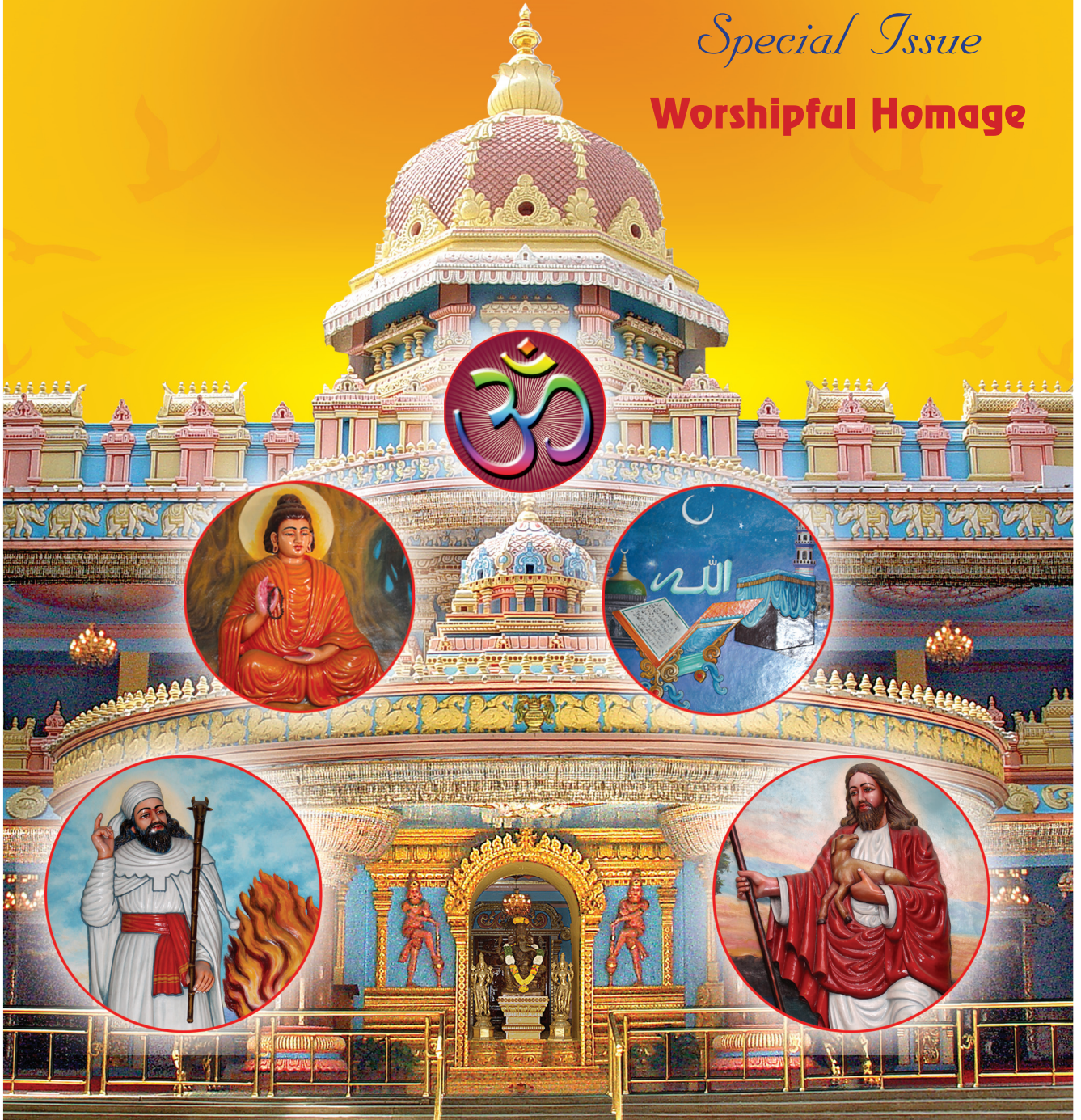


NOVEMBER 2011

Sanathana Sarathi

Special Issue

Worshipful Homage





*Dedicated at the Lotus Feet of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
on the Auspicious Occasion of
His 86th Birthday
23rd November 2011*



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA



"Never give up truth under any circumstances. Uphold it even at the risk of your life. Sathya is in you, with you, around you and will protect you just as the eyelids protect the eyes."

Vol: 54 Issue No. 11 Date of Publication: 5th November

NOVEMBER 2011

© Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division
Prasanthi Nilayam
Printed by K.S. RAJAN
Published by K.S. RAJAN
on behalf of the owner, Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division
Prasanthi Nilayam 515134,
Anantapur District (A.P.),
Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises,
136, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji
Nagar, Bengaluru - 560044, Karnataka.
And Published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana
Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi
Nilayam 515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra
Pradesh

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Cover Page Photograph
Unity of Faiths

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Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



12th November 6 p.m.

to 13th November 6 p.m. Global Akhanda Bhajan

18th November Rathotsavam

19th November Ladies Day

**22nd November 30th Convocation of
Sri Sathya Sai Institute
of Higher Learning**

**23rd November 86th Birthday of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

20th - 26th December Christmas Celebrations

THE GODWARD PATH

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA INCARNATED IN THE 20TH century to give His Message of love to mankind. This was the century of great scientific and technological wonders as also the century of great horrors. It was in this century that man landed on the moon, and also made deadly weapons like atom bombs, two of which were dropped on thickly populated cities resulting in widespread destruction. Two world wars were fought in this century which caused untold misery to mankind. The intolerance of man resulted in horrifying bloodshed. Millions of people were killed because one race of people tried to exterminate the other, one country wanted to overpower other countries and one class of people attempted to destroy the other class. In his insanity, man killed nearly 100 million of his own fellow beings in 20th century alone. Fear of nuclear war haunted the entire mankind in this century.

It was at this juncture that God descended on earth in the human form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He was born when the First World War had just ended, and He declared His Divine Mission barely at the age of 14 when the Second World War had just begun. He knew what was ailing mankind and therefore prescribed the right cure. He put the balm of His Divine Love on the wounds of the bleeding humanity and gave His Divine Message of unity to the beleaguered world: *"There is only one religion, the religion of love. There is only one caste, the caste of humanity. There is only one language, the language of the heart. There is only one God, He is omnipresent."* This was not merely a hollow slogan. His message of unity of mankind reached all corners of the world. We are fortunate witnesses who have seen thousands of people from more than 160 countries of the world living together, eating together, singing Bhajans together and participating in festivals, meetings and conferences together at Prasanthi Nilayam. We can therefore say that we have seen world unity in its miniature form at Prasanthi Nilayam with our own eyes.

During His life sojourn on earth, Bhagavan sowed the seeds of love in the heart of man, nursed its sapling with the water of faith and nourished it with the fertilizer of compassion, truth, righteousness, peace and non-violence. He touched the lives of millions of people; He transformed and divinised them. Millions of His devotees are engaged in spreading His Divine Message of unconditional love and selfless service in all parts of the world. No doubt, He has shown the Godward path to man.

Our greatest homage to Him is to follow the path shown by Him and knit the whole world into one loving family without any narrow considerations of nationalities, races and faiths of people. Let His physical absence not make our steps unsteady because, as He told Diana Baskin, "I am not going anywhere (see her article in this issue)," He is very much here, there and everywhere.

— Editor

HOLD ON TO TRUTH UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

If the feeling behind an action is good, it is bound to be fruitful.

If the feeling is polluted, accordingly the result will also be negative.

(Telugu Poem)

The elephant does not lose its might and majesty just because dogs bark at it.

Likewise, noble souls are least affected when wicked people criticise and ridicule them.

(Telugu Poem)

TRUTH IS THE SOURCE OF GOOD REPUTATION

Students!



ODAY JEALOUSY AND EGO have become prevalent without any limit in the entire world. If one of the students gets first class, the other students become jealous of him. Similarly, if somebody is healthy and happy, others feel jealous of him. A pauper feels jealous of a wealthy person. The same can be said of birds and animals also. Cranes make fun of swans. The melodious singing of a cuckoo is like cacophony to crows. Worldly people are like crows. Therefore, people who are on the path of truth should not bother about what others say; they should make efforts to lead their life on the righteous path.

Do not Get Perturbed by others' Criticism

Without bothering about the barking of dogs, the elephant continues to move forward majestically. Where is the elephant and where are the dogs! There can be no

comparison between the two. Likewise, a cuckoo bird continues to sing melodiously without bothering about the cawing of crows. Does it stop singing just because the crows are cawing at it? No. In the same manner, people may feel jealous of your goodness, progress, well-being and purity. But you should continue to keep your heart pure without taking any notice of them. You should not be dejected or depressed by their negative feelings and criticism.

If the feelings behind an action are good, it is bound to be fruitful. Therefore, you should make efforts to keep your own feelings pure and should not change them under the influence of others. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavathi* (as are the feelings, so is the result). Whatever is the nature of your action, you will have the fruit accordingly. God is concerned with your inner feelings and not with your outward show. But worldly people see only your outward actions and may make fun of you. God is Bhava Priya (lover of pure



Leave Worldly Feelings and Develop Divine Feelings



of Nivritti. What is the source of Nivritti? I have told this to our students on many occasions. Aham originates from the Atma. Aham means 'I'. This is the first name of God. Every human being utters this letter 'I' in his worldly pursuits. It is from this Aham that the mind is born. Speech is born out of the mind. Therefore, Aham is the son of the Atma, mind is the grandson and speech is the great grandson. All these belong to the same family of the Atma. They have only one property and that is Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence, Knowledge, Bliss). All the three, the Aham, the mind and the speech are endowed with Sat-Chit-Ananda. In fact, Sat-Chit-Ananda is all-pervasive. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Srutimalloke Sarvamavrutthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). Wherever you see, you find this principle of Sat-Chit-Ananda. This is the attribute of God. When you say God is attributeless, wherefrom does this Sat-Chit-Ananda come?

Just as fire has three attributes, namely, redness, power to burn and heat, God also has these attributes – Sat, Chit and Ananda. Sat is that which exists forever. It is steady, changeless, pure and selfless. Such is the principle of Sat. Then comes Chit. It means awareness or consciousness. Wherefrom does Ananda originate? The combination of Sat and Chit is Ananda. That is why everyone aspires for happiness from his birth to death. Students are happy when they pass their examinations. But this happiness is short-lived. They want to attain higher levels. Even after attaining higher degrees, they are not happy; they want to secure a job. But even

after getting a job, they are not happy. They jump from one desire to another all their life. There is no end to their desires. As they entertain limitless desires, they are unable to attain everlasting happiness.

Faith and Love are Essential on the Spiritual Path

Worldly happiness is momentary. It is not the quality of a human being to aspire for such happiness.

*Ma Kuru Dhana Jana Yauvana Garvam,
Harathi Nimeshath Kalah Sarvam.*

(Do not be proud of your wealth, progeny and youth; the tide of time may destroy them in a moment).

All these change and perish in a short time. But you consider all these to be permanent and waste your life in their pursuit. All this is just like a dream. The mansions and palatial buildings that you see in a dream are not there when you wake up. Similarly, what you see in your waking state is not there in your dream state. One is the night dream and the other is the day dream. Both are dreams essentially. But you are present in both. Therefore, you are omnipresent. Such eternal principle is within you and not outside. The happiness that you get from worldly objects, matters and individuals is not permanent. All these are like passing clouds. But man considers them to be permanent and undergoes a lot of hardship to possess them.

You have to take to the path of spirituality to understand truth. There are thousands who take to spiritual path and perform many Sadhanas (spiritual practices). But, how many are able to experience bliss? They undertake spiritual practices for a number of years and grow old in the process.



Ultimately, they leave their mortal coil without achieving any result. What is the reason? The reason is that they do not have firm faith. Moreover, they have no love in their heart. I have told you many times that there are two main principles that support the ladder of spirituality. The principle of love supports it at the base and faith at the top. It is only when you have both love and faith can you climb this ladder of spirituality and attain the goal of your life. Today some people have love but no faith and others have faith but no love. Only faith is not enough; love is also very essential. Faith and love are closely related to each other.

Today the heart of many Sadhakas (spiritual seekers) is full of negative thoughts. Then, how can they attain positive results? First of all, they should get rid of their negative thoughts.

One can fill an empty head with anything, but is it possible to put something in the head which is already full? How can it be filled with sacred feelings unless it is emptied in the first instance?

(Telugu Poem)

Everybody is bound to leave this world some day or the other. Human body is not permanent. Even the fruits of our actions are also temporary like passing clouds. Why should you suffer so much of hardship for these temporary fruits? People do not make efforts to attain God who is true and eternal. They vigorously pursue education for Bhukti (worldly possessions) and not for Mukti (liberation). What can this worldly education give us? It can give us only worldly gains, power and position. But there are only two things that you should uphold in this life, one is truth and the other is good reputation.

The Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata teach us that even if there is one wicked quality in an individual, it causes enormous destruction and leads to his ruination. Then, what can be said of man's fate today who has got all the three wicked qualities, namely, Kama, Krodha and Lobha (desire, anger and greed)? These three wicked qualities are the main obstacles on the Godward path. In fact, as the Gita declares, these are verily the three main gates which lead to hell.



*Asthiram Jivanam Loke,
Asthiram Yauvanam Dhanam,
Asthiram Dara Putradi,
Sathyam Kirti Dwayam Sthiram.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Life in the world is impermanent. So are youth and wealth. Wife and children are also not permanent. Only truth and good name are permanent).

Realise Unity in Diversity

You should earn a good name. How is it possible? It is possible only by following the path of truth. You cannot earn this in any other way. Truth is the source of good reputation of man. In fact, truth is God; it is all-pervasive. Truth is our very life and the source of our sustenance. That is why our ancient culture teaches, *Sathyam Bruyath, Priyam Bruyath, Na Bruyath Sathyamapriyam* (speak truth, speak pleasantly and do not speak unpalatable truth). *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth, practise righteousness). You should make truth and righteousness as



the basis of your life. If you want to earn a good name in this physical world, your actions should also be good. World will respect you so long as you have wealth, gold and other worldly possessions. Actually, what is it that people respect you for? You are deluded to think that they respect you. No, no. They do not respect you but they respect your wealth, high position, power and intellectual capabilities. You should earn respect by your good character. Character alone confers good reputation. You should have both individual character and national character. First of all, one should have individual character. How can anybody have national character without individual character? If you have national character, you will be remembered as a good person in history.

What is the real meaning of history? His story is history, which includes the stories of Avatars like Rama and Krishna. You cannot write your own story and call it history. In fact, it will be an insult to history itself. The story of God is true history. That which describes the divine attributes of the Avatars and ideals set by them is true history. You should not remain mere mortal. You should become immortal by earning a place in history. You should not covet worldly gains which are ephemeral like passing clouds. Are there not many wealthy and highly educated intellectuals in this world? But these so-called intellectuals see only diversity in unity. The world needs virtuous people who see unity in diversity and not pseudo intellectuals who divide unity into diversity. Only those who see unity in diversity find high place in history. Therefore, understand the principle of unity in diversity. Names and forms may vary, but the principle of divinity is one and the same in all. That

principle of divinity is truth. How do we attain this truth? It cannot be learnt from a teacher or from a book. It cannot be purchased in the market, nor can it be gifted to you by a friend. It has to be acquired from your own practical life. Keep in view this principle of truth as your goal every moment of your life. That is true humanness. *The proper study of mankind is man.*

Humanness lies in the unity of thought, word and deed (Trikarana Suddhi). But, how many people have it today? How many are able to experience unity? Year after year, they perform spiritual practices. They do the Parayana (ceremonial study) of many sacred texts like the Ramayana, the Bhagavata and the Mahabharata. But what is the use? Do they derive any benefit out of it? Put your hand on your heart and ask yourself. Then you will be able to know the truth. Have you made even a little spiritual progress? No, not at all. What is the use of leading such a life for any length of time? Your heart is your witness. Then, what is the use of doing all these spiritual practices, participating in congregations, studying of sacred texts and performing prayers and worship? All these endeavours are like roasted grains which get blown away with a gust of wind. This is not what you should attain. When you make real spiritual progress, your heart will acknowledge it. You should strive for that.

Protect Sathya and Dharma

Students! Today all your actions have become artificial. Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly. Art is outside and heart is inside. Therefore, follow your heart. There is no point in following others. *Munde Munde Mathir Bhinnah* (opinions vary from person to person). There are as many opinions as



There are many who perform spiritual practices, listen to the stories of noble souls in congregations. But they do not retain anything in their heart. Just as we exhale the air that we inhale, we leave out everything that we hear. You should imbibe all that is divine and cast off all that is worldly. People today perform spiritual practices but they do not get any real Ananda out of them. The reason is their worldly attachment. Worldly possessions are temporary. You have to ultimately leave all your worldly possessions. That which will always remain with you, in you, around you and protect you is only truth. This is the sacred path that you should follow. There is no point in chanting 'Rama, Rama' mechanically. You repeat it only with your lips; it does not come from your heart.



Even a tape recorder or a gramophone plate can repeat the Divine Name endlessly. What benefit do they derive out of it?

Many people talk about free will, free will, free will. Nobody has free will except God. You may say that you have free will but actually you do not have it. You should use your will power and connect your heart to God, not the physical heart, but spiritual heart. Wherever you are and whatever you may do, you should contemplate on God as naturally as you inhale and exhale your breath. This process of inhalation and exhalation continues when you are sleeping, working or even quarrelling with others. This is a natural process and nothing can come in its way. Similarly, you should contemplate on divinity in any form continuously whatever you may be doing. You should strive to follow this path which is ever true and eternal.

Students! What you have to develop today is Sathya and Dharma (truth and righteousness). No special efforts are needed to protect this world. In fact, no individual can protect it. It is only Sathya and Dharma that protect this world. Therefore, what you have to protect is Sathya and Dharma. If you protect Sathya and Dharma, they will in turn protect the world. In fact, you should consider Sathya and Dharma as your very life-breath. *Dharmayeva Hatho Hanthi, Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah* (If you destroy Dharma, you will be destroyed by Dharma. Similarly, if you protect Dharma, you will be protected by Dharma.) But today people do not know what is Sathya and Dharma. *Trikalabadhyam Sathyam* (Truth remains unchanged in the three periods of time – past, present and future). Truth does not change. That which changes from time

to time is only Nijam (worldly truth). In the morning, it is Yoga (spirituality), during the day it is Bhoga (indulgence) and at night it is Roga (disease). Such is the nature of worldly truth. It is no truth at all.

Get Rid of Desire, Anger and Greed

The Ramayana is the story of the battle between Rama and Ravana. Ravana had only one defect in him and that was Kama (desire) which brought about his ruination. Similarly, the battle of the Mahabharata was fought on account of the Lobha (greed) of Duryodhana, which led to his downfall. Likewise, the Bhagavata describes the story of Hiranyakasipu who met his doom due to his wicked quality of anger. Thus, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata teach us that even if there is one wicked quality in an individual, it causes enormous destruction and leads to his ruination. Then, what can be said of man's fate today who has got all the three wicked qualities, namely, Kama, Krodha and Lobha (desire, anger and greed)? These three wicked qualities are the main obstacles on the Godward path. In fact, as the Gita declares, these are verily the three main gates which lead to hell. One who has these wicked qualities is bound to perish. Therefore, first of all you should make efforts to get rid of these evil qualities. Only then will your life become worthwhile and you will attain good reputation. Otherwise, you will be put to disrepute. From outside, a fig fruit may appear to be beautiful but when you open it, you may find it full of insects. Likewise, man today is shining outwardly. He acts as if he is happy. It is just like cinema acting. This is not true happiness. True happiness is that which comes from your heart. That is real fulfilment and bliss. That is your true property.



Who is the poorest man in this world? He who has many desires is the poorest man. Who is the richest man in this world? He who has much satisfaction is the richest man. Only the one who has satisfaction can attain peace. But who has satisfaction today? None, in fact. People have Trishna (craving), but not Trupti (satisfaction). Their desires go on increasing every moment. Man should leave Trishna and follow Krishna. When he follows Krishna, he can attain everything. Similarly, you will be free from difficulties when you follow Rama. Therefore, chant the name of the Lord and obey His command. But, how far are you following the command of the Lord? Rama set the ideal of obedience to the command of his father. But, how many today follow the command of their parents? Rama was the embodiment of truth. But what people follow today is only untruth. They perform Sathya Narayana Vrata once a year, but rest of the year they resort to only Asathya (untruth). This is not correct. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam* (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances contemplate on God). People do not make even a little effort to follow truth. Whenever they open their mouth, only untruth comes out of it. They even do not try to know what is Sathya.

Man is the Embodiment of Sat-Chit-Ananda

Students! Never give up truth under any circumstances. Uphold it even at the risk of your life. Sathya is in you, with you, around you and will protect you just as the eyelids protect the eyes. Harishchandra earned the title Sathya Harishchandra by uncompromisingly adhering to truth. How many sufferings he had to undergo and how many difficulties he had to bear! He was

There are thousands who take to spiritual path and perform many Sadhanas (spiritual practices). But, how many are able to experience bliss? They pursue spiritual practices for a number of years and grow old in the process. Ultimately, they leave their mortal coil without achieving any result. What is the reason? The reason is that they do not have firm faith. Moreover, they have no love in their heart. I have told you many times that there are two main principles that support the ladder of spirituality. The principle of love supports it at the base and faith at the top.



even forced to sell his wife and son. He lost his kingdom and became a keeper of the cremation ground. In spite of all this, he was unnerved and unperturbed. He firmly held on to truth. Ultimately, God Himself manifested before him and restored everything he had lost. Besides, He conferred upon him the title of Sathya Harishchandra. The Vedas declare, *Srunvantu Viswe Amrutasya Putrah* (Oh the children of immortality! Listen). Man has to earn this title of Amruta Putra (son of immortality). You are Amruta Putra and not Anruta Putra (son of falsehood). You are born to truth and not to untruth. God is the embodiment of truth and all are His progeny. Just as water bubbles originate from water, all human beings originate from the ocean of Sat-Chit-Ananda. All are the embodiments of Sat-Chit-Ananda. Everyone should understand this truth. You are human only in form but you are essentially the embodiment of Sat-Chit-Ananda. When you have such



feelings firmly rooted in your heart, how blissful you will be! The feelings should not be artificial. These should be the natural feelings of your heart. You should have the firm conviction, "I am the embodiment of Sat-Chit-Ananda. The body, mind and intellect may perish but I am the immortal and eternal principle of oneness, that is, Atma." When you develop such firm feelings, you will attain God-realisation.

But people today do not have faith in such feelings. Then, how can they have God-realisation? Therefore, have faith in yourself and faith in God. If you have these two, you can have everything. Be fearless. Don't be afraid of anything. Why should you be afraid when you have truth with you? Truth is not afraid of anything. That is why the Vedas declare, *Sathyam Vada* (speak truth), *Sathyameva Jayate* (Truth alone triumphs). You can attain the principle of truth only by following the path of love. All My Discourses begin with truth and love and also end with them. I may or may not speak on any other subject, but I always dwell upon Sathya and Prema. There is no Discourse in which I do not touch these two topics. The reason is that Sathya and Prema are verily the life of everyone. Both of these are like the inhalation and exhalation of our breath. Just as man cannot live without inhalation and exhalation, he cannot live without Sathya and Prema. Sathya symbolises the process of inhalation, 'So' and Prema denotes the process of exhalation, 'Ham'. Sathya and Prema both combine to form the immortal Soham Mantra, which sustains our life.

Make God the Resident of your Heart

Students! Develop truth and love from this young age itself. Never misuse Sathya and

Prema. Adhere to Sathya and follow the right path. But people distort Sathya and Prema because of their selfishness and self-interest. Sathya Harishchandra could successfully uphold truth because the environment in those days was so pure. Nothing could deviate him from the path of truth. But the evil influence of Kali Age is such that even if Harishchandra were to come today, people will make him utter untruth. Many people make a firm resolve to speak truth but when it comes to practice they speak only untruth. This is due to the influence of Kali Yuga. You should not fall a prey to this influence of Kali Yuga. Let your truth make Ananda overflow in your heart. It does not matter even if you do not perform any spiritual practice. It is enough if you develop truth and love. Violence has no place where there is truth, righteousness, love and peace. Those who are endowed with Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema, Ahimsa will manifest in them in full glory. Due to lack of these values, today the world is beset with violence. Wherever you see there is violence, be it in the house, outside in the bazaar, in a train, in a bus or in a plane.

Life today is full of fear and man is caught in the maze of the world. The entire atmosphere is full of fear. Man is full of fear even when he is in his house without venturing outside anywhere. Which is the place where there is no fear? There is no fear in divine proximity. There is no scope for fear when God is installed in you. Therefore, first and foremost make God the resident of your heart. Man is endowed with Hridaya (heart) so that he can install God in it and does not give place to worldly thoughts. God is the indweller of your heart. Not only that. God has given His word,



Mad Bhakta Yatra Gayanti Tatra Tishthami Narada (I reside where My devotees sing My glories, Narada). You find Him installed wherever His glory is sung.

Students should Know the Cultural Heritage of India

Students! Always speak truth under all circumstances. You may experience some difficulty in the beginning. But truly speaking, it is very easy to speak truth. It does not involve any effort. But if you want to speak untruth, you have to think a lot and plan so much. How much effort is required to speak untruth! Why do you take so much trouble to speak untruth? Speak truth which does not involve any effort at all. Speaking truth is as easy as crushing the petals of a flower. How easy it is to report things as they are! If someone were to ask you, “Who has done the translation?” you can at once reply, “Anil Kumar.” But if you don’t want to mention Anil Kumar’s name, you have to do a lot of planning. Why do you undergo so much difficulty? Why don’t you speak truth and report things as you see them? Do you require a mirror to look at your bracelet? You can see your bracelet directly. But your eyes cannot see your Self. You need to have a third eye to see it. This third eye is the eye of love. You can see everything with three eyes of truth, righteousness and love.

The practice of yoga involves three processes of Puraka (inhalation), Kumbhaka (retention) and Rechaka (exhalation). There are three subtle nerve channels, Ida, Pingala and Sushumna through which Prana (life principle) flows in the body. Ida is the right nerve channel, Pingala is the left nerve channel and Sushumna is in the centre. When Mira sang the song, *Chalore Mana Ganga*

Yamuna Teer... (Oh mind! Go to the bank of Ganga and Yamuna), she actually referred to Ida and Pingala. Ganga and Yamuna are, in fact, within you. You don’t need any ticket or a vehicle to go to their banks. It is very easy to go there. All that you need to do is to focus your vision on Bhrumadhya (centre of the eyebrows). Then you will become free from all thoughts. That is where the third eye is. But you cannot see the third eye if you try to cut the centre of your forehead open. You will see only blood coming out of it. The third eye is not to be found at physical plane; it is at subtle plane.

God is called Trinetra (one endowed with three eyes). What is the reason? Every man has two eyes, with which he can see past and present but cannot see the future. It is only God who can see the future also. Our ancient Indian culture is replete with such inner meanings. How sacred, ideal, exalted, noble and vibrant is our Indian culture! Students should try to know this. Unfortunately, they do not know what culture is. Eliot did a lot of research on culture and ultimately declared, “Culture is a way of life.” What does the way of life mean? This is the way which leads us to the goal of human life. It is our divine and sacred heritage. Why are the Bharatiyas who have got such rich cultural heritage going astray? At least from today onwards, make efforts to uphold your cultural heritage. That is possible only through love.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudhita Mana Se Kaho...*”)

– **From Bhagavan’s Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 13th July 1996.**



GRAND DASARA CELEBRATIONS



THE JOYOUS FESTIVAL OF Dasara was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great piety and devotion. The festivities started on 28th September 2011, the first day of Navaratri (nine-day worship of the Divine Mother). Many programmes of great social, cultural and spiritual significance were held during these auspicious nine days. While the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning conducted Grama Seva from 28th September to 6th October 2011, the Vedic priests conducted Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna from 30th September to 6th October 2011. During this period, Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha, a programme of spiritual talks, was held every evening. This was usually followed by music and cultural programmes suited to the occasion.

VEDA PURUSHA SAPTAHA JNANA YAJNA

On the morning of 28th September 2011, the Mandir priest started the worship of sacred Kalasha in the Bhajan Mandir at 7.30 a.m., signifying the worship of the Divine Mother. The worship of the Kalasha was continued in the Bhajan Mandir on the next day also. On 30th September 2011, the Kalasha was taken in a procession by Veda chanting Ritwiks (Vedic priests) to Poornachandra Auditorium where Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was scheduled to commence. The procession of Ritwiks led by Nadaswaram musicians started from Bhajan Mandir at 7.30 a.m. and reached Poornachandra Auditorium at 7.45 a.m., on the dais of which a magnificently

decorated Yajnachala (platform for the performance of Yajna by priests) had already been prepared for the conduct of this solemn event of far reaching spiritual significance. On the left side of the Yajnachala was placed a beautiful silver throne invoking the presence of Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to preside over the conduct of the Yajna. A beautiful portrait of Bhagavan adorned the right side of the dais.

Soon after their arrival at the Yajnachala, the Ritwiks started the preliminary rituals. Two priests started producing sacred fire in the traditional way by churning one piece of wood over the other, one priest started performing Surya Namaskar, the head priest and his wife started the worship of the sacred Kalasha which was installed at the western end of the dais, while a group of priests started Parayana (ceremonial reading) of sacred scriptures. The sacred fire was produced at 8.00 a.m. and was placed in the Yajna Kunda (sacrificial pit) amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. The priests sitting on the periphery of the Yajna Kunda then started the Yajna by offering oblations in the Yajna Kunda while another group of priests started the chanting of Krishna Yajur Veda. Meanwhile, Veda group of students also occupied their seats on the dais and started sacred chants. Thus began the sacred Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna for peace and harmony of the world, radiating spiritual vibrations in all directions and purifying the environment. At 9.30 a.m., the Ritwiks and students started combined Veda chanting, after which Arati was offered. Thereafter, the





Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was performed in Poornachandra Auditorium from 30th September to 6th October 2011. The picture shows the scene of Poornahuti performed on 6th October 2011.

students left for Grama Seva while the priests continued the Yajna. The performance of the Yajna continued in this sacred manner for seven days, in which a large number of devotees and students took part daily.

The Yajna concluded on 6th October 2011, the sacred day of Vijaya Dasami. Poornachandra Auditorium started reverberating with sacred chants of Vedic Mantras early on this auspicious morning when the Ritwiks started offering oblations in the Yajna Kunda at 7.20 a.m. with chanting of Mantras. A large number of devotees thronged Poornachandra Auditorium to witness the grand function of Poornahuti (final oblations) of the seven-day-long sacred Yajna. At about 8.20 a.m., Veda group of students also came to Poornachandra Auditorium in a procession led by Nadaswaram musicians and joined the Ritwiks in chanting Vedic hymns. Before the sacred ceremony of Poornahuti,

a senior priest spoke on the significance of performing Yajnas and their sublime effect on the entire mankind. After this, the priests went to Bhajan Mandir and returned to the venue at 9.15 a.m. in a procession, bringing with them the precious material of Poornahuti and the Dharani (large silver spoon) for offering final oblations in the Yajna Kunda. Meanwhile, a silver chair was placed near the Yajna Kunda, invoking Bhagavan to take His seat as Yajna Purusha and shower His blessings on all. After purificatory rituals, the final oblations were offered in the Yajna Kunda by the chief priest and his wife amidst chanting of Veda Mantras and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram music. After this, the chief priest and his wife circumambulated the Yajna Kunda. The priests then asked the gathering to repeat the prayers after them and offer them to Yajna Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A senior priest thereafter



addressed the gathering and dwelt upon the auspicious effects of the Yajna. At 9.40 a.m., Arati was offered to the sacred Kalasha by the head priest and his wife, after which the Kalasha was brought on the Yajnasala. At 9.45 a.m., the students started Bhajans, while the priests went round the entire hall and sprinkled sacred Teertham (sacred water) from the Kalasha on all the devotees. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering. The sacred Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna came to a happy conclusion with Arati at 10.05 a.m. on the auspicious day of Dasara.

PRASANTHI VIDWAN MAHASABHA

Along with the performance of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna, the proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha were conducted from 30th September to 6th October 2011. While the Yajna was conducted in the morning in Poornachandra Auditorium, Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha sessions were held in the afternoon in Sai Kulwant Hall, which was beautifully decorated for the solemn event.

The proceedings of the first session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha started at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. Sri Shashank Shah, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, introduced the two speakers who were scheduled to speak in the first session of the Vidwan Mahasabha. In his introductory remarks, Sri Shah dwelt upon the significance of Navaratri and also referred to three events of far reaching social, moral, ethical and spiritual importance, viz., Veda Purusha

Saptaha Jnana Yajna, Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva and Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha which were held at Prasanthi Nilayam every year during the nine auspicious days of Navaratri. The first speaker of the session was Sri Jagadish Chandra, a faculty member of the Institute, who spoke on the interesting topic "A Deal with Divinity." Narrating the story of a fruit seller who sold her fruits to child Krishna and got a fistful of rice from Him which turned into diamonds, the speaker remarked that the deal with God was the best deal. "Take the Name of Sai once and everything will be achieved," he added. The second speaker, Sri Nagarjuna, a 2nd year M.B.A. student of the Institute, referred to an anecdote narrated by Bhagavan about a man who foolishly carried his trunk on his head while travelling in a train, and observed that man should act wisely and surrender to God who would carry all his burden. The highlight of this session was the recording of Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse delivered by Him on 20th October 2001, in which Bhagavan dwelt upon the inner significance of Navaratri and purpose of worshipping Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati during the nine days of Navaratri. The Discourse in Bhagavan's own voice and the concluding Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" made the devotees nostalgic of the memories of past sessions of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha presided over by Bhagavan Himself.

On the second day also, there were two speakers who addressed the gathering. The first speaker, Sri Saurabh Kumar, a B.Com. student of Brindavan Campus of the Institute, spoke on the topic of "Nine Paths of Devotion" and stated how Bhagavan weaved these into the daily routine of the students



so that each could choose the path suited to him. The second speaker was Dr. P.L. Rani, a faculty member of Anantapur Campus. The speaker observed that Bhagavan's name Sri Sathya Sai containing three S's represented His ever positive response 'yes, yes, yes,' Sathyam Sivam Sundaram and also referred to Service (Grama Seva), Sacrifice (Yajna) and Satsang (Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha). The session became all the more illuminating and interesting with excerpts from a Discourse of Bhagavan in His golden voice, in which He stressed the value of ancient Indian culture and the importance of its revival, more so for the benefit of students. Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Prema Mudhita Manase Kaho" which the devotees repeated in chorus.

On 2nd October, the third day of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha, the first speaker was Kumari Lalitha Sarma, an M. Phil. student of Anantapur Campus. Speaking on the topic "Learning at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan," the speaker observed that Bhagavan taught the integral path which combined Jnana, Vairagya and Bhakti (knowledge, renunciation and devotion) and stressed the value of selfless love and unity of mankind. Quoting from the Upanishads and Tagore's Gitanjali, she said that Bhagavan not only satisfied our physical hunger but spiritual hunger also. The second speaker, Sri Sai Giridhar, a research scholar of the Institute, referred to his earlier speech in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan when Bhagavan materialised a gold ring for him with four S's which Bhagavan later explained as Salokya (perception), Sameepya (proximity), Sarupya (identity) and Sayujya (merger). The speaker stated

that the ultimate goal of life was Sayujya, merger with the Lord. "When we add our 'I' (individuality) to Sa (divinity), it becomes Sai, which is our true identity", said the speaker. These speeches were followed by excerpts from a Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, in which He exhorted one and all to remember God who provided everything free: air, water, sunlight, earth and numerous other bounties. Bhagavan then sang the Bhajan, "Madhura Madhura Murali Ghanashyama" which the devotees blissfully followed in chorus.

The first speaker who spoke on 3rd October 2011 was Sri Rishabh Sachdeva, a final year M.B.A. student of the Institute. Speaking on the topic "Life is a Challenge: Meet it," the speaker observed that surrender to God was the best way to meet the challenges of life. Narrating how Bhagavan cured the backache of his mother in a dream, the speaker said, "My Divine Mother Bhagavan taught me the path of surrender and my physical mother practised it in her life." The second speaker of this session was Prof. A. Anantha Raman, a faculty member of the Institute, who spoke on the topic "Our Lives, His Message." The learned speaker referred to Bhagavan's Cosmic Will and total detachment, and observed that His Mission was bound to succeed. Prasanthi Nilayam, he said, was the spiritual destination of man and Bhagavan's Samadhi would radiate love and peace to the entire world. He exhorted one and all to become a part of Bhagavan's Divine Mission by making their lives His Message. After these speeches, the devotees listened to a recording of Bhagavan's Divine Discourse which dwelt on the value of good company. The Discourse concluded with the Bhajan "Subrahmanyam, Subrahmanyam"



which the devotees followed in chorus with great devotion.

The first speaker in the 5th session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on 4th October 2011 was Sri Shivam Chopra, a student of B.Sc. (Maths), Brindavan Campus. Dwelling on the topic of gratitude, Sri Chopra narrated interesting incidents of his Primary School days and how he received the love of a thousand mothers from Bhagavan. Boundless unconditional love of Bhagavan, he said, deserved unlimited gratitude. The second speaker of this session was Sri Amey Deshpande, a research scholar. Narrating an experience of his visit to an Ashram in the Himalayas along with his friends, he quoted the words of the yogi of the Ashram who said: "Are you feeling sad? Bhagavan has gone from embodied form to disembodied form. I frequently have Bhagavan's Darshan in my Ashram." Bhagavan, he said, is in every atom of the universe. These speeches were followed by an excerpt from Bhagavan's Discourse, in which He instructed the devotees what they should pray for. Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan "Rama Kodanda Rama" which the devotees joyously repeated in chorus.

The proceedings of the 6th day of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha started with the speech of Kumari Lalitha, an M.Sc. student of Anantapur Campus. Dwelling on the significance of Navaratri, the speaker observed that the ultimate aim of Navaratri was to come out of the darkness of ignorance and realise Divine Consciousness. That, she said, was the inner meaning of worship of the Divine Mother during these nine days. The second speaker of this session was Kumari Suma Rao, a faculty member of Anantapur

Campus. Speaking on the topic "Love for God," the speaker observed that man's love for God was full of selfishness while God's love for man was totally selfless. Narrating an interesting experience of Bhagavan, the speaker felt that God's reactions could never be predicted. In the recording of Bhagavan's Discourse that was played on this day, Bhagavan said that Yajna meant sacrifice, and service to mankind was the real Yajna. Bhagavan exhorted the devotees to experience Ananda by connecting with God as God is the source of Ananda. In the end, Bhagavan sang the Bhajan "Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma" which the devotees followed in chorus.

The seventh and final session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was held on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami, 6th October 2011. The first speaker of this session was Sri Ratheesh Kumbalath, a student of M.A. (Economics) Prasanthi Nilayam Campus. He spoke on the topic "Gratitude to Mother, Motherland and Divine Mother" with various examples. The second speaker of this session was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus. Talking about his experience of Bhagavan's Divinity, Sri Sanjay Sahni observed that God's glory was beyond all descriptions and human mind could never understand God. Narrating how the Government of Oman requested the Sai Organisation to organise a workshop on Sri Sathya Sai Human Values in their country, the learned speaker observed that Bhagavan's Mission would go on progressing in all parts of the world. The speeches were followed by the recording of Bhagavan's Discourse in His golden voice. In this Discourse, Bhagavan dwelt on the



significance of Vairagya (renunciation) and narrated a Chinna Katha to illustrate this. The concluding Bhajan of this Discourse was “Giridhara Gopala” which the huge gathering of devotees blissfully repeated in chorus. The proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came to a happy conclusion with this Bhajan of Bhagavan.

MUSIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

A variety of music and cultural programmes were organised as part of Dasara celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Folk Songs of Rural Bengal

The programme on 30th September 2011 consisted of Baul Sangeet, typical folk songs of rural Bengal. The programme was presented by well-known folk singer Sri Purna Das Baul who had earlier the great good fortune of performing in the Divine Presence during the 50th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan. He was assisted by his son Sri Bibyendu Das Baul. The programme began after the conclusion of the first day's session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha in Sai Kulwant Hall. The singers then enraptured the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with devotional songs which contained valuable lessons of spiritual practices in daily life. At the conclusion of this presentation, the singers and their accompanying artistes were honoured with shawls.

Devotional Music Presentations by Students

A very elevating and soul-stirring programme of devotional music entitled “Prema Amrutham” (nectar of love) was presented by the students of Brindavan

Campus of the Institute on 1st October 2011. Starting their programme with an invocatory composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the singers rendered with aplomb the songs “Parthipuri Vihari,” “Giridhara Nagar,” “Durga Ma” and concluded with a lively Qawali “Tere Durbar Mein Hum Aaye Hain” (we have come to Your abode). A video film of Bhagavan at Trayee Brindavan was screened simultaneously which made the programme all the more lively and interesting.

Equally enthralling was the musical presentation by the students of Anantapur Campus on 2nd October 2011. Beginning their presentation with “Saieswaraya Dheemahi” (we worship Lord Sai), the



The students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute presented an enrapturing programme of devotional music on 2nd October 2011.

singers sang Hindi, Telugu and English devotional songs and demonstrated their talent of classical music by singing Thillana, earning a very loud applause of appreciation by the devotees.

The devotees had a sumptuous treat of classical Carnatic and Hindustani music on 3rd October 2011 when the staff and students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam presented their programme entitled “Nada Narayani.” The students first presented two Carnatic vocal music compositions and followed it up with



an instrumental piece. After this, the students of Hindustani music displayed their talent through a Tarana and a song “Jai Jai Jai Jaga Janani Devi” (hail Divine Mother of the universe). The programme concluded with a thrilling Carnatic music rendition by a faculty member of the college.

On 5th October 2011, the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus presented an enrapturing programme of devotional songs mainly dedicated to the Divine Mother. The programme was accompanied by visuals of inauguration of various institutions at Prasanthi Nilayam by Bhagavan and Dasara celebrations of 2002 at Prasanthi Nilayam followed by Bhagavan’s Dasara Discourse.

Gamyam Neevuga Payanam Ne Thoduga: A Drama

4th October 2011 was the 56th anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam. On this occasion, the doctors and other staff members of the hospital



A beautiful drama was presented on the 56th anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital on 4th October 2011.

presented a cultural programme comprising a drama and devotional songs. The drama entitled “Gamyam Neevuga Payanam Ne Thoduga” (Journey to Sai with Sai) portrayed the working of the hospital at its initial stages and depicted how patients were miraculously cured by the grace of Swami though the facilities were minimal and medicines were few. The story of the drama was based on the real incidents from the life of two Medical Superintendents of the hospital, Dr. B. Seetharamaiah and Dr. Narotham Alreja. It was a simple and impressive drama which successfully brought forth the message that everything was possible by the grace of Bhagavan. This was followed by a musical presentation by the staff of the hospital. The singers presented Telugu and Hindi songs dedicated to Bhagavan and concluded the programme befittingly with a Bhajan dedicated to goddess Durga, “Pranamami Sri Durga Sai Narayani” as it was the auspicious day of Durga Ashtami. The programme became all the more lively and interesting with screening of video films depicting Bhagavan’s visits to the General Hospital.

Glimpses of a Rich Musical Tradition

A scintillating devotional music concert was presented on 6th October 2011, the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami, by the talented duo of Benaras Gharana, Pandit Rajan Mishra and Sajan Mishra from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Starting their concert with the composition “Prabhu Ke Charan Nishidin Sumariye” (contemplate on God’s feet everyday), the singers followed it with a Tulsi Das Bhajan and a song dedicated to goddess Durga “Jai Jai Durga Ma,” giving glimpses of a great musical tradition of Uttar Pradesh. They concluded their concert with



a song dedicated to the glory of the Guru. At the conclusion of the concert, the singers and their accompanying artistes were honoured with shawls.

SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2011

Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva, the sacred task of distributing Bhagavan's Prasadam to villagers, started this year on 28th September 2011, the first day of Navaratri. After offering their prayers at Bhagavan's Samadhi at 8.00 a.m., the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir while chanting Vedic Mantras and singing Bhajans, and thereafter boarded the vehicles loaded with food packets and clothes for distribution in 23 villages of Kothacheruvu Mandal. On reaching their respective villages, they first performed Nagar Sankirtan, in which the villagers also took part. Thereafter, the students and staff went to each house of the village and offered Bhagavan's Prasadam to the inmates at their doorstep with humility and love. The villagers received the Prasadam with great reverence as a token of Bhagavan's blessings on them.

The students and staff of the Institute carried out this task with total dedication and meticulous planning for eight days from 28th September to 5th October 2011, covering nearly 150 villages of Puttaparthi,

Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam Mandals, offering Bhagavan's Prasadam to nearly three lakh villagers. While the boys students of the Institute and 11th and 12th Class students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School went to villages for distribution of Prasadam, the work of packing of the Prasadam was done by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute and also girls students of



In the Grama Seva performed by the staff and students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Bhagavan's Prasadam was offered to nearly 3,00,000 villagers at their doorstep with humility and love.

Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School. The students of Anantapur Campus also performed the task of Prasadam distribution on the final day of Grama Seva at Prasanthi Nilayam on 6th October 2011.

Many members of the Ashram staff also joined the Institute staff and students in performing the work of distribution. A group of nearly 100 youth specially came from U.K. to perform Grama Seva and went to villages for Prasadam distribution on all the days of Grama Seva.



SARVAM SAIMAYAM JAGAT



Indulal Shah
Sarla Shah



Divine Incarnation

THERE IS SUPREME COSMIC ENERGY (popularly called God, Divine Being) which is limitless, timeless, spaceless, conditionless, attributeless and full of consciousness. Through the vibrations of this energy emerged the universe with the Panchamahabhutas (space, air, fire, water and earth) followed by the emergence of living organisms due to

‘Vision without action is a dream, action without vision could become a nightmare. Vision and action can change the world!’

– Sri Sathya Sai Baba

the permutations and combinations of the interplay of these Panchamahabhutas (basic element). The interactions of the living and non-living entities, within and without, in the cosmos result in desynchronisation, disharmony, lack

of order and in general chaos in the cosmos. At such stages, the Supreme Cosmic Divine Energy assumes a condensed gross living form – a Human Body – to deal with living and non-living entities towards setting up order in the cosmic play by establishment of rules, codes, procedures, guidelines, principles, theories, etc. Such a human body possessing Supreme Cosmic Divine Energy in a condensed form is called Avatar (Divine Incarnation).

In the past, such incarnations took the names Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus and others. In our times, the recent one is Sri Sathya Sai Baba, preceded by Shirdi Sai Baba. The ever-present Supreme Cosmic Divine Energy in the form of Sri Sathya Sai Baba operated physically from 1926 to 2011 and has since been operating cosmically.

Baba's Perpetual Legacy

Prasanthi Nilayam Mandir is the pristine seat of Universal Divine Energy. With the perpetual abode of Swami in the form of His Maha Samadhi, this Mandir has now become the nucleus of Supreme Divine Energy radiating itself to all the corners of the world, besides being the ocean of peace and bliss to all the pilgrims. Similar spiritual centres set up by Bhagavan in various parts of the country like Dharmakshetra in Mumbai, Sivam in Hyderabad, Sundaram in Chennai, Sri Sathya Sai International Centre in Delhi, Anand Vilas in Shimla, Trayee Brindavan in Bengaluru and Chaitanya Jyoti in Puttaparthi as also a vast number of such centres in all parts of the world form part of Bhagavan's perpetual legacy.

His model water projects, His unique educational institutions and hospitals and a vast network of Bal Vikas centres in all parts of the world, benefiting millions of students and needy people are shining examples of His concern for mankind.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and a large network of Sathya Sai Seva Organisations numbering 2,033 in 135 countries rendering Grama Seva, Narayana Seva and other selfless services in various social fields are exemplary institutions for the service of mankind.

“Sarvam Saimayam Jagat (the entire world is permeated by Sai) should be our goal. We have to build up the infrastructure before the arrival of Swami in the form of Prema Sai so as to work under His directions towards the fulfilment of our goal. Let us, then, start working lovingly, selflessly, seeing Sai in everybody, without any motive of making personal gain, dedicating the fruits to our Beloved Sai. What greater homage can we pay to our Beloved Lord than taking this solemn pledge before His Maha Samadhi?”

His precious legacy also includes books written by Him, journals like Sanathana Sarathi and Bal Vikas and vast Sai literature.

Last but not the least are His highly devoted and selfless followers who constantly contemplate on Him and carry out His Divine Mission with every breath of their life.

The above references are just a glimpse of the Divine Legacy of Swami. This legacy must continuously grow and flow vigorously throughout the length and breadth of the country and the world.

Silent Spiritual Revolution

We have known revolutions in political, social and economic fields and even revolutions in art and culture, but not a spiritual revolution, signifying a complete transformation or overhaul of an existing order in a given society. We, living in this era, are most blessed to witness the Spiritual Revolution which is taking place for the first time in the history of mankind. “Revolution” is the most apt word for the phenomenal



change which Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Avatar started bringing about in the life of the people of India and several other countries – Eastern and Western – through His Divine Mission. In fact, this Divine Mission aims at lifting the entire mankind from the morass of selfish materialism (which is setting man against man) and bringing humanity together in a bond of love.

There are various waves in the gathering tide of Bhagavan's "Silent Spiritual Revolution" which is on its way to knit the whole humanity into one family under the Divine umbrella of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema. It is "spiritual" because it makes on every heart permanent imprints of Sai Love which binds mankind together in one eternal spirit that is God; it is "silent" because this awakening of Divine Love comes softly like the dawn, within our own heart. Even today when this revolution has begun, at the turn of this millennium, we Sai devotees numbering several millions, belonging to different faiths, cultures, nationalities, and scattered all the world over, feel a strong bond of divine kinship to one another which we rightly call "Sai Family." In this connection, it is worthwhile to see what Swami says:

"A revolution – more powerful and pervasive than any that man has undergone so far – neither political, economic, scientific nor technological but deeper and more basic is now on. It is the Spiritual Revolution. The revolution has love as both means and end. It will awaken the springs of love all over the world in the fields of education, morality, law, politics, commerce and science. It will inspire man to loving service revealing the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God. Everyone wherever he is, whatever his

status and whichever his faith, can share in this revolution and be an instrument for the liberation of mankind from its own ignorance."

Two Planes: Individual and Global

It is equally noteworthy that this Spiritual Revolution ushered in by Bhagavan Baba is taking place simultaneously on two planes – individual and global. Firstly, Bhagavan is revolutionising the individual's approach to spirituality by giving new dimensions to individual Sadhana consistent with the demands of the present age. In this new approach, spirituality is synthesised with science, woven into our day-to-day living and the individual's Sadhana is expanded into family and community; above all, it has transformed service to man into a spiritual exercise to realise the Divinity in all. On the global plane, Bhagavan started revolutionising the bond between man and man by holding before all mankind one God (the truth of Divinity in man), one religion (selfless love), one language (that of the heart) and one caste (humanity). The most significant feature of this revolution is Baba's firm refusal to allow anyone to change the religion in which he is born and brought up. "I have come" says Baba, "not to disturb or destroy any faith, but to construct and confirm each in his own faith – so that a Christian becomes a better Christian, a Muslim, a better Muslim, and a Hindu, a better Hindu."

Boundless Love

What is the "weapon" being wielded by Bhagavan Baba to push ahead this Spiritual Revolution to transform human existence into Godward pilgrimage for all mankind? It is "Boundless Love." At an informal meeting some months back, a devotee asked



Bhagavan: “Swami, what is the secret of transformation that many afflicted persons experience in Your presence?” Baba replied: “I live in the experience that I am one with everyone. I am one with everything and every human being. My love flows out to all and I see everyone as Myself. If a person reciprocates My love from the depth of his heart, My love and his love meet in unison and he is cured or transformed.” Thus, Baba’s love knew no frontiers, no barriers and, like the universal sun, it shone on all, whether he was a sun-worshipper or a nocturnal owl. But His love had eyes, a million eyes spread all over like the stars. That love drew close to itself a heart that was pure; while it melted and turned into compassion at the sight of dire suffering.

It is this revolution to spread love and forbearance in these turbulent times through peace and joy-giving spirituality that is Bhagavan’s main mission. Heralded by Bhagavan Baba, this revolution is bound to triumph since Baba’s emphasis is on the individual change. If the individual improves, the society and the world of which the individual is a limb will also improve. Baba said: “Scatter the seeds of love in dreary desert hearts; then sprouts of love will make the wastelands green with joy; blossoms of love will make the air fragrant; rivers of love will murmur along the valleys, and every bird will chirp, every child will sing the song of love...”

Swami’s Prizeless Humanitarian Service

Swami had been doing selfless humanitarian service on a larger scale since 1965. Hundreds of thousands of devotees from abroad and India responded and offered

‘It is equally noteworthy that this Spiritual Revolution ushered in by Bhagavan Baba is taking place simultaneously on two planes – individual and global. Firstly, Bhagavan is revolutionising the individual’s approach to spirituality by giving new dimensions to individual Sadhana consistent with the demands of the present age. In this new approach, spirituality is synthesised with science, woven into our day-to-day living and the individual’s Sadhana is expanded into family and community; above all, it has transformed service to man into a spiritual exercise to realise the Divinity in all.’

their services physically, mentally and financially towards the fulfilment of Swami’s various projects out of love and gratitude to Swami who not only solved their material problems but also transformed their life from highly individualistic attitude to humanitarian broad-based philanthropic objectives. Swami undertook and completed such capital-intensive and social welfare projects which the government ought to have taken up but could not do so either for economic or administrative or political reasons. No media during the last 45 years has taken the pains of disseminating the information of these projects which covered spread of real value-based education from the K.G. level to the P.G. level, providing medical and healthcare facilities to the poor, needy and destitutes, undertaking, completing and continuing the services towards development of villages,



providing self-employment and professional opportunities to the inhabitants and so on. These stupendous contributions by a person who left His school education at the age of 14 and plunged into the Himalayan task of the upliftment of humanity materially, socially and spiritually and performed the same marvellously are so great, unparalleled and unprecedented in the history of mankind that nowhere in the world there has been any prize instituted befitting such Himalayan humanitarian work. The available prizes such as the Nobel Prize or a title like Bharat Ratna stand far below the level of achievements of Swami. No title or prize on the earth can glorify Swami's contribution towards the suffering humanity. Therefore, the people at large have given Him the title "Bhagavan", recognising Him as Avatar, the emancipator of mankind right from His school days.

Our Commitment

We, the devotees and active instruments chosen by Swami (Organisers of all Sathya Sai Institutions, Sathya Sai Seva Organisations in India and abroad, office bearers of all administrative units and trustees), must keep in mind the following points while carrying out His Mission:

1. Swami has left His physical body only. But He is still there as a Supreme Divine Spirit watching everything from His Maha Samadhi and constantly witnessing every single act or omission committed by us or every single word spoken by us or thought encouraged by us, or any plot or design structured by us.
2. Swami is going to manifest again as Prema Sai at an appropriate time. He has entrusted the caravan of His Mission on

the shoulders of His active instruments trusting that His dedicated devotees will carry it further. In fact, it is Swami who will carry it further but He wants to get such a Divine Work done by His devoted army so that they would secure His Grace. Therefore, His army must carry out Swami's Mission strictly following His teachings and His Nine Point Code exactly in the same way as Bharata, the son of King Dasaratha, had run the government of Ayodhya during the period of 14 years of Lord Sri Rama's Vanvas (dwelling in forest) by keeping and worshipping Lord Sri Rama's Padukas (holy sandals) on the throne.

3. The devotees and the active instruments must put Sai principles in their day-to-day conduct and interaction with others in such a manner that the reflection of Swami must be seen and experienced by others.
4. Swami's schools, colleges, universities, institutes, hostels, hospitals, service providing projects, spiritual centres, schemes, undertakings, etc., must continue and make rapid progress in their achievement. More and more such institutions should be started in each zone.
5. The Sathya Sai Organisations have to ensure that Swami's message reaches every nook and corner of the globe. Libraries, exhibitions, audio and visual presentations, media channels, Sai spiritual software and holy websites must be taken up by the Organisation on a war footing.



6. New institutions, organisations, establishments must be started all over the world to promote arts, craft, technical education, vocational courses etc., to provide well-developed, skilled and suitably qualified manpower of high integrity and moral standards to the country.
7. The Bal Vikas movement, which has successfully stood the test of four decades, should be made a more effective way of spiritual regeneration of the young. Suitable changes in the syllabus, new programmes in keeping up with the fast changing technology and workshops for reorienting the Gurus should be introduced.
8. From each zone, well-educated and totally dedicated Sai devotees should be selected to form a team of Sathya Sai Sevaks which should interact with every educational institution in the zone to offer their services for solving the educational problems of these institutions free of charge.
9. The Sathya Sai Organisation in each State should explore villages and towns so far neglected and adopt them for their all-round development in the fields of agricultural production, spread of education, promotion of industries and setting up of spiritual centres.

If these steps are taken, then as Swami says, "The whole world itself will be transformed into Sathya Sai Organisation and Sathya Sai will be installed in the hearts of one and all." That is the vision prophesied by Bhagavan. All brothers and sisters will

‘ We, living in this era, are most blessed to witness the Spiritual Revolution which is taking place for the first time in the history of mankind. “Revolution” is the most apt word for the phenomenal change which Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Avatar started bringing about in the life of the people of India and several other countries – Eastern and Western – through His Divine Mission. In fact, this Divine Mission aims at lifting the entire mankind from the morass of selfish materialism (which is setting man against man) and bringing humanity together in a bond of love. ’

have Sai deeply embedded in their hearts. The term Sai Family will become redundant. There will be no Sai brothers and sisters; all mankind will be imbued with Sai.

Sarvam Saimayam Jagat (the entire world is permeated by Sai) should be our goal. We have to build up the infrastructure before the arrival of Swami in the form of Prema Sai so as to work under His directions towards the fulfilment of our goal. Let us, then, start working lovingly, selflessly, seeing Sai in everybody, without any motive of making personal gain, dedicating the fruits to our Beloved Sai. What greater homage can we pay to our Beloved Lord than taking this solemn pledge before His Maha Samadhi?

II Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu II



WHEN SWAMI LEFT HIS BODY, He left a deep empty space in my heart and since that unforgettable day I have asked Him to fill the steady pain of emptiness with His love.

Swami, the Heart Core of our Life

Swami became my Guru when I first came to India in 1969, taking on the task of teaching me the principles of a spiritual life by building a solid foundation rooted in Dharma. Later, He became my mother, taking over the task of nurturing, acceptance and unconditional love. Finally in 1979, Swami took the role of father by introducing me to my husband, Robert, performing our marriage ceremony

When the husband of our friend died, Swami said to her that she could mourn his death but only for a short time; after that, she needed to let go of her sorrow. Otherwise, she could not lead a purposeful and useful life.

Last Words of Swami

I understood intellectually that to honour Swami and His teachings, I needed to put them into practice, be a master of my emotions and keep my focus on positive and constructive thoughts. While this helped to some extent, it was not enough. I longed to re-establish the direct heart-to-heart link with Swami that gives joy to life.

Diana Baskin

I AM NOT GOING ANYWHERE

and extending His strong hand of support and gentle loving guidance throughout our marriage.

Swami was the heart core of our life. For the past 40 years, our life centred solely upon Him, and the anticipation of our trips to India that brought us in His physical presence was our nourishment. My husband and I were devastated and heartbroken as we lost all at once our Guru, our mother and our father.

But Swami did not teach us to be weaklings and even in the midst of sorrow His teachings rushed to my side, giving me strength and support while gently reminding me that there was a limit to everything.

Swami had not only foreseen the problem I would encounter but in His infinite compassion had given the solution, unbeknownst to me, shortly before leaving His physical body.

One morning, after Bhajans as Swami was returning to His residence, His car stopped in front of me and as the driver lowered the window, Swami motioned for me to come forward. His voice was very faint and I had to lean into the car and read His lips to grasp His words. At the end of our brief conversation, He said something so unusual and out of context that I had to ask Him to

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LOVE UNBOUNDED

- “He who knows My Divine birth and action in true light, having dropped the body, comes not again but comes unto Me.”

– Bhagavadgita



THE UNBORN GODHOOD PUTS ON THE appearance of birth and enacts a Divine Leela, performs holy activities for the good of the world and sanctifies the human existence.

Since times immemorial, many prophets, seers, sages and Gurus have come into this world. But in the history of mankind, there is no parallel to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who has given Himself to His followers and loved them so much. It is an event that has not occurred in the past and is not likely to occur in the future.

Journey with Bhagavan is the most memorable experience anybody can have. The love and concern which Swami showers on each individual accompanying Him is a treasure for life.

I fondly recollect a beautiful incident that happened during one of our journeys from Kodaikanal to Ooty. We started from Kodaikanal soon after an early lunch. On the way, the front windshield of the bus in which we were travelling broke. Immediately, we were directed to a garage in Pollachi, a town en route to Coimbatore. The repair work of fixing a new windshield took almost three-four hours. Swami had proceeded to Coimbatore and was waiting at a devotee's residence for our arrival. We reached Coimbatore by 6.30 p.m. As soon as we reached, Swami received us with great love, and we could see the joy of a mother who was longing to see her lost children! Immediately, Swami took us all to a dining area where delicious food was already served in plates and waiting for us to partake of. After making us all comfortable, Swami



instructed us to have our dinner at leisure and left for Ooty. Post-finishing the dinner, we started our journey to Ooty at around 8.30 p.m., not in the bus, but in several cars, apprehending that the bus might develop some trouble again.

The car in which I was travelling was the last car in the convoy. I do not know whether it was our ill luck or a Divine drama, our car broke down and stopped. It was 11.30 in the night in the middle of a thick forest, and we could not see anything as it was very dark. It was drizzling and we had to sit in the car. Mobile phones were still not in so much use and none of us carried one. We were just praying to our Bhagavan to take us out of the situation.

After spending nearly an hour in a situation where nobody could help us except Bhagavan, we suddenly noticed the headlights of a vehicle approaching us. We jumped out to seek some help. Lo and behold! We found, it was our own bus which was coming very slowly up the hill towards Ooty. We thanked Swami profusely for the Divine intervention, lest we should be spending the rest of the night in Nilgiris cold.

By the time we reached Ooty, it was 1.45 a.m. As we were entering the Mandir,

... Continued from page 356

repeat it. These were the last words Swami ever spoke to me.

For the year that followed, I pondered His words and questioned their meaning but failed to find the reason why He voiced them at that time nor could I find any sort of veiled connotation they might imply. It was not until a few weeks after Swami passed, in the midst of great sorrow and mourning that

‘Journey with Bhagavan is the most memorable experience anybody can have. The love and concern which Swami showers on each individual accompanying Him is a treasure for life.’

I heard a very familiar voice calling out “Hey Rathnakar!” I looked around but could not find anyone. “Look up” is what I heard next. As I looked up, I could see not just one mother, but a thousand mothers. Forgetting His own tiredness due to journey, Swami was still waiting for us at that odd hour, past midnight.

Thousand births are not enough to repay the debt of gratitude to Bhagavan for His unbounded love. Let us only be thankful to the Divine Lord for allowing us to come close to Him and experience His Divine Love. Let His Message be our lives.

All throughout His Avatarhood, Swami emphasised that He is not the physical body and He demonstrated it amply on innumerable occasions, which we could perceive. Swami is very much with us and continues to guide us, guard us and grace us. Let us all have unwavering faith in Him and strive our bit for the continuation of the Divine Mission.

like a thunderbolt from the heavens it hit me! Not only did I understand what He meant from the deeper perspective of Advaita but a mere remembrance had the power to re-establish the precious heart-to-heart link and fill my heart with love. The powerful words of truth, love and wisdom that Swami sweetly whispered were: “I am not going anywhere.”



Is this True or that?

WHILE CONVERSING WITH his ministers and courtiers after his supper one night, King Janaka felt a little tired and retired to his bedroom. The queen and royal servants served the king in many ways and he fell asleep. Seeing this, the queen gestured to the servants to go out while she herself sat near the king.



In his dream, King Janaka saw that he was forlorn and hungry in a forest.

After some time, the king suddenly got up and started repeating loudly, “Is this true or that?” The queen was put to great anxiety and asked the king many questions. But without answering her questions, he kept asking, “Is this true or that?” Then the queen sent out servants to call the ministers. The ministers came and asked the king what his doubt was. But the king kept on giving only one reply, “Is this true or that?” The ministers then called Sage Vasishtha. The sage asked the king, “Oh king! What has happened?”

Even to the question of Sage Vasishtha, the king gave the same reply. Sage Vasishtha closed his eyes and meditated. As he was endowed with the knowledge of all the three periods of time, past, present and future, he came to know the reality.

He said, “The king saw a dream in his sleep. What he saw in the dream was like this: He had lost his kingdom, and so was wandering in a forest. In the forest, he suffered from acute hunger and started shouting, ‘I am hungry, I am hungry.’ A group of thieves were eating something there. On seeing him, they thought, what a pity, this fellow looks like a king! And they offered him some food. When the king extended his hands to receive the food offered by the thieves, an eagle swooped down and snatched it away



Sage Vasishtha told the king that neither the dream nor the waking state was true. What is present in both the states is true.

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MY HUMBLE WORSHIPFUL homage to my Guru and God, my Swami, Bhagavan Sri Sri Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He descended on earth in a beautiful human form in answer to the prayers and Tapas (penance) of many, many Rishis and Munis (saints and sages).

Swami is Immortal and Eternal

We are the most fortunate of beings in this world that have been blessed enough to be in His fold, see Him, hear Him and serve Him. We have had the rarest of grace of having His Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation). We all virtually lived with God! Our Lord and Master walked this earth for 85 years. Born in the remote village of Puttaparthi in a simple family, Swami exhibited His Divinity from His birth.

Every grain of sand on the banks of Chitravathi river and every inch of ground

of Puttaparthi bears thousands of footprints of the Divine Master. The whole place reverberates with His divine vibrations and makes you sense His presence.

He has only shed His physical body but He is immortal, eternal. It was His love and compassion for us that made the Formless One to take a form, so that we might see Him and worship Him. His was the most enchanting, endearing and magnificent form. Swami's smile was like the brilliance of a thousand suns.

Armed with the power of unconditional love, He taught us in a simple way the significance of human values – Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. He simplified and condensed the teachings of the Gita, the Quran and the Bible in two lines: "Love All, Serve All," "Help Ever, Hurt Never." He lived the way He preached. "My Life is My Message," said our Lord.



Ideals in Social Service, Education and Healthcare

He brought succour to the people of Anantapur by the drinking water project, quenching the thirst of their parched throats. This was followed in districts like Medak, Mahaboobnagar, East and West Godavari and across the State to the city of Chennai.

He set up free schools and colleges with high educational standards. Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning set up by Him has been described as the crest jewel of Indian education system.

His medicare programmes are unparalleled. Nowhere in the world do we find free medicare in general hospitals or super speciality hospitals as in Puttaparthi or Whitefield.

He has set these shining examples for the governments and the super rich of our country to follow.

The Miracle of Inner Transformation

Our Swami attracted people from all over the world. He never travelled abroad except once, yet people of all faiths from world over came to Puttaparthi, just to get a glimpse of Him... The Master. Swami looked magnificent in His orange robe and dark crown of hair. The love emanating from His eyes was that of a thousand mothers. His love and compassion touched the lives of millions and millions of devotees across the globe. He taught us to care and share. He taught us to serve our fellow beings. Most of all, He taught us to love unconditionally. We all have seen Him perform so many miracles, but His biggest miracle was the inner transformation He brought about in us.

Our real tribute to our Beloved Bhagavan is to make our life His Message... We are His torch-bearers. Never again will be born such a loving and Paripurna (complete) Avatar. He was truly a phenomenon of our times. We have been the extremely fortunate ones to have been the contemporaries of a living God. What more do we want? Let us keep the Sai flag flying high. We may never see His beautiful form again, but we can feel His touch when a gentle breeze caresses us, when rain drops fall on us and when the sun shines bright on us.

The Lord said, "Take one step towards Me and I will take ten steps towards you." When we surrender to Him totally, placing all our devotion and faith at His Divine Lotus Feet, He simply takes over our lives. We can then leave all our worries to Him. "Troubles come and go like passing clouds," He says. "Anything that happens to you, think it is good for you," says Swami.

Let our Hearts be His Temples

How many of our troubles has He not taken upon Himself? He has borne the brunt of all our illnesses, our emotional problems and allowed His body to suffer. I always felt, He crucified Himself everyday in order to cure our ailments. That is the reason His



body suffered, every organ suffered during His last days on earth. Even towards the end of His Avatarhood, He could have left His body in an instant, but He lingered on to allow us to accept the inevitable. That is our compassionate and loving Sai.

In His many Discourses, He has said, “I am your Hridayavasi.” We have to build temples in our hearts for Him and enshrine Him there, never ever to leave us. The beautiful experience of living with an Avatar is ours – those who have believed in Him will keep that faith for ever. The Lord never named any successors because we, His devotees, are His true successors. The responsibility lies on our shoulders to carry on His Mission. As He has said, *“Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray.”*

Our real tribute to our Beloved Bhagavan is to make our life His Message... We are His torch-bearers. Never again will be born

such a loving and Paripurna (complete) Avatar. He was truly a phenomenon of our times. We have been the extremely fortunate ones to have been the contemporaries of a living God. What more do we want? Let us keep the Sai flag flying high. We may never see His beautiful form again, but we can feel His touch when a gentle breeze caresses us, when rain drops fall on us and when the sun shines bright on us.

We now have to elevate ourselves spiritually to feel Him, see Him in everything around us. We are but sparks of Him – He is in us and we in Him. There is no separation. We live in Him, He lives in us. He is there in us, around us, below us, and above us... our constant companion – Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. We bow our heads at His Divine Lotus Feet and pray to Him to bless us and be with us always. He is our “Hridayavasi”. In the shrine of our heart, HE LIVES ON...

... Continued from page 359

from his hands. As he was not able to protect even the food that had been given to him, he started shouting all the more loudly, ‘I am hungry, I am hungry.’ At this point of time, the king awoke from sleep. As he got up from his sleep, he saw that he was lying on his couch in the bedroom of his palace; while in his dream, he was wandering in a forest, shouting, ‘I am hungry, I am hungry.’ He therefore wondered what was true, this or that!” The sage made this fact known to everybody present there.

Then Sage Vasishtha addressed the king and made him aware of the reality, saying, “Oh king! Neither this is true nor that is true. What is true is you. You were there in your dream, and you are there in your waking state also. But the dream does not exist in the waking state and waking state does not exist in dream. What exists in both the states, in dream as well as in waking, that is true.”

In true state of renunciation, life is just a dream. Knowing that this dream can vanish any moment, man should lead his life without attachment.



HOMAGE TO BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA chose the land of Bharat and the remote village of Puttaparthi and unlettered parents for His earthly sojourn which spanned a little over 85 years. The first few years of His childhood were spent in the surroundings of the village just like a village boy living in a tiny house, drawing water from the village well, playing pranks at school and doing errands at home.

Beginning the Divine Mission in Childhood

Before He could graduate from school, He announced to the world that He did not belong to His family and He had come to redeem the world with a message of love and there would come a day when the high and mighty would flock to the hamlet of Puttaparthi to receive the message which He had come to give. Such a pronouncement coming from a young lad was met with scepticism. But this did not deter Baba.

In the next phase of His life, Baba travelled widely starting with a visit to Virupaksha Temple in Hampi, Karnataka State which attained great heights during the reign of Vijayanagara kings over a millennium ago. With a small band of devotees, Baba commenced His travels out of Puttaparthi and visited many cities and villages in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. While Baba reached out to larger sections of society by moving around in bigger cities including a visit to North India

right up to Badrinath, He remained rooted in Puttaparthi. In the course of His Mission, Baba left the shores of India only once to go to East Africa in the year 1968. By that time, Baba was well on the way of becoming a national figure.

As Baba had predicted, Puttaparthi grew from a small hamlet into a town, and then into a mini city. Just after the Indian Independence, Baba decided to build a Mandir at Prasanthi Nilayam, a very ambitious project in Puttaparthi close to the banks of Chitravathi river. His parents were aghast at the great plans and would not believe Baba's words that the huge Mandir (by the standards of

M*To that ever present, effulgent***M**
Chetana (consciousness), we humbly
pay homage and express grateful
thanks for His earthly visit. We thank
Him for coming in our midst, for
holding our hands and guiding us,
for inspiring us and uplifting us, for
loving us and for making us love
others, for fulfilling our lives and
redeeming us. The only way in which
we can truly pay homage to the
spirit of Baba is to lead our lives in a
manner that would please Him, in the
manner which He expected His true
*devotees to live.***W**



those days) would be completely insufficient for His devotees in due course of time. Baba's predictions were proved right with millions thronging for His Darshan which necessitated the congregation of several lakhs of devotees having to meet in the Hill View Stadium in Puttaparthi for Baba's 85th Birthday celebrations on 23rd November 2010.

Embodiment of Selflessness and Sacrifice

Baba reiterated that He was a personification of Thyaga or sacrifice and having donned the ochre robe of a Sannyasi (renunciant), He was completely unattached and had no possessions of His own. Whatever He had was held in Trusts for public benefit. Several Trusts were set up directly by Baba and many being guided and inspired by Baba were set up by His devotees to uplift and transform the masses. His guidance and inspiration was there in abundant measure. All these Trusts were intended for public service – to carry out public projects in the field of education, healthcare, etc. Baba's Trusts have not made any public appeal at any time for funds. But being blessed by Baba, many philanthropists thronged to Bhagavan and considered it their good fortune if Bhagavan accepted their contribution. Baba looked after and guided all these institutions personally and ensured that the public money held in Trusts was used wisely with no waste whatsoever.

A Great Orator and Prolific Writer

Baba wrote many books known as Vahinis. He also wrote a commentary on the Ramayana. He was a great orator and used in His Discourses profound in-depth knowledge of all scriptures, not only of Hindu religion, but other religions also. In spite of the high

M **M**
He was extremely Catholic in His outlook and proclaimed that there is only one religion and that is the Religion of Love. He synthesised the teachings of all religions. Baba devised a Sarva Dharma (all faiths) symbol, comprising the symbols of all major religions of the world. Baba's devotees are spread all over the world in more than 160 countries. They all perceive Bhagavan as the embodiment of love, as their spiritual master, as their family member, as their guide and as their everything. This vast sea of devotees is itself the greatest tribute and message of Baba.
Σ **W**

philosophical overtones of His oration, His message was simple and straightforward and touched every heart. He was a master storyteller and devised the art of breaking His philosophical Discourse abruptly with a pause and the words 'Oka Chinna Katha' meaning 'a small story.' Baba's devotees heard Him with adoration, devotion, love and most importantly with rapt attention. These public Discourses were spread over 50 years and each one of them contains important guidelines for humanity. Though He never studied Sanskrit or the Vedas or the scriptures, all these came to Him naturally. He simplified high philosophical truths in His Discourses and in the Bhajans He composed and in the catchy phrases He coined. Young as He was, His message was simple. He preached love and devotion



to God. He composed songs in Telugu and Kannada language, set them to music and sang them with perfect rhythm. Wherever He went, He was known as Bhajane Baba in the State of Karnataka. His message was straightforward and easily understandable. In addition to these public Discourses, Baba had innumerable interactions with a vast number of His devotees and what the devotees refer to as 'interview'. These interviews were intimate discussions of family issues, religious direction, spiritual guidance, all suffused with great love and affection.

Mega Social Projects

At a mega society level, inspired by the simple words of His mother Easwaramma, Baba embarked on mammoth public projects. Starting with a small medical relief activity in the late 1950s, He devised mega projects including setting up of two Super Speciality Hospitals at Whitefield (Bengaluru) and at Puttaparthi. In addition, two General Hospitals and a Mobile Hospital were also set up. Baba also inspired similar medical activity in other parts of the country including a Heart Hospital at Rajkot in Gujarat. All these have been running in a spirit of service rendering excellent medical care completely free of charge to all poor and needy patients without any distinction of religion, caste, language or nationality.

In the field of education, Baba started a Primary School in Puttaparthi which later became a High School. He then set up colleges for girls in Anantapur and for boys at Whitefield, Bengaluru and in Puttaparthi and a music college in Puttaparthi. He also set up a school at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. Most importantly, Baba set up a university in Puttaparthi with all His colleges in Bengaluru,

Anantapur and Puttaparthi affiliated to it. The university set up by Bhagavan had the highest rating given by NAAC to any university and the assessment team called it "the crest jewel of the Indian education system." All these institutions provide completely free education to the students. Baba placed emphasis on the Gurukul system of education and in later years formalised the system by coining the term Educare – the system which emphasised eternal value which are universal and not related to any particular religion; the eternal values being Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa (truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence).

Baba had great affection for His students. He took personal care of them, knew their problems, guided them all the time, and prodded them to live with self-confidence. He knew all students, their family background and interacted with them everyday during Darshan. He guided them in their pursuits, encouraged them in all their activities, supervised the music concerts and dramas enacted by them and took immense pride in the Annual Sports event of the university.

Other public service projects like the mega drinking water projects in five districts of Andhra Pradesh and for the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu are monuments of Bhagavan's love for humanity. These projects provide drinking water to millions of poor and needy villagers and the poorest sections of many cities. What the governments could not do, Baba achieved with His power of love. Baba expected nothing from His devotees except that the devotees should lead a good life and serve the society. Baba's message was, service to humanity is service to God.



Universal Teachings and Selfless Love for Mankind

Baba preached that unless man loved all beings, he could not progress spiritually. He was extremely Catholic in His outlook and proclaimed that there is only one religion and that is the Religion of Love. He synthesised the teachings of all religions. Baba devised a Sarva Dharma (all faiths) symbol, comprising the symbols of all major religions of the world. Baba's devotees are spread all over the world in more than 160 countries. They all perceive Bhagavan as the embodiment of love, as their spiritual master, as their family member, as their guide and as their everything. This vast sea of devotees is itself the greatest tribute and message of Baba. Our prayer to Bhagavan is to continue His benedictions unceasingly on all humanity and guide them to live peaceful life, full of love and compassion, striving to achieve the five eternal values which Bhagavan propounded with gusto throughout His earthly sojourn.

The fame of Baba spread throughout the world, across continents and language zones. Devotees in South America who speak Spanish, in Poland who speak Polish, in Russia and other Baltic countries who speak Russian, in middle eastern countries who speak Arabic, in Italy who speak Italian, in United States of America and United Kingdom who speak English added to all Indian States with different languages, all adore Baba. They consider Baba as their God and are willing to do everything to live up to His teachings. This proves that Baba is a universal phenomenon.

We pay our respectful and loving homage to Baba who is none other than that

M *Baba reiterated that He was a personification of Thyaga or sacrifice and having donned the ochre robe of a Sannyasi (renunciant), He was completely unattached and had no possessions of His own. Whatever He had was held in Trusts for public benefit. Several Trusts were set up directly by Baba and many being guided and inspired by Baba were set up by His devotees to uplift and transform the masses.* **M**

Σ **W**

Universal Soul which the Vedas describe as “Anoraneeyan Mahato Maheeyan” meaning Brahman is subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest: which the Upanishads proclaim as “Yatho Vacho Nivarthanthe Aprapya Manasa Saha” meaning whence the words along with the mind rebound in futility without comprehending Divinity. To that ever present, effulgent Chetana (consciousness), we humbly pay homage and express grateful thanks for His earthly visit. We thank Him for coming in our midst, for holding our hands and guiding us, for inspiring us and uplifting us, for loving us and for making us love others, for fulfilling our lives and redeeming us. The only way in which we can truly pay homage to the spirit of Baba is to lead our lives in a manner that would please Him, in the manner which He expected His true devotees to live.



GOD INCARNATE FOR TRANSFORMATION WITH LOVE

Prof. Vishwanath Pandit

*In each Yuga, the Divine has incarnated as an
Avatar for some particular task. This Incarnation is different in
that It has to deal with the crisis which is worldwide and world-shaking.*

— Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

THIS IS THE DECLARATION THAT sums up the Divine Mission of Kali Yuga Avatar Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The world had not fully recovered from the First World War when He incarnated. On 20th October 1940, when the Second World War had engulfed the world, this fourteen-year-old school boy threw away His school bag, as He declared that He had come down to set humanity back on the sacred path.

The Mission

The world was waiting for Him for it was at the threshold of a disaster which was not apparent to those who mattered. Soon after the Second World War ended, a new era of dehumanisation started unfolding. Over the succeeding five decades, science and technology made unprecedented progress. Though a part of the world got drowned in enormous prosperity, yet its happiness declined sharply. The other part of it lived in increasing poverty, deprivation and an

unavoidable sense of helplessness. Nobody could even think of happiness. Actual as well as threatened destructive violence loomed large all over. Society everywhere lost the sense of harmony as the feeling of peace appeared to be missing even at the family level.

The desire to serve must be accompanied by the ability to do so. The balance between building values along with competence has been the core of the system of education perfected by Swami, meant to propagate true education and intended to put out into the world ideal citizens. The major message that the students received in every Benedictory Discourse of Swami has been: "Serve the society with love and devotion to make Swami happy."



The Lord Incarnate knew perfectly well what the ailment was and what the medicine should be. Unlike the earlier Avatars, He had not come to kill anyone. His mission was clearly to unite humanity. This unity would lead to purity which will in turn bring forth divinity. The unique prescription He gave was that of love and the message was loud and clear as He declared:

*"I have come to restore Love
among mankind,
to clean it of narrowness and
restrictive attitudes."*

This has been spectacularly powerful and relevant because, again unlike earlier incarnations, Lord Sai had to deal with the entire world, cutting across all identities rather than just some part of it.

Spirituality has indeed been the common core of each religion and this is certainly what each religion teaches us. Yet religions, nationalities and communities had become divisive rather than uniting forces. The way to get rid of the problem was to get rid of greed and selfishness. This was possible only when one saw everyone as the embodiment of divinity and inculcated the spirit of love taking the form of service to all. It had to be understood that with love all kinds of barriers were bound to crumble. No wonder, devotees belonging to over a hundred countries and professing all different religions came to seek peace from Lord Sai. To all, He said: *"Continue the worship of your chosen God along the lines already familiar to you."*

He repeatedly advised devotees to be good Muslims, good Christians, good Buddhists and good Hindus. Everyone was

***To teach us the right lessons,
Swami took the trouble of
descending to the human level and
appeared to act like a human being,
but with marvellous perfection. In
each case, Swami would take us
forward step by step and make
sure that we had the opportunity to
learn everything. At every occasion,
Bhagavan would look into all
details and ensure that nothing was
missed. Whether it was directing the
convocation drama for students or
organising a function in the Ashram
or distributing some divine gifts to
devotees, nothing was to be taken
for granted. This was equally so
with Bhagavan's massive projects.***

asked to follow his/her faith as perfectly as he/she could. It is not widely known that Bhagavan got a nice mosque built for Muslim brothers in Puttaparthi so that they did not have to travel a long distance to perform their regular prayers.

The Master Key

We may all pursue the same objectives of attaining peace so as to realise divinity within us. But each one of us has a different approach and a different stage of evolution. This implies that though the objective is the same, the algorithm each one of us needs to follow has to be clearly identified and properly understood and followed. It is to this end that Bhagavan's Leela fits so remarkably well. He would not deal with all of us in the same way. Each one of us was and remains very special



to Him. In fact, each one of us was given a different prescription. One thing common, however, has been the way He made all of us feel how dear each one of us was to Him. This abiding feeling has remained deep in our hearts; it must persist and keep us going.

Bhagavan advised repeatedly and very rightly, “Do not try to understand Me. Just follow what I say.” Yet many “devotees” as well as others frequently tried to cast divinity in human terminology to investigate its different spheres and dimensions – sometimes well intended to improve understanding but many times mistakenly meant to raise doubts in simple minds. This must be encountered with deep conviction. The best we can do is to see our individual relationship with Him, howsoever we understand it, as a privilege we have had and try to strengthen it by following whatever He would have told us individually or collectively on different occasions. The omniscient Bhagavan knew what the best was for each of us. While love had been the basic ingredient in each prescription, the formula differed according to the context. Love is indeed the basic element in the other four values stressed upon by Bhagavan: truth, righteousness, peace and non-violence. This has also been the case with other precious declarations of Bhagavan. These include even materialistic looking ones like: “Ceiling on Desires” and “The Proper Study of Mankind is Man.” But the most prominent one with supreme effectiveness is “Love for God, Fear of Sin and Morality in Society.” To me this indeed must be the starting point for each one of us on the Sai Path.

Sai Sadguru has put forward to us a model as an example to follow in both what He chose

Spirituality has indeed been the common core of each religion and this is certainly what each religion teaches us. Yet religions, nationalities and communities had become divisive rather than uniting forces. The way to get rid of the problem was to get rid of greed and selfishness. This was possible only when one saw everyone as the embodiment of divinity and inculcated the spirit of love taking the form of service to all. It had to be understood that with love all kinds of barriers were bound to crumble. No wonder, devotees belonging to over a hundred countries and professing all different religions came to seek peace from Lord Sai.

to do and how He did it. This is very important but it is not always understood. Since some of us have had the good fortune to see those things in different situations and different contexts, we need to recall them without going into specific details. Whatever was His Divine Sankalpa, the omnipotent Bhagavan had only to will it so, and there it had to be; both at the micro level with us individually as also at the macro level with the humanity as a whole. But that would not teach us anything. To teach us the right lessons, Swami took the trouble of descending to the human level and appeared to act like a human being, but with marvellous perfection. In each case, Swami would take us forward step by step and make sure that we had the opportunity to learn everything. At every occasion, Bhagavan



would look into all details and ensure that nothing was missed. Whether it was directing the convocation drama for students or organising a function in the Ashram or distributing some divine gifts to devotees, nothing was to be taken for granted. This was equally so with Bhagavan's massive projects for drinking water, the super speciality hospitals or educational programmes, all of which meant His uncompromising involvement. Everything was duly arranged and at the right time. Nothing was too small or unimportant for Swami to leave unattended. The ideal persons were chosen at the right time, each one as His instrument for each job. In retrospect, it is mind-boggling how much of Swami's time, effort and sacrifice went into each of the tasks which we saw so well accomplished. Each of these had to be perfectly designed and executed and that is what happened.

The Accomplishment

The world today is full of persons who see themselves concerned with the way things are going and wish to change everything. Yet we see no change. The reason is clear. The well-meaning human beings do not know what is true and what is false. They wish to transform everyone except themselves. Nor do they act according to what they say. They think their job is finished once they criticise others. Bhagavan, in contrast, teaches us how to discriminate between true and false, sets Himself as the ideal example in every sphere and undertakes massive jobs with perfect planning and considers no sacrifice too big for the happiness of humanity.

That we had the privilege to have been with Him in this world and to have been

permitted to be His instruments for a few small jobs is pure divine grace. This was conveyed to us as He declared: *Fortunate are you that now, in this very life, you have a chance to experience the bliss of the vision of the embodiment of all forms of God, "Sarvadaivatva Swarupam."*

We can never do enough to live up to this privilege. But we do need to remember this as long as we are here, and carry forward His Mission as best as we can.

It is widely known how massive, unprecedented and perfectly designed have been the projects undertaken by Bhagavan Baba. While there is no need to describe these here, I shall be failing in my task if I do not mention how all these have benefited millions of poor men and women by providing them free education, healthcare, adequate housing and basic ingredient of a healthy life, namely, safe drinking water. In addition, His devotees all over the world have been inspired by Swami to undertake similar though modest projects to promote human welfare.

It has often been said that science without religion is blind and religion without science is lame. The desire to serve must be accompanied by the ability to do so. The balance between building values along with competence has been the core of the system of education perfected by Swami, meant to propagate true education and intended to put out into the world ideal citizens. The major message that the students received in every Benedictory Discourse of Swami has been:

"Serve the society with love and devotion to make Swami happy."





The Call of Mother Sai

*Mother Sai's call, the primordial one,
Shoreless, azure ocean, second to none.
Hails, as I ponder, enquire, cogitate, search.
Beckons me to dive. Perchance to merge!
Reverberates in me "Sai Om Tat Sat Om!"*

*Sai's call – mystical, profound, blissful,
Sai vision – crystalline, dazzling, soulful.
Loosens heart's knots, strings, ropes, bolts;
Shatters chains, of iron, silver, gold.
Reverberates in me "Sai Om Tat Sat Om!"*

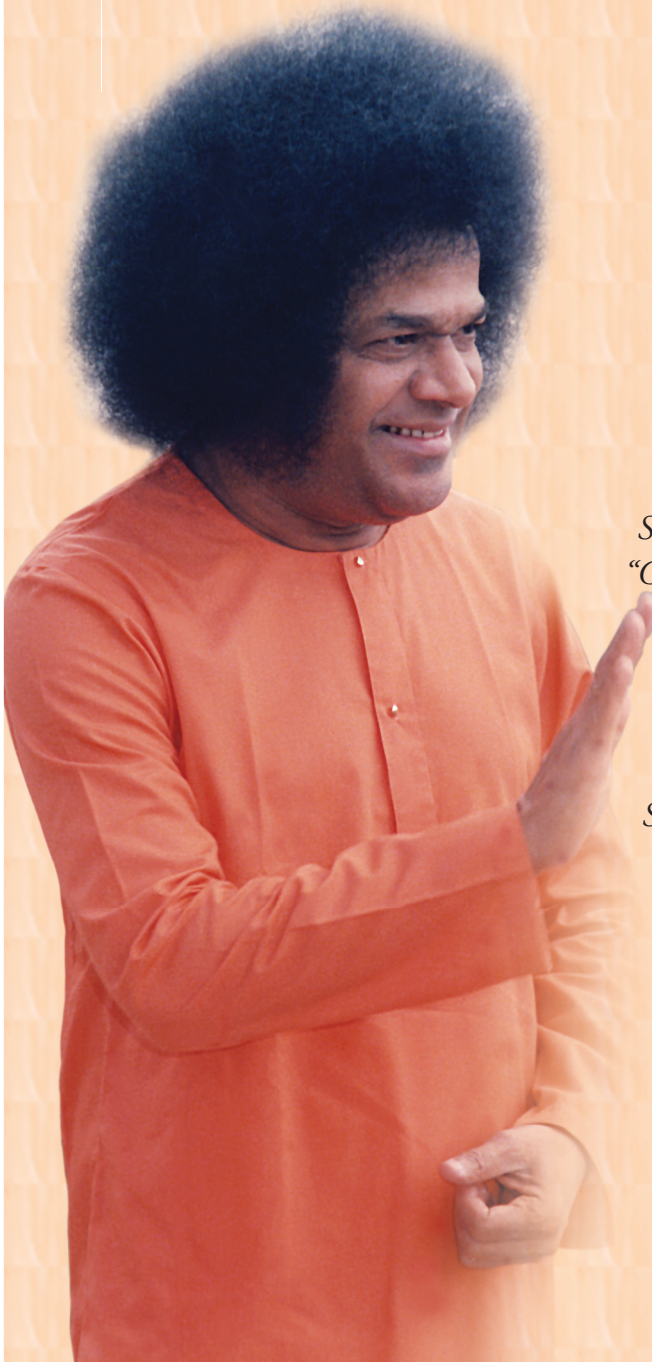
*Sai's clarion call – clear, vibrant, loud;
Unmistakably positive; deeply profound.
The lion's roar; scatters denizens' brood,
Flee Samsara's forest; animal roots, shoots.
Reverberates in me "Sai Om Tat Sat Om!"*

*Sai's call of light – free of gloomy, dreary darkness,
"Children, come one. Come all!" the Voice hearkens;
"See the light within, without, all around!
No shadows, no pivots, no props, no bounds!"
Reverberates in me "Sai Om Tat Sai Om!"*

*Sai's call – the Pranava emerging to the fore,
Scintillating flashes; vivid colours, sparkling core;
Dissolves ego in Naada, vanquishes it in bliss!
From Sai's feet emerge, the serene, cosmic kiss!
Reverberates in me "Sai Om Tat Sai Om!"*

*Sai's call – knows no reason! indomitable!
Sai's Love, seeks no returns! immeasurable!
Sai prunes, polishes, makes heart habitable!
Sai's benign grace, shears all limits! delectable!
Reverberates in me "Sai Om Tat Sat Om!"*

– S. Suresh Rao



EXPERIENCING THE BLISS OF BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE PROXIMITY

B.N. Narasimha Murthy

Each of us has understood Swami to the extent He revealed Himself to us! To those fortunate ones who lived in His Divya Sannidhi (divine proximity) or enjoyed His Divya Kripasraya (divine grace), the path as commanded by Swami Himself is Saranagati or self-surrender, which is the fruition of faith and love.

WHEN OUR BELOVED LORD came as Sri Krishna five thousand years ago, He gave to humanity many redeeming assurances. Some of the most striking of those assurances, as enshrined in the Bhagavadgita, are:

“I will look after the welfare of My devotees who are steadfast in their devotion to Me.”

“Even the worst of the sinners will be redeemed, if he chants My name incessantly. He will soon become a noble person and attain eternal peace. My devotee will never perish; this is My pledge.”

The Lord who gave such wonderful and magnanimous assurances to mankind has also expressed His apprehensions and concerns about humanity in the same scripture:

“When I take recourse to the human form, foolish men do not understand My supreme truth as the Lord of all beings.”

“I am not revealed to all since I am surrounded by Yogamaya. The deluded world does not know Me as the deathless and the birthless basis of all existence.”

These statements sound like God's complaints against man. This apprehension is justified when we look at what the humanity did when the Lord descended on the earth as Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in our own times. Of course, I can only talk about what I did; but knowing the human nature, I can at least guess what others could have done. Here, I am referring to only those who considered themselves as His devotees, and not to those who never believed Him, nor those who criticised and scandalised Him and His 'devotees' till the end.

Bhagavan's Limitless Love

I had the good fortune of meeting Bhagavan Baba when I was only 19, and tried to surrender to Him and to lead my life as per His commands thereafter. But like most of the 'devotees,' I failed many times in my attempts and succeeded a few times! Now, I can confess that most of the times, I did not conduct myself the way I should have conducted towards God in human form! This is so, in spite of my being considered as one of His close devotees, who had the privilege



of being given innumerable opportunities by Him to be in His physical proximity. He gave me wonderful chances to talk to Him personally and being talked to by Him and sometimes for hours on end. He bestowed upon me the fortune of serving His Mission throughout my life till date; He took me with Him to many places and granted me opportunities to watch His divine glory; He gave me countless chances to address audiences, small and huge, in His immediate presence. He chided me many times and also praised me many times both in private and public. He took care of all my requirements, material and spiritual. He even walked into my room twice just to see me when I was sick; in fact, He travelled all the way from Prasanthi Nilayam to Muddenahalli to see me in 1982, and in April 2000 when He was 75, He climbed up the staircase of the hostel in Brindavan to heal me in my room.

No doubt, I felt immense gratitude in my heart towards Him at times; but I feel today that I did not do to Him what I should have done. I was not consistent in my love for Him; neither was I steadfast in my adherence to His teachings. But He always forgave me and loved me in spite of my innumerable failings. That makes me realise today, why a large chunk of humanity adored Him as God! Of course, He declared many times, “Naa Pracharamu, Acharamu Elappadu Okate; Adiyē Prema! (I have been always practising and professing only one principle; that is Love!)”

From Muddenahalli to Prasanthi Nilayam

Why did this happen to me? Should I blame His Yogamaya or my own frailty? I cannot blame the former since He had forewarned me against it almost on the very

As long as there is doubt, there can be no surrender. Hence surrender means the elimination of ego. It should be the consistent endeavour of the devotee to achieve it by single-pointed effort. When faith and devotion fill the heart, ego becomes dormant. The Yogamaya of the Avatar provokes the dormant ego of the devotee to come up again and again so that it can be noticed by the persistent devotee by introspection and finally be eliminated. Of course, the conquest of ego is made possible only by the immense divine grace of the merciful Avatar who is ever ready to help any sincere aspirant. Swami has said, “If you take one step towards Me, I will take hundred steps towards you!”

day when He took me closer to Him. That was on 7th August 1983; the sunrise on that momentous day turned over a new leaf in my life. That was the day on which I graduated from Divya Kripasraya to Divya Sannidhi; that was the day on which Swami took me from Muddenahalli to Prasanthi Nilayam, blessing me with the glorious opportunity to serve Him in His close proximity. When I woke up that morning, my heart was filled to the brim with an ethereal joy. Though I did not have any instructions from Swami to be ready to move from Muddenahalli to Prasanthi Nilayam that day, I felt intuitively that it would become the day of fulfilment of the deepest aspiration of my heart. (Of course, Baba had called me to Brindavan a few days earlier and revealed to me His intention of



moving me to Prasanthi Nilayam to serve as the Warden of the university hostel there.) I had come to know the previous night that Swami would be travelling from Brindavan to Prasanthi Nilayam that morning. But Swami had not given us any inkling as to whether He would visit Sathya Sai Grama or not on His way. Whenever Swami travelled between Whitefield and Prasanthi Nilayam, some of my colleagues and I would go and wait on the main road which led to Prasanthi Nilayam. That main road was seven kilometres from Sathya Sai Grama. Swami would generally stop the car on seeing us on the roadside and bless us by accepting some flowers and fruits.

On that morning, as soon as we learnt that Swami had left Brindavan, Sri Gangadhara Bhat and I left the campus and reached the main road. Then we went about five kilometres further towards Whitefield (Bengaluru) and waited on the roadside. Swami arrived there fifteen minutes before nine o'clock. He stopped the car beside us, lowered the windowpane and blessed us by raising His hand. When we approached Him, He said, "I will not be able to come to Muddenahalli today; I will come next time," and accepted a few flowers and fruits offered by us. Then He asked us, "How did you come here?" We showed our car, which was parked at a distance. Swami asked me to get into His car and told Sri Gangadhara Bhat to follow Him.

When I got into the front seat of Swami's car, I found two elderly devotees who were with Him along with an alumnus of His college who was driving the car. As the car started moving, Baba gave us some snacks to eat. Since Swami had said that He would not be

visiting Muddenahalli that day, I thought that I would be travelling with Swami only for a while. I did not want to waste the little time given to me to be with Him in eating. I turned back and looked at Him with beseeching eyes and prayed to Him, "Swami, please come to Muddenahalli for a few minutes. Students and teachers will be fortunate to have Your Darshan and they will be very happy."

"Not today, I will surely come next time."

Though I did not repeat my request, my heart continued to pray for it. Swami asked me, "How are the boys?" "Swami, they are fine. They find great joy in listening to the glory and stories of Swami."

"Very happy! Young minds need constant coaxing and goading; I know your teachers are good at that."

Within a few minutes, we reached the junction where the road from Muddenahalli touched the highway. Expecting Swami's car to go straight towards Puttaparthi, I got ready to take leave of Swami and get down. But to my great delight Swami told the young driver, "Turn to the left, let us go to Muddenahalli School. Papam! Narasimha Murthy is praying hard!" Then He turned to me and said, "Look, Narasimha Murthy! Swami's heart is like butter. A little warmth can easily melt it! ... But I will be at the school only for a few minutes."

Deeply touched by His kindness, I submitted to Him, "Swami, I do not have words to express my gratitude!" He was quick to say, "You need not have to do it. It is enough if you are happy. ... Are you happy?"

"Swami, I am overjoyed. By Swami's grace, I lack nothing in life. ... I am waiting



for Swami's command to move to Prasanthi Nilayam."

"Very happy. When can you come there?"

"Swami, I can come today itself!"

"That is very good. But, how much time do you require to get ready?"

"Swami, I will get ready in thirty minutes."

Swami looked surprised, but said, "Then you can come with Me today itself."

My heart jumped with joy and missed a beat or two. I said, "Swami, it is my great good fortune. I am very grateful to you!" and looked back at Him with folded palms. Swami bent forward and gently stroked my head with His hand. When we reached Sathya Sai Grama, there was a lot of joy and excitement. Within thirty minutes, I was travelling with my Lord to Prasanthi Nilayam and I experienced an indescribable sense of fulfilment. But when I looked out, I found hundreds of students and many of my colleagues in tears, and a strange and inexplicable emotion enveloped me!

The divine gift of living and serving in Divya Sannidhi was the highest blessing bestowed on me. I considered it as the very goal of my life. Naturally, I aspired to retain it till the very end!

The Avatar and His Yogamaya

Next morning after Darshan, an elderly devotee, an important office bearer in Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, who was my well-wisher and a frequent visitor to the divine abode, congratulated me on my good fortune and said, "Swami is like fire. You have come very close to Him. Many who have come close to Him have fizzled out due to lack of purity. May Swami help you to sustain

yourself to enjoy His proximity throughout your life!" I understood his concern for my welfare and thanked him.

His words of advice, though prompted by good intentions, triggered off a chain of thoughts and feelings in me that resulted in deep concern and diffidence. Of course, my prayer to Swami continued. I remembered the words of the Lord in the Bhagavadgita about His Yogamaya! I also recalled a few of Baba's own self-revelations:

"Since I move about with you, eat like you and talk like you, you are deluded into the belief that this is but an instance of humanity. Be warned against this mistake. I am also deluding you by my singing with you and playing with you and engaging Myself in activities with you. But at any moment, My Divinity may be revealed to you; you have to be ready, prepared for that moment. Since Divinity is enveloped by humanness, you must endeavour to overcome the Maya that hides it from your eyes"!

'Avatar and Yogamaya' became the subject of my contemplation for the next two days. Swami had commanded me to move into the hostel as Warden after a few days. Therefore, I had ample time at my disposal for quiet contemplation and reflection. During those few days, as per Swami's instructions, Sri Kutumba Rao, the Secretary of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was looking after my needs. He would often drop into my room to enquire about my welfare. Since he was a very close devotee of Swami for many years, I thought I should know his understanding of 'Swami and Yogamaya.' When he came into my room one evening, I asked him, "Sir, people say that Swami is surrounded by Yogamaya.



What do you feel about it?" Without batting his eyelids, he replied, "Narasimha Murthy, it is not just Maya; it is Mahamaya!"

His statement really unnerved me. I asked him, "Then, how can we survive it?" He was elder to me at least by twenty years and he was not a man who would smile or laugh often. He smiled spontaneously and said, "There is nothing to worry about it. We have to keep praying to Him constantly. He is very merciful; He is especially kind to those around Him. He knows our frailties!"

I reflected on his statement for a long time that night and finally decided to submit my query to Swami Himself and seek His grace and guidance. Next morning, Swami called me for an interview along with a few devotees from overseas. He spoke to us for about twenty minutes on spiritual topics, and that was the first time that Swami asked me to translate His talk from Telugu into English. All the time, I was thinking as to how I should word my question on Yogamaya to Swami! After the talk, Swami looked at the watch on my wrist and said, "It is a very old watch. You are taking up a new assignment today and I will give you a new watch!" He waved His hand and materialised a watch. There were joyful exclamations in the room on seeing the watch, which came into Swami's palm from nowhere! "The best watch for the best boy!" said Swami joyfully and gave it to me. After that, Swami called each of the families separately into an adjacent room and spoke to them, and I was the last to be called for an individual talk. Swami looked very blissful and merciful. He said, "I am very very happy with you. At one word of Swami, you left Muddenahalli School and came here. A true aspirant should have this kind of detachment.

What do you want? Ask me, I will give it to you! Everything is here!" and He showed His right palm.

"Swami, You have given me everything. You have granted me my heart's desire to serve You. What else do I need?"

"Good boy! ... But ask me for something."

"Swami, bless me that I would live at Your Lotus Feet for ever!" Those words came out spontaneously from my heart.

Swami placed His right palm on my bent head and said, "Tathastu (May it be so!)"

I was overjoyed no doubt, but felt that it was an opportune moment to ask Swami the question that had been bothering me. I said very hesitatingly, "Swami, people say that very powerful Yogamaya surrounds Swami! ..."

Swami laughed aloud and questioned, "Who said it?"

"Swami, it is said in the Bhagavadgita also."

"Don't worry about it. If you cultivate a sense of complete surrender to Swami, no Maya will affect you," declared Swami, and commanded, "Develop the attitude of surrender." I bowed down and placed my head on His Lotus Feet.

As I came out of the interview room, I remembered the Lord's assurance in the Bhagavadgita: "My divine Maya made up of the three Gunas is hard to surmount; but those who surrender to Me and take refuge in Me can cross over this Maya."

Beginning with that blissful day, I enjoyed the fortune of being in Divya Sannidhi at

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BHAGAVAN

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

THE ETERNAL COMPANION

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI Baba is *Sarva Devata Swarupa*, embodiment of all divine names and forms. He is also *Sarva Devataatheeta Swarupa*, the Divinity beyond all names and forms. He is all in one, one in all, all in all and beyond all. I am not attempting to delve into the unfathomable mystery or explain the reality of Bhagavan Baba, but in my humble way I would like to share the infinite love He showered on me and my family over the last few decades.

Once, when I prayed to Swami how I can express my gratitude for all His love and grace, the compassionate Lord told me in Telugu, “*Premanu Panchuko, Penchuko*,” meaning, share His love with others and it will expand.

Puttaparthi – the Holiest of the Holy Land

Puttaparthi is holiest of the holy land. It is Vaikuntha (abode of Lord Vishnu) for Vaishnavites, Kailasa (abode of Lord Siva) for Saivites, Jerusalem for Jews, the Vatican for Christians, Gurudwara for Sikhs and Mecca for Muslims. We have heard many stories about how Swami gave the vision

of Mecca to Muslims, vision of Jesus to Christians, vision of Buddha to Buddhists and the experience of Brahman to Advaitins (practitioners of non-dualism). He walked amongst us, blessed us with His divine, nectarine message, cajoled us, consoled us, comforted us, laughed with us, sang with us and played with us. Every tree, every bush, every stone, every dust particle here – nay, every atom and cell in this holy land of Puttaparthi – is saturated with the divine love and blessings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

On 6th March 2011, I prayed to Bhagavan in the Yajur Mandir for blessings and approval of the celebration of Buddha Purnima on 17th-18th May 2011. Buddhist devotees from eleven countries wanted to pay homage to Sai Buddha at Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami kindly gave permission for the celebrations. Also I showed Him the brochure of the U.S.A. youth pilgrimage who wanted to come to Prasanthi in August 2011. Swami gave the divine instruction, “*Tell them to come for My Birthday this November.*” This shows that Swami continues to reside and bless us at Prasanthi Nilayam.



Bhagavan Baba is Dehi, not Deha

Deluded by Maya and ignorance, we think Swami has left us. Truly we are never alone because Swami assured us that He would never leave us. Swami always emphasised that He is Dehi (indweller), not Deha (body). Recently, I was blessed and fortunate to be a witness to this declaration. I had the opportunity to serve Swami as a member of the panel of the medical team during His stay in the hospital in April 2011. One day, I conveyed to Swami the gratitude, global prayers and intense love of all the devotees from all over the world. Swami kindly acknowledged with a beautiful smile. One of the senior physicians wanted to know if Swami was in pain. Swami categorically said that He was not in pain but was in bliss. Only the Lord who transcends body consciousness could make such a profound statement under those circumstances.

A week after Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi, I was planning to return to U.S.A. on 1st May 2011 to attend to my patients. After attending the evening programme, I took permission from Swami to leave after offering my prayers at the Samadhi. As soon as I reached my room, I had a sudden attack of intense pain in between the shoulder blades and abdomen. I never had such severe pain in my life and could not sit, stand or lie down. Being a physician, many diagnostic possibilities came to my mind. I thought of the worst possible medical emergencies, such as heart attack or dissecting aneurysm or acute pancreatitis. For four or five hours, I suffered in agonising pain. My wife called the airlines and cancelled our trip home. After that, the pain was bearable, and I felt that Swami wanted me to stay longer at Prasanthi Nilayam.

One day, a group of workers came to install an air conditioning unit at the Book Centre. The next day, one of the workers told Sai volunteers, "Your boss came here and was overseeing the work and asking us questions." The worker pointed to a large picture of Swami in the Book Centre and said that He was the one who came and was supervising the work. The Book Centre volunteers were amazed and happy that Swami gave His Darshan to these workers. One day, when I was with Swami in the car, I related this incident to Him and said, "Swami, You came and gave Darshan to these workers who have never heard of You and were not even devotees." Swami quipped, "How do you know they are not My devotees?"

The next day, I went for a check-up at the Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital in Prasanthigram. EKG, chest X-ray, Echocardiogram, CT chest, CT and ultrasound of the abdomen and blood tests were performed. The blood tests revealed that my liver function tests were grossly abnormal and the ultrasound of the abdomen showed that I had a gallstone with inflammation of the gall bladder. The standard medical advice in this situation is to have surgery.

By Bhagavan's grace, the pain started to subside and resolved completely in two days. By delaying my trip, I had the blessed opportunity to attend the Aradhana Mahotsavam of Bhagavan at Prasanthi Nilayam on 4th May. I felt Swami's divine



hand at play, allowing me not to miss this momentous occasion to share Swami's mission and His message of love with devotees from around the world.

That same night, I proceeded to the airport to return to the U.S.A. My family, which consists of many doctors, was concerned that I might get a similar attack while travelling. I surrendered to Bhagavan and continued with my travel plans. By Bhagavan's grace, during the travel and after returning to the U.S.A. I was completely symptom free.

As per the advice of my medical consultants, I had follow-up blood tests and ultra-sound of the abdomen. Lo and behold! The ultrasound of the abdomen showed that my gall bladder was completely normal without any gall stones. The blood tests showed that the liver functions were completely normal. Are we not under the protection of the divine surgeon, our Beloved Swami, physician par excellence? This incident shows how He continuous to take care of us and protect us even after His Maha Samadhi. Let us be assured, He was with us, He is with us and He will be with us for eternity. All we need is faith and patience (Nishta and Saburi).

Unbounded Love and Compassion

My mother who has diabetes and hypertension had a stroke in January 2011. After her discharge from the hospital, she was not able to eat or drink because of difficulty in swallowing. We tried various methods to no avail. She was losing weight, and the doctors felt that at this rate she would not live too long and suggested that she should have G-tube placement, which is putting a tube in the stomach with minor surgery. I prayed to Swami on 4th March 2011 for His blessings to go ahead with the surgery. Swami replied, *No surgeries for your mother. I will take care*

of her. It is a medical marvel that only by His grace, without any surgery, she is now able to eat and drink normally, including her favourite foods like Dosa.

We will never forget one special occasion for which our family is indebted to Him forever. During an interview with the family, Swami told my eldest daughter that He would perform her wedding and that He would arrange for a military band to play during the wedding. At that time, she was only about 12 years old. On 8th June 1995, Swami graciously performed her wedding on a grand scale in the Kalyana Mandapam in Brindavan, Whitefield. He took care of every detail including the dining arrangements, the menu, the priest, accommodation for the guests and the marriage hall decorations.

Swami took personal interest in every minute detail, including what tablecloth should be used, how the waiters were to be dressed and that they should wear gloves while serving food to the guests. On the wedding day, Swami sat in the hall throughout the ceremony and guided us at every step. He explained to the people sitting around Him the spiritual significance of the Hindu wedding. He was very loving and materialised the Mangala Sutra (sacred wedding necklace); then He came to the stage and blessed the bride, bridegroom and whole family, and posed for photographs.

To our delightful surprise, on the wedding day, He even arranged for a military band to play during the wedding. Later, Swami reminded me about the word that He had given earlier to my daughter about a military band at her wedding. Even though we all forgot the word given by Swami, we were so touched by Swami's Love because our compassionate Lord never forgets. What a



great lesson from Swami on the harmony of thought, word and deed!

The Omniscient Lord

In Bhagavan Baba, we have a Universal Teacher, Divine Teacher and Teacher of teachers who leads us from untruth to truth, from darkness to light and from death to immortality. Once I asked Swami, "If life is a dream, then is He also a part of the dream?" Immediately came the answer from the Lord of Truth that He is in all the four states: waking, dreaming, dreamless and Turiya (transcendental). Thereby, He revealed that He is the Supreme, attributeless and formless Brahman.

Swami says, "*Mee Intane, Ventane, Jantane, Kantane Untanu.*" He has assured us that He is in our home. He is with us, above us, below us, behind us, before us, inside us and outside us. Many of us have experienced His omniscience and omnipresence.

Swami knows everything about us at all times, no matter where we are. My daughter and I were having a discussion in our house in U.S.A. about a difficult family situation. I told my daughter that we all have to pay for our Karma, but by Swami's grace, we will have the strength to endure the difficulties. During our next trip to Prasanthi Nilayam, when Swami called us for interview, I related the family situation to our Beloved Swami and thanked Him for His grace. Swami said, "*But you told your daughter that you have to pay for your Karma. This is not correct.*" Then He continued, "*My grace can burn away mountains of Karma, like the fire from a matchstick burns away tonnes of cotton in a moment.*" There were three lessons for me. The first lesson was not to have fear and to have complete faith. Swami says, *Why fear*

Bhagavan is not limited to the beautiful enchanting human form that walked on the sands of Puttaparthi and granted all of us Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation) for which even the gods of the heaven would yearn. If devotees take refuge and call for Him with absolute faith and one-pointed devotion, Swami will present Himself before the devotees, wherever they may be. People who have lukewarm devotion may practise spirituality for years or even lifetimes but not attain the goal.

when I am here? The second lesson was that if we surrender to Him, by His grace He can wipe out our Karma in a trice. The third lesson was a reminder of His omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. He knows our every thought, every conversation, every dream, every action and everything wherever we are. He knows our past, present and future.

No Limitation of Form

There are no physical limitations for Swami, and He manifests anywhere at His Will. The Sathya Sai Book Centre of America in Tustin, California was undergoing some remodelling, and we had many hired workers at the Book Centre. One day, a group of workers came to install an air conditioning unit at the Book Centre. The next day, one of the workers told Sai volunteers, "Your boss came here and was overseeing the work and asking us questions." The worker pointed to a large picture of Swami in the



Book Centre and said that He was the one who came and was supervising the work. The Book Centre volunteers were amazed and happy that Swami gave His Darshan to these workers. One day, when I was with Swami in the car, I related this incident to Him and said, "Swami, You came and gave Darshan to these workers who have never heard of You and were not even devotees." Swami quipped, "*How do you know they are not My devotees?*" Therefore, we should not judge who is or is not a devotee. Only the Lord knows.

Bhagavan is not limited to the beautiful enchanting human form that walked on the sands of Puttaparthi and granted all of us Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation) for which even the gods of the heaven would yearn.

... Continued from page 376

Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan for twenty-seven long years till Bhagavan shed His mortal frame on 24th April 2011. As per His command given to me a year earlier, now I have returned to Muddenahalli to continue my service in His Divine Mission.

The Path of Complete Surrender

Each of us has understood Swami to the extent He revealed Himself to us! To those fortunate ones who lived in His Divya Sannidhi (divine proximity) or enjoyed His Divya Kripasraya (divine grace), the path as commanded by Swami Himself is Saranagati or self-surrender, which is the fruition of faith and love. The obstacle on this path is one's own ego. The Yogamaya of the Avatar provokes the ego of the devotee to doubt the authenticity of the Divine in human form. This

If devotees take refuge and call for Him with absolute faith and one-pointed devotion, Swami will present Himself before the devotees, wherever they may be. People who have lukewarm devotion may practise spirituality for years or even lifetimes but not attain the goal. One should have intense love for God, akin to a drowning man's longing for a breath of air. Once I asked Swami, "Swami, how do I know if I have devotion?" Pat came the answer, "*One should have intense longing for God. If you have intense love for God, you have devotion.*"

Swami, neither do we have words to describe the love that we experienced in Your Divine Presence, nor can we comprehend Your Divine Glory. We can only pray to You to grant us the boon of Your devotion.

interaction causes vacillation in the devotee's mind between faith and doubt. As long as there is doubt, there can be no surrender. Hence, surrender means the elimination of ego. It should be the consistent endeavour of the devotee to achieve it by single-pointed effort. When faith and devotion fill the heart, ego becomes dormant. The Yogamaya of the Avatar provokes the dormant ego of the devotee to come up again and again so that it can be noticed by the persistent devotee by introspection and finally be eliminated. Of course, the conquest of ego is made possible only by the immense divine grace of the merciful Avatar who is ever ready to help any sincere aspirant. Swami has said, "If you take one step towards Me, I will take hundred steps towards you!"



ECHOES OF BHAGAVAN'S LOVE: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

AFTER 46 YEARS, AS I LOOK back, I pause and wonder and am amazed that I was privileged to be in contact with a “Phenomenon”, the like of which man may not witness for aeons.

That I was born at the same time when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba walked on this earth, that I was destined to meet Him, that I was able to talk to Him, to touch His holy feet, and that He talked with me, and played with the kids when they were young, that He graced our home over a dozen times, graciously partook meals with us, all those memories flood my mind as I realise how fortunate we are – how fortunate we all are – to have shared earth space with Him.

Miraculous Cure of Throat Tumour

His grace drew us to Him. His calling cards assume various forms. Mine came in the nature of a tumour, the size of a golf ball in my throat (specifically nasopharyngeal). I could not lie flat to sleep, speech suffered, as well as intake of solid food. Surgical intervention was planned after a diagnosis was made. The aftermath of surgery would have me learning to speak again with a doubtful outcome of clear reproduction of sound. Suffice it to say, in His compassion He called me and cured me in the twinkling of an eye. My symptoms all disappeared along with the disappearance of the tumour (later

confirmed by the very specialist who had earlier examined me). The disappearance of organic matter (tumour) in a moment is unknown to medical or physical science. It can only be in the realm of the Divine. I and my family feel very blessed and grateful.

Mine is not an isolated case. From the north to the south, from the east to the west of India, nay globally, many instances of His calling cards have been reported and authenticated. What is more important is the transformation of oneself. Slowly but surely, one becomes a better individual and a better human being by His grace.

His Life is His Message

His life has typified “The Universal Man,” be it specifically in the sphere of social services, in the spread of education and values and the formation of a good society on earth. He has often said, “If you are a Hindu, be a good Hindu, if you are a Muslim, be a good Muslim, if you are a Christian, be a good Christian, if you are a Zoroastrian, be a good Zoroastrian and so on...” Howard Murphet the well-known Australian writer of the book “Sai Baba Avatar” on page 236 writes – “Members of all the great world religions may be seen in the crowd around Sathya Sai Baba. He never tries to convert any of them to another religion but rather to deepen and spiritualise their understanding of their own.” At the base, Baba says, there is the religion of the heart (love) but people of different temperaments and natures require different approaches to God. Hence, the different forms of the one religion. He has shown the way. His life is His Message. Can we rise to the occasion to fulfil His Mission on earth?



THE LORD OF PUTTAPARTHI WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU

YOU ARE WITH SAI AND SAI IS WITH YOU

Students!

THE AVATAR IS THE embodiment of Yoga Sakti, Kriya Sakti and Atma Sakti (spiritual power, power of action and Atmic power). His descent does not mean coming from a higher level to a lower level. This descent does not diminish His Divine Glory in any way. In order to liberate man with attributes, God has to come down with attributes. The child cannot on its own lift itself up so that the mother may take it in her arms. When the child cries, the mother bends down to lift up the child. Just because she bends down, it does not mean that she loses her higher status. Similarly, as the man cannot lift himself up, Sai Matha bends down to lift him up and give him bliss. An aeroplane does not move on the ground unlike other vehicles. However, it comes down at certain places to take people who earn the deservedness to travel in it. God is beyond all attributes. But He assumes a form and makes Himself accessible to deserving human beings to liberate them and give them Ananda.

Your Ananda is My Birthday

The day you establish yourselves in this Ananda, that day will be My Birthday for you. I must tell you another fact. Swami's Birthday is being celebrated at Puttaparthi because

so many thousands come here from far-off places, in spite of the expense and great difficulty during the journey. Do not be under the impression that because it is Swami's Birthday, therefore you must come. I have no desire to have My Birthday celebrated; such trivial thoughts can never enter Me. My only desire is to share My Ananda with you, to encourage you to lead lives full of Ananda. My Birthday is when you get Ananda. My Mission is *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!) Become aware of the unity of mankind; promote the joy and contentment of everyone on earth by love and service and fill your hearts with that yearning. Then it becomes verily the Sai Mandir (temple). From that moment, I am where you are.

From Chamatkara to Sakshatkara

The signs and wonders that I manifest are given names that do not connote the purpose or effect. They can be called Chamatkara (acts of wonder), that lead on to Samskara (acts of refinement), which in turn urge one on towards Paropakara (helping others) and finally result in Sakshatkara (divine vision). Chamatkara is an act which attracts on account of its inexplicability. This aspect of attraction is inherent in the Avatar (divine incarnation). The very name Rama means 'He who pleases or causes



delight.' Krishna means 'He who attracts, draws towards Himself.' This attribute of attraction is a characteristic of Divinity. The Divine has to reveal Itself through these manifestations, largely shaped and modified by the nature of the times, the region and the cultural environment.

Why does the Divine attract? Is it to deceive or mislead? No. It is to transform, reconstruct, reform – a process called Samskara. What is the purpose of the reconstruction? To make the person useful for service to society, to efface his ego, and to affirm in him the unity of all beings in God. The person who has undergone Samskara becomes a humble servant of those who need help. This is the stage of Paropakara. Service of this kind done with reverence and selflessness prepares man to realise the One that pervades the many. The last stage is Sakshatkara.

Attain God through Love

The Divine can be grasped only through faith and Sadhana (spiritual practice), surcharged with universal love. Reason is too feeble an instrument to measure it. Denial of the Divine cannot negate it. Logic cannot reveal it. Without earning the grace of the Lord, all other acquisitions are of no value. Love



You are really fortunate, for you are able to enjoy the Divine proximity of Sai. It is the result of the merits earned by you in your previous births. It is your great good fortune that you are singing, talking and walking with Him. You are with Sai and Sai is with you. As I often say, "You and I are one." So, develop unwavering faith in God.



alone can bind one to God, because love is His being. One who is the very embodiment of love can be realised only through love and not by any other means. Human beings are also endowed with love. Through that love



man should attain God's love, fill himself with love and lead a life filled with love. Love is not a crop that can be grown on a piece of land; it is not a commodity that can be purchased in a shop. Whether one is a potentate or a commoner, love will blossom within him only when he gives up egoistic pride and is ready to make sacrifice.

God is present in all beings. Everything in the cosmos is a form of the Divine. The Divine power sustains everybody at all times. Hence, every man is an embodiment of God. Once you have that faith, you will not be inclined to follow the wrong path. Everyone should strive to recognise the divinity that is present in all. This effort has to be made by everyone. Human birth has been given for this purpose.

You and I are One

There are many who do not understand the Sai principle. Who is this Sai? Why are certain things happening in this manner? These questions are asked. I am not a Sannyasi (renunciant). I am not a yogi (spiritual practitioner). I am not a Bhogi (pleasure seeker). I am not a Thyagi (one who sacrifices). I am I. This "I" is the first name given to the Atma. A renunciant is bound by certain restrictions. The pleasure seeker is bound in other ways. I have no limitations. Mine is boundless bliss. My name is "I". It is not a name given after one's birth. To understand Me, everyone has to realise that the "I" is present in everyone. The "I" is used by everyone in every context, whether he is a millionaire or a pauper. This "I" is Brahma (Supreme Being). *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman).

Embodiments of Love!

There is only one thing you have to offer to Me today. Pray that people in all countries,

the entire humanity, should be happy and at peace. *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy)! Then alone will there be real unity. Do not wish for the peace and prosperity of India alone. Pray for the welfare of all countries. All are our brothers, whether they are in Pakistan or America or elsewhere. Whether you believe it or not, I am able to attract people from so many countries because of My all-embracing love.

If every person observes three things, he will be one with Swami. You will experience the Divine in you. As the following three are in Me, I can declare firmly about them. They are three Ps: Purity, Patience and Perseverance. These three are in Me and around Me. Anyone with these three qualities will be unafraid wherever he may be. He will have the protection of the Lord of Puttaparthi.

The Lord of Puttaparthi will protect you always,

He is the embodiment of compassion,

He will hold your hand and take you across the ocean of life,

He will never forsake you under any circumstances. (Telugu Poem)

Embodiment of Love!

You are really fortunate, for you are able to enjoy the Divine proximity of Sai. It is the result of the merits earned by you in your previous births. It is your great good fortune that you are singing, talking and walking with Him. You are with Sai and Sai is with you. As I often say, "You and I are one." So, develop unwavering faith in God.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan's Birthday Discourses.





IMMORTAL TEACHINGS OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI Baba is the Avatar of Kali Age. All of us who are the contemporaries of the Lord are deeply indebted to Him for this privilege. How much more fortunate are those of us who have lived with Him in His Sannidhi (proximity), basking in the sunshine of His sweet love and grace! Living with Him is pure delight. How can we describe the joy we derived, seeing His beautiful form, singing Bhajans with Him, experiencing His divine purity, innocence, wisdom, compassion, kindness and a rare sense of humour! We have partaken food with Him, travelled with Him, have written letters to Him, received letters from Him. It is humanly impossible to pay back the debt of gratitude to Him in any number of lives.

I wish to share a few important teachings imparted by Swami personally to me. Their importance cannot be exaggerated. In one of my conversations with Him, when I mentioned that every word He utters is 'like a Mantra', He corrected me: 'Not like a Mantra. It is Mantra itself.'

In order to share some insights I have been privileged to have during my long stay in Sai Sannidhi, I have divided this article into four parts. The first part narrates Swami's responses to some of my questions on various occasions. The second part gives extracts from His letters, showing His motherly love, concern and interest in students. The third part is a precious message He wrote and gave me when He visited my house. In this, He forcefully, authoritatively and succinctly sums up the essence of all scriptures. The fourth contains His teachings from His letters to me as a Sadhaka.

Part I

On one particular day, I had the chance to be with Him all day long. It seemed to be an extremely busy day for Swami and yet Swami was very personally taking care of minute details of seemingly not so important people. I was overwhelmed by the scene and I asked Him. "Swami, how to understand You?" Pat came the reply: "Do not try to understand Me, experience and enjoy." What a teaching!



He did not want me to fall a prey to my mind, which is too small to understand the vastness that Swami is. Many of His actions may look contradictory to each other. If we try to reason and understand, we may end up misunderstanding Him and lose Him and His grace. It would be sufficient if we know Him as God and love Him and enjoy His actions.

On another occasion, seeing Swami taking a few seconds before responding to a devotee's supplication, I dared to innocently ask Him: "Swami, do you know all the things all the time or do you come to know whatever, whenever you want to know," thinking that Swami might have taken that little time to recall about the devotee. His emphatic response was: "I know all things all the time. I play act many times. Do not be affected by what I do."

On another day, I was standing in front of Swami's residence and was thinking, "Swami, I have been with You for a long time. How much have I benefited?" He just then walked out responding to my thoughts, saying: "Give, give, give! Give Me your mind unconditionally. Do not say that your mind is soft and that I should not put it to My treatment. I will do with it whatever I want to, but make it into a beautiful jewel to hold it out to the world as a model. It is not for My sake nor for your sake but for the sake of the world."

Yet on another occasion, I asked, "Swami, whatever good happens anywhere it is due to Your kindness and whatever other than good happens it is on account of the operation of Your cosmic laws. Am I right, Swami?" He responded, saying: "No, you are wrong. I have My own Cabinet. I have entrusted

This body is the reward for merit earned in a number of births. Worldly enjoyments are momentary. Fire cannot be quenched by pouring any amount of fuel. More fuel put, more the fire grows but will not be extinguished; such are worldly desires. Whatever number of births you enjoy, the desires though old and rotten look new under the spell of Maya. Use your body to discharge your obligatory duties and your heart to enjoy fragrant nectar of Baba's love; carry your family responsibilities on your shoulders and dedicate your mind to God...

different tasks to different Ministers. I do not interfere with their work. If I get a prayer in a letter, 'Swami, we want rains,' I will redirect that letter to Varuna, the rain god. He will deal with it appropriately. But I have three departments directly under Me: Love, Selfless Service and Spiritual Sadhana. Whoever loves Me, I too love him. I do not look into his other qualities and eligibility. Whoever performs service without expecting any reward, I will take care of him. Whoever or whenever any person pursues spiritual Sadhana, he will come under my protection. I will take care of him. Other departments are looked after by My other Ministers." What a revelation!

On another day, I was travelling with Swami in the car and having read some false reports on Swami, I was hurt and asked Swami thus: "Swami, my prayer is that You



should not allow people to speak ill of You or write false things about You.” The wonderfully detached Master that He is, He said, “Your prayer is wrong; you cannot pray like this. Just as you have freedom to worship Me, others have freedom to criticise Me. I am not affected by either, praise or criticism. I do My work and live My life. I am always perfect. I am love. I am motivated only by love. I do not do anything to hurt or harm people. No one can hurt or harm Me. You cannot pray to Me to take away others’ freedom.” Then I modified my prayer, “Swami, can I pray that such criticism about You should not reach me?” He said, “Yes, you can pray for that.”

Another question I put to Him, “How would evil people be saved from the vicious circle of evil?” He said, “I have come down to save people who surrender themselves to Me. Even if they pray once from their heart that they are Mine and that I should save them, I accept them and draw them out of vicious circle of action and its consequences and from the cycle of birth and death. In fact, some people who do not understand My love wonder as to why I should give shelter to some evildoers. If I do not accept a sinner and transform him, who else will do it?”

Part II

The following extracts from His letters to me show how involved and interested the Divine is in His students and their image in the eyes of people:

In 1982, when the students had to put up “Bhaja Govindam” drama before a large audience, He took the trouble to write such minute instructions: “It is desirable that drama children get, as far as possible, small items of the drama. That means the plate required

for the priest scholar, the palm leaves book, walking stick, sherwani, coat, dhotis, etc. Then the white screen which we have may also be brought, so that we can use it, if required. I have arranged here for the turban to be used by the rich man. There are seven or eight walking sticks on the verandah of the first floor. Bhimeswar knows it. Radhakrishna tells that they are kept under the cot in the verandah. Collect all of them and hand them over to Hirok. Probably the bus would come by 12th or 13th. We can practise drama here on 13th, 14th and 15th. On 15th, I will also see the drama. Ask them to have good hair cut. Thousands would watch them. Even in this regard, as Swami’s students, they should show an example. Tell them to be careful and pack all the costumes required for their roles in the drama.”

The next letter written after the drama was enacted shows how the Avatar as human enjoys all the success and joy of the students: “Yesterday the drama was extremely nice. It was a lot better than in Bombay. Students acted well. Governor distributed gifts to the participants. Rest of the details will be given to you by the students.”

The following is another extract which provides guidelines for a good teacher and reveals Swami’s expectations of His teachers:

“Along with ideal students, ideal teachers can make our college better than heaven. The news that ‘Is there a heaven other than Sathya Sai Institutions’ should reach every home. Even those small number of teachers should change their wrong thinking; they would sanctify their lives and also would encourage students. They are thinking that



life is meant for earning more salary and ruining their lives and others' lives too. Such is the fate of people who do not understand the essence of education. Only he, who tries for the betterment and good of the students, is a real teacher. Otherwise, he is a rotter.

Education is not meant for sale. It is meant for sharing and imparting knowledge. One has to practise, experience and help others to experience. This is not acquired by mere rote learning nor by mere hearing. You have to partake of it and help others to do so. One has to eradicate the disease of ignorance and peacelessness (Asanthi) and ensure that such diseases do not recur. Students are like gold. It is essential to have teachers who can encourage and inspire them. If they cannot, neither they will be happy nor their students. What is the use of people who just take from books and mechanically repeat them to students in the college? A student is a son of desire for his father but a son of love for the teacher. Only one who knows this truth and conducts accordingly alone is a teacher. Is it not?"

Part III

Message

Dear Nanjundaiah: Accept my blessings. The best method of spreading Vedanta philosophy is to live it; there is no other royal road.

Live in God. All is right. Make others live in God. All shall be well. Believe this truth. You will be saved.

In the lowest worm as well as in the highest human being, the same divine nature is present. The worm is the lower form in which the divinity has been more overshadowed by

I have come down to save people who surrender themselves to Me. Even if they pray once from their heart that they are Mine and that I should save them, I accept them and draw them out of vicious circle of action and its consequences and from the cycle of birth and death. In fact, some people who do not understand My love wonder as to why I should give shelter to some evildoers. If I do not accept a sinner and transform him, who else will do it?

Maya; that is the highest form in which it has been least overshadowed. Behind everything the same divinity is existing and out of this comes the basis of morality.

Assert your Godhead. Fling into utter oblivion the little bubble bursts, it finds itself the whole ocean. You are the whole, the infinite, the All.

You are Divinity itself, the holy of holies. The world is no world. You are the All in All, the Supreme power which no words can describe, nobody or mind. You are the pure 'I Am' that you are. Heaven is within you. Seek happiness not in the object of senses. Realise that happiness lies within yourself.

With blessings

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

24.4.1974

Part IV

The following letter shows Swami's love and concern for Sadhakas:



“For humans who are bound by three attributes, Sai Sannidhi is greater treasure than the treasure of Divinity. Unfortunately, they do not know and therefore they do not recognise the value of human life and are indulging in worldly life. You are so lucky. This body is the reward for merit earned in a number of births. Worldly enjoyments are momentary. Fire cannot be quenched by pouring any amount of fuel. More fuel put, more the fire grows but will not be extinguished; such are worldly desires. Whatever number of births you enjoy, the desires though old and rotten look new under the spell of Maya. Use your body to discharge your obligatory duties and your heart to enjoy fragrant nectar of Baba’s love; carry your family responsibilities on your shoulders and dedicate your mind to God... Your path is neither wrong nor crooked. We are the witness to our own mind. What do others know? People who cannot understand their own minds, how can they understand the transcendental principle?

The world will be seen in the colour of the glasses one wears. You ensure that there is no defect in your vision. But you need not be pained by others’ views. Different people are with different tastes in the world. Your heart is totally pure. It is inextricably bound to the heart of Sai. You cannot find a better path in the Age of Kali. You have abundant love and grace of Sai... Convey My blessings to your wife and children. Dasara is coming. Giving bliss and delight. Accept it and offer your heart to God. Thus, Baba.”

As could be seen from the above extract, Swami wants to make everyone an aspirant, a Sadhaka. He clarifies, confirms, motivates,

Just as you have freedom to worship Me, others have freedom to criticise Me. I am not affected by either, praise or criticism. I do My work and live My life. I am always perfect. I am love. I am motivated only by love. I do not do anything to hurt or harm people. No one can hurt or harm Me. You cannot pray to Me to take away others’ freedom.

encourages, and inspires the attitude of devotion in the heart.

My homage to Sai is incomplete and I would be failing in my duty if I do not recall, though briefly, what Mother Sai has done for me. He has showered His grace on me and drenched me in His love. Once He created a ring with two diamonds juxtaposed and asked me to show the setting of diamonds in the ring to my wife and tell her that one diamond in the ring is Sai and the other I; that is the relationship between Sai and me. When I was overwhelmed by His love for agreeing to do ear piercing of my younger daughter and initiating her to school, I expressed my gratitude with tears in my eyes. Then He said that He had come down to serve His devotees and He had no better work than that!

He taught me how to love Him, how to serve Him, how to please Him, and gave me innumerable opportunities to exert myself and serve Him single-mindedly as a teacher and Controller of Examinations in the university. His message to me was to practise spirituality and save myself from the cycle of birth and death.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF PRAKASAM DISTRICT DEVOTEES



ABOUT 1,500 DEVOTEES FROM Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh came to Prasanthi Nilayam to perform their 4th Parthi Yatra from 23rd to 25th September 2011. Besides participating in the Ashram programmes, they organised cultural programmes on 24th and 25th September 2011 in Sai Kulwant Hall.

A Devotional Music Concert

On 24th September 2011, there was a soul-stirring devotional music concert presented by Dr. Dwaram Lakshmi, Professor of Music, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati. Starting her concert with "Vatapi Ganapatim" at 5.20 p.m., the accomplished singer rendered three more classical compositions and concluded with the Bhajan "Govinda Krishna Jai" in her mellifluous voice. The flawless rendition of devotional compositions with perfect musical support made the concert a sumptuous musical feast for the soul and kept the audience mesmerised for nearly 45 minutes. At the conclusion of the concert, the singer and the artistes who provided musical support to her were offered clothes. A brief Bhajan session followed this. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.10 p.m.

Seva Aradhana: A Dance Drama

Sai Youth of Prakasam district presented a drama entitled "Seva Aradhana" (worship



The drama presented by Sai Youth of Prakasam district on 25th September 2011 showcased the Educare philosophy of Bhagavan.

through service) on 25th September 2011. Based on the Educare philosophy of Bhagavan, the dance drama made the villagers of a village realise the significance of this value-based system of education and highlighted its benefits to student community and society at large. Interspersed with thrilling dances of children, the drama gave the message of selfless service and unity of entire mankind. This was followed by Bhajans which were also led by singers of Prakasam district. Meanwhile, clothes were distributed to the participants in the drama and Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

A DELIGHTFUL PROGRAMME OF SUFI SONGS

Renowned classical Hindustani music exponent Ustad Gulshan Bharti along with his party enthralled the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with Sufi songs on 28th



September 2011. Beginning his presentation with the song “Allah Hu Tu Hi Tu” (Allah is all-pervading) at 5.00 p.m., the talented singer rendered two more mystical Sufi compositions and brought his delightful presentation to a close with “Sadguru Sai Maharaj,” offering his tributes to Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the programme, the singer and the accompanying artistes were honoured with shawls. Thereafter, there was a brief Bhajan session and distribution of Prasadam. The programme concluded with Arati at 6.10 p.m.

AN EXCELLENT CARNATIC MUSIC CONCERT

On 29th September 2011, renowned Carnatic music exponent Sri R. Raghavendra enthralled the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with devotional compositions in his sublime voice. Beginning his concert at 5.30 p.m., the singer presented four well thought-out selected compositions and brought out the richness of Carnatic music. This programme was followed by Bhajans by students, both boys and girls, of the Institute. The concluding Bhajan was “Prema Mudhita Manase Kaho...” in Bhagavan’s voice. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF U.K. YOUTH

A group of about 100 youth came from U.K. on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam on the eve of Dasara festival. They took part in Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva 2011 and went to villages on eight days of Grama Seva from 28th September to 5th October 2011 along with the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Besides, they led evening Bhajans in Sai Kulwant Hall on

27th September 2011, suffusing the entire milieu with devotional fervour.

On 29th September 2011, the leader of this group Sri Ajit Popat addressed the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall and exhorted one and all to focus their mind on God and remember Him at all times. That, he added, could solve all man’s problems and enable him to realise his real nature, viz., Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence, Knowledge, Bliss).

On the morning of 7th October 2011, the singers and musicians of the group presented a soulful programme of musical medley comprising Veda chanting, vocal and instrumental devotional music and Bhajans. They started their programme with Veda chanting at 8.00 a.m. followed by traditional prayer to Guru, after which a lady singer of the group sang a devotional song in English. This was followed by a scintillating instrumental musical presentation. Thereafter, they sang “Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum” (I



Sai Youth of U.K. presented an enrapturing programme of devotional music in Sai Kulwant Hall on 7th October 2011.

offer obeisance to Lord Krishna, the World Teacher) followed by two songs dedicated to Bhagavan. After this, they presented the Stotra “Lingashtakam”. They concluded their presentation with Bhajans, bringing the programme to an end with Arati at 9.35 a.m.



RAMA RAJYAM SAI SAMRAJYAM: A DANCE DRAMA

The drama entitled “Rama Rajyam Sai Samrajyam” (Rama’s kingdom is Sai Rama’s empire) based on the story of the Ramayana was presented by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu in Sai Kulwant Hall on 7th October 2011. The drama began at 5.00 p.m. with a song on the theme of the drama accompanied by a thrilling dance by a group of children. The story of the drama was then unfolded through a dialogue between



The drama presented by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu on 7th October 2011 highlighted the glory of Indian culture.

two N.R.I.s and two alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning who explained to the N.R.I.s the glory of Indian culture and the human values depicted in the Ramayana. The scene that followed showed Lord Siva in Kailasa, explaining to his consort Parvati the glory of Ramayana and the importance of chanting the Name of Lord Rama. The subsequent scenes depicted various episodes from the Ramayana which revealed the rich treasure of values contained in this immortal epic. The last scene of the drama highlighted how Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba brought about the revival of Indian culture by His teachings and re-established

the glory of the Ramayana. The impact of this scene was reinforced by showing video clippings of Bhagavan’s life and by playing a part of His Discourse on Ramayana in His own voice. The drama concluded with another thrilling dance of children at 6.15 p.m. Fabulous sets, colourful costumes, excellent make-up, efficient stage management, sweet songs and music and appropriate video support heightened the impact of the drama. At the end of the drama, clothes were distributed to the cast. This was followed by a brief Bhajan session and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF ODISHA DEVOTEES

More than 2,000 devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from various parts of Odisha from 7th to 9th October 2011. Besides participating in Seva activities in the Ashram and attending programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall and Conference Hall, they presented a cultural programme on 8th October 2011.

Konark: A Dance Drama

The cultural programme included a dance drama entitled “Konark” which was presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Baripada, Odisha. It portrayed the story of construction of the famous sun temple, Konark, which is one of the most sublime and enchanting monuments of architectural splendour and sculptural beauty of Odisha. The drama had an impressive start with blowing of conches by a group of children who presented a charming dance and made many beautiful formations. The subsequent scenes depicted the legendary story of its





A scene from the drama "Konark" presented on 8th October 2011 by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Baripada, Odisha.

construction and sacrifice of a 12-year-old boy who miraculously put the Kalasha atop the temple. The drama which began at 5.15 p.m. came to a close at 5.50 p.m.

Sai Symphony: A Devotional Music Programme

The drama was followed by a vocal music presentation "Sai Symphony" by Sai Youth of Odisha, both ladies and gents. The singers in all presented six devotional songs, suffusing the entire milieu with devotional fervour. The devotional songs were followed by Bhajans which were also led by Odisha singers. Meanwhile, clothes were distributed to all those who participated in the cultural programme. The programme came to a close

at 6.40 p.m. with distribution of Prasadam and Arati.

THREE-DAY CAMP OF KERALA YOUTH

About 1,000 youth came from various parts of Kerala to participate in a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam for three days from 14th to 16th October 2011. The youth participated in Ashram programmes and attended meetings in the Conference Hall where distinguished speakers addressed them. On 15th October 2011, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala organised a music concert in Sai Kulwant Hall, which was presented by renowned singer Sri O.S. Arun. Beginning his concert with invocation to Lord Ganesh, the singer rendered the composition "Prabho Ganapate" and followed it up with "Narayana Narayana Jai Govinda Hare" and the famous Mira Bhajan "Main To Leeno Govinda Mol" (I have bought Krishna). This was followed by a song dedicated to Lord Vitthal after which the accomplished singer sang the Bhajans "Antaranga Sai" and "Govinda Madhava." Rendered with devotion and with heart full of feelings, the songs kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour. At the conclusion of the concert, the singer and his accompanying artistes were honoured with shawls. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m. after a brief session of Bhajans by students and distribution of Prasadam.

Society today is yearning and pining for peace. Man searches for safety and peace in the world. Safety and security, however, are not present in the world. Peace and security are within. Everything is within you. But man is forgetting this truth.

- Baba



Installation of Bhagavan's Statue at the Samadhi

Devotees from all over the world have had an opportunity of the sacred Darshan of Bhagavan's Samadhi after it was unveiled on the 2011 Guru Poornima day. Innumerable others would have certainly seen the picture.

The void devotees feel in their heart is unfathomable; nevertheless, on viewing the sparkling white marble Samadhi, bathed in the divine aura, they have felt calmed and comforted, inspired and elevated. Their experience at the Samadhi only reinforces Bhagavan's oft repeated statement, "I am not the body, I am the Indweller."

In accordance with the ardent wish of devotees, we propose to install at the Samadhi a suitably sculpted statue of Bhagavan reflecting His grandeur, His beauty that recreates in our minds vivid memories of His Love and Grace.

Towards this end we invite proposals, complete with preliminary designs and sketches, from artists, sculptors and other creative personalities from India and abroad. As we want the sculpture to reflect not only the physical attributes but also the inner spirit that pervades, we would highly recommend those who want to submit proposals to visit Prasanthi Nilayam, if they have not done so before.

Such proposals may be sent to the Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134 (coordinator@sssm.org.in) by the end of November 2011.

The decision of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust would be final regarding the acceptance or rejection of any of the proposals.

Let us pray that He holds our hands as we strive to create a symbol of His form which will reflect His Mission and Message and more importantly His love which will elevate the minds of millions for aeons to come.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING (Deemed to be University)



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Admissions Notice

Admissions for the Academic Year commencing from 1st June 2012
will be made for the following Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Professional Programmes:

Programmes offered for men: B.A., B.A.(Hons) & B.Sc.(Hons) in Economics; B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences (leading to Postgraduate Programmes in respective subjects) and B.Com.(Hons); B.B.M. and B.C.A.; M.A.(Economics), M.Sc.(Nanoscience & Nanotechnology); M.B.A., M.B.A.(Finance), M.Tech.(Computer Science) and M.Tech.(Applied Optics).

Programmes offered for Women: B.A., B.Com.(Hons), B.B.M., B.Sc.(Home Science), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences; B.Ed., M.A.(English), M.A.(Telugu), and M.Sc.(Food Science & Nutrition) / M.Sc.(Food Technology).

Eligibility for Admissions:

Undergraduate Programmes [B.A. / B.A.(Hons) / B.Sc. / B.Sc.(Hons) / B.Com.(Hon) / B.B.M. / B.C.A.]: 10+2 pattern of study/Intermediate. Minimum marks required in X Std. examinations is 60% in aggregate and 55% in General English. Candidates should have taken their final year +2 / Intermediate qualifying examination before the date of Admission Test. In the case of candidates who have appeared for XII / +2, their marks in the previous years (X or XI Std.) should not be less than 60% in aggregate and 55% in General English.

For B.B.M.: The admissions test will evaluate verbal skills, numerical skills and reasoning skills.

For B.C.A.: Candidates should have Mathematics as one of the subjects of study in their XI/ XII standards, should have studied Algebra, Geometry, Calculus and basics of Statistics in their formal education at +2 level. The admissions test will evaluate verbal skills and knowledge in Mathematics.

Note: Separate application form is to be submitted for each programme of study.

Postgraduate Programmes [M.A.(Economics) / M.A.(English) / M.A.(Telugu) / M.Sc.(Food Science & Nutrition) / M.Sc.(Food Technology)]: A First class (minimum of 60% marks in aggregate in all the three years of study) in respective degrees with 50% in General English.

For M.Sc.(Food Science & Nutrition) / M.Sc.(Food Technology), candidates of B.Sc. (Biosciences) / B.Sc.(M.P.C.) are also eligible to apply.

For M.Sc.(Nanoscience and Nanotechnology) Programme, candidates of B.Sc.(Physics) / B.Sc. (Biosciences) / B.Sc.(Chemistry) background are eligible to apply.

For M.A.(Economics) Programme, candidates of B.A. / B.A.(Hons) in Economics or B.Com./ B.Com.(Hons) background are eligible to apply.

Contd...2.

Professional Programmes [M.B.A. / M.B.A.(Finance) / M.Tech.(Computer Science) / M.Tech. (Applied Optics) / B.Ed.]: A First class (minimum of 60% marks in all examinations of the course) Bachelor's degree or a Postgraduate degree with 50% marks in General English in the first undergraduate degree examination. In case of the candidates who have not received the marks statements of the final year of the Bachelor's degree examination, their marks in the previous years/semesters should not be less than 60% in aggregate and 50% in General English.

For M.B.A./M.B.A.(Finance): Candidates of Technical Courses like B.E., B.Tech., B.Pharma., B.Sc.(Agri) etc. are exempted from the minimum requirement of 50% marks in General English.

For M.Tech.(Computer Science): A First class both in the Bachelor's degree and M.Sc. (Mathematics) / M.Sc.(Physics) / M.Sc.(Computer Science) / M.C.A. or first class in B.E.(Computer Science) / B.Tech. (Computer Science) levels of examination with Computer Science background. Further the candidates should have formally undergone the following courses: Artificial Intelligence, Computer Networks, Computer Organisation & Architecture and Database Systems.

For M.Tech.(Applied Optics): A First class both in the Bachelor's degree and M.Sc.(Physics) or first class in B.E. / B.Tech. levels of examination with a background in Optics and Electromagnetic Theory.

For B.Ed.: The admissions test will evaluate General English and two methodology subjects based on the subjects studied at the undergraduate/postgraduate programmes.

Candidates applying for the above Postgraduate and Professional programmes should complete their final year/semester qualifying examination before 30th May 2012. Admissions are made as per the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India and UGC with regard to Reservation of seats for SC/ST candidates. Further, SC/ST candidates are entitled to a relaxation in the eligibility criterion of 5% marks.

Note: Eligible candidates will be short-listed by the Institute based on the marks in the qualifying examinations and will be called for the Admissions Test.

Admission to all the above programmes will be on the basis of a Written Admissions Test followed by an Interview which will be held in **3rd and 4th weeks of April 2012** at **Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh**.

The application form along with Information Handbook will be available from **1st of November 2011** to **25th of January 2012**. The last date for receipt of duly filled-in application forms is **31st of January 2012**.

Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, Anantapur District, A.P.** along with I.P.O. or Bank Draft for Rs.100/-. The Bank draft should be drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at **S.B.I., Prasanthi Nilayam/Puttaparthi**. Since the application forms are different for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Professional programmes, candidates must indicate clearly the details of course/subject of study for which they seek admission in the requisition letter.

The name and complete postal address along with programmes for which application form is required should be clearly stated in Block letters on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also in the requisition letter.

Alternatively, candidates may visit the Institute website, www.sssihl.edu.in for applying through the online application portal.

– Registrar

REGD. WITH REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS R.NO.10774/1958
REGN.NO. HDP/002/2009-2011
Licenced to post without prepayment No. HDP/002/2009-11



God is Present in All

You should think that God is present in all and respect everybody. You must respect others as if you are respecting God. Never look at others' mistakes. First try to correct yourself. Consider only the good in others. Rectify yourself first. This is spirituality. Man will reach noble heights when he thinks about the merits in others and looks at his own demerits. Humanness in man is completely subdued when he speaks about his own greatness and tries to cover his mistakes, finding demerits in others.

– Baba

Annual Subscription English (12 issues)
India ₹ 75. Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka
₹ 600. Other Countries ₹ 850 or US \$19
or UK £13 or €13, CAN \$22, AUS \$26.
Acceptable for 1, 2 or 3 years.



Printed by K.S. RAJAN Published by K.S. RAJAN On behalf of the owner Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.) And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises, 136, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560044, Karnataka And published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh.
Editor: G.L. ANAND