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"In order to experience the blissful
form of the Lord, you need to have
purity at the levels of body, mind
and spirit for which proper food
and habits are essential. Therefore,
students should give due importance
to their food and habits. In fact,
their entire future depends on their
food and habits."



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Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 8th November 6 p.m.**
to 9th November 6 p.m.Global Akhanda Bhajan
18th NovemberRathotsavam
19th NovemberLadies Day
22nd November33rd Convocation of
Sri Sathya Sai Institute
of Higher Learning
23rd November89th Birthday of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
25th DecemberChristmas



AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
2ND SEPTEMBER 1996

DEVELOP PURITY OF HEART

How can a mean-minded person lacking purity of heart realise the principle of the Self?

Only those with purity of heart can realise it.

Do not forget these words of wisdom.

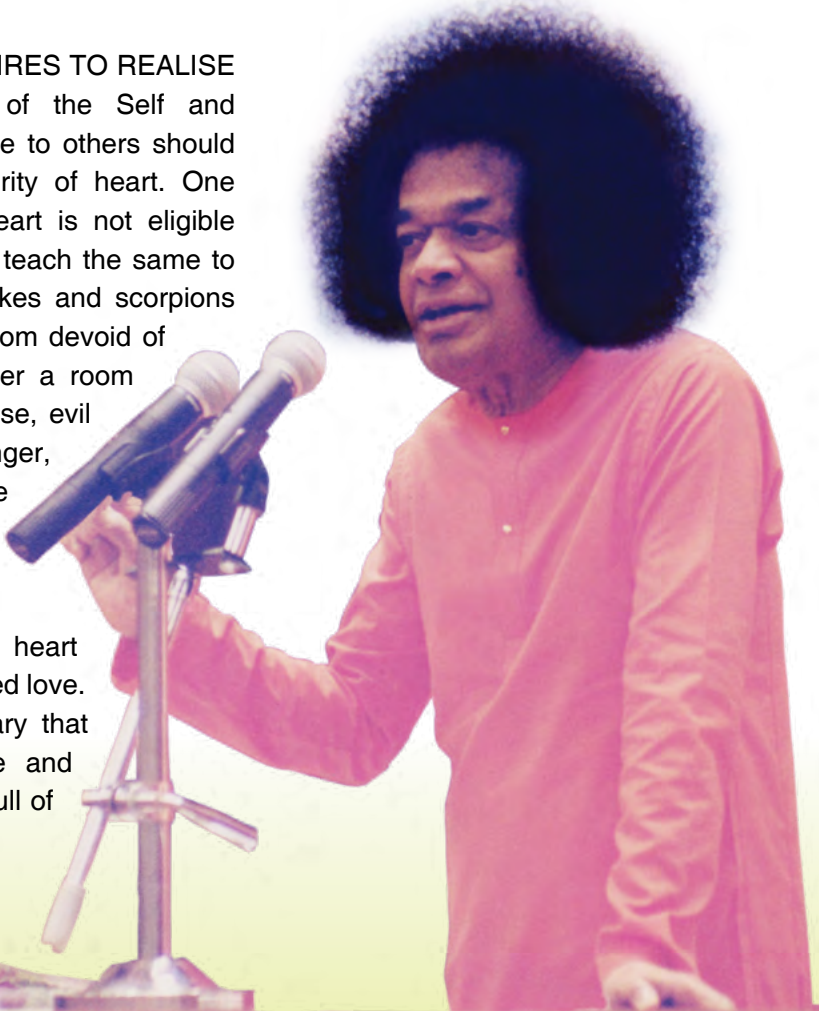
(Telugu Poem)

LOVE PERMEATES THE ENTIRE WORLD

Embodiments of Love!



ONE WHO ASPIRES TO REALISE the principle of the Self and teach the same to others should first of all develop purity of heart. One who lacks purity of heart is not eligible to realise the Self and teach the same to others. Poisonous snakes and scorpions find their way into a room devoid of light. They do not enter a room which is well lit. Likewise, evil qualities like desire, anger, delusion, greed, pride and jealousy cannot enter the heart which shines with pure love. They only enter the heart which is devoid of sacred love. It is therefore necessary that man develops a pure and sacred heart which is full of love and compassion.



Fill your Heart with Love for God

The heart of a human being should be full of the noble qualities of tolerance, perseverance, sympathy and contentment. Only then can he easily understand the principle of the Self and propagate the same. The principle of the Self cannot be attained merely by education, scholarship and intelligence. Purity of heart is of utmost importance for this. What education did noble souls like Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Kabir and Surdas have? Ramakrishna was not highly educated, yet he earned worldwide name and fame as Paramahansa (realised person). His purity of heart was responsible for this. In order to attain purity of heart, there is no need to perform Japa, Tapa and Dhyana (chanting, penance and meditation) nor is there any need to study the Vedas, the scriptures, the Puranas and Itihasas (epics and mythological texts). Love for God is the only requirement to attain purity of heart. There is nothing greater than this. The heart that is full of love for God is truly the heart of a human being.

As is the Food, so is the Mind

Those who wish to develop purity of heart should be careful with regard to their food and habits. The human body digests food; the subtle part of it becomes bones, muscles and blood and the subtlest part of food becomes the mind. Therefore, food is responsible for the good and bad nature of the mind. As is the food, so is the mind. Hence, it is necessary to eat pure, sacred, Sattwic and wholesome food

You can derive true happiness only from God, not from anyone else. Father, mother, wife, children and all other worldly relations can give only momentary happiness. Only God can give you eternal bliss. You should take to the path of service to experience this bliss. There is no God greater than you when you follow this path in your daily life. In fact, all of you are the embodiments of God. You should believe that you are God, manifest only divine qualities and conduct yourself with divine feelings.

in moderation. In days of yore, sages and saints lived in forests eating only fruits and tubers to sustain themselves. Because of such Sattwic food, they could lead their lives peacefully. You may not be aware how beneficial is Sattwic food. How blissful were Sita, Rama and Lakshmana living in the forest and eating fruits and tubers during their exile! Happiness lies in proper food and habits. Happiness cannot be found in worldly comforts and sumptuous food. It can be found only in natural food created by God. Not only food but also drinking water should be pure. The gross part of water that we drink is excreted as urine and the subtle part of it becomes Prana (life principle). For a human being, mind and life principle are most important. Moreover, they are interdependent. When you attain the state of Amanaska (beyond



the mind), there is no existence of mind. To lead a noble life, it is necessary to have pure food and good habits. People are deluded to think that the power of mind can be developed by following the worldly path. They cannot achieve it unless they follow the inward path. Your heart is the Himachala (Kailasa mountain) on which Lord Siva and Parvati reside and perform their cosmic dance which bestows bliss not only on the devotees but the entire world. The Divine form of Lord Siva is blissful and enchanting.

The Lord of Kailasa has manifested his Divine form with the crescent moon adorning his head, the cool water of the Ganga flowing between the matted locks, with his radiant eye in the middle of the forehead and the purple neck gleaming like the sheen of a blackberry. He wears serpent bracelets and a snake belt, his entire body is smeared with Vibhuti, his forehead is adorned with a Kumkum dot, his ruddy lips glow with the juice of the betel, diamond-studded gold earrings dangle from his ears and his whole body glows with divine effulgence. (Telugu Poem)

World cannot Exist without Love

In order to experience the blissful form of the Lord, you need to have purity at the levels of body, mind and spirit for which proper food and habits are essential. Therefore, students should give due importance to their food and habits. In fact, their entire future depends on their food and habits. In order to experience their

innate divinity, they should have purity not only in food but in all their endeavours. This purity generates sacred love in your heart. Love has no form but one can experience the bliss it gives. Fragrance has no form but the flower which gives fragrance has a form. When there is love in your heart, it is reflected on your face. That is the reflection of the inner being. When man shares his love with others, he experiences more and more bliss. This bliss is eternal and everlasting. This cannot be experienced in worldly objects and worldly pursuits. It can be derived by following the path of Nivritti (spirituality).

In the waking state, the mind of man influences him. So long as you have a mind, you see the world around you. And so long as you see the world, you cannot escape from the experience of happiness and sorrow. What really is responsible for happiness and sorrow? It is the mind. In the deep sleep state, there is no mind, and consequently, there is neither the world nor the experience of happiness and sorrow. So far as there is the mind, there is the world; so far as there is the world, there is happiness and sorrow. There is neither happiness nor sorrow when you transcend the mind. How can you transcend the mind? You can transcend the mind by developing love for God. *Raso Vai Sah* (God is in the form of essence). Just as sugar permeates every drop of the syrup, love permeates the entire world. World devoid of love and bliss cannot exist. Love is all-pervasive, bliss is all-pervasive. Human being, nay, any living being has no existence without love.



Realise the Atmic Principle

I have told you this story earlier also. It was the time of the Mahabharata war. Sage Vyasa was on his way to the battlefield. On the way, he was surprised to see an insect crawling very fast. He conferred the power of speech on the insect and questioned, "Oh tiny creature, why are you running so fast? What great danger has befallen you?"

When you have studied so much, you should put it to proper use and get rid of your bad qualities.

That is true renunciation.

Renunciation does not mean leaving your home, family and property and going to the forest. To give up evil thoughts is true renunciation and true yoga. You should know what yoga really means. It means giving up evil qualities, evil habits and evil thoughts. Then God will come running to you on His own and shower His immense love on you.

• • • • •

insects want to protect themselves. Every living being wants to be safe and secure and has a desire to lead a life of happiness and contentment. Love is present in all beings but it is expressed in different ways.

You see the world around you and call it Jagat (world). But a wise man will tell you, "Oh foolish one! What you see is not



The insect replied, "Oh venerable sage, the Mahabharata war has become very fierce. In a few minutes, Arjuna's chariot will be coming in this direction. One cannot describe the speed with which his chariot runs. I am running away from this place so that I don't get crushed under the wheels of the chariot." Not only human beings, even

Jagat but God Himself." *Pashyannapi Cha Napashyati Moodho* (he is a fool who sees yet does not recognise the reality). God is the cause and world is the effect. This creation is nothing but the manifestation of cause and effect. World has no existence without God. Therefore, what you see



around you is God Himself in the form of the world. Each one perceives God in his own way based on his feelings and faith.

There is lack of peace and security in the world as the modern system of education does not develop faith in God in students. Once a person took his son to a school for admission. He met the headmaster and said, "Sir, my son is very intelligent but he has two weaknesses." When the headmaster asked him to tell the weaknesses, the father replied, "He does not know what is good for him nor does he listen to others." Similar is the state of an educated person today. He is filled with ego, thinking he knows everything. But what does he know? He is a fool who does not know himself. Then what can he know about the world?

One may acquire a high academic qualification such as M.A. or B.A. and attain exalted position,

One may amass wealth, perform acts of charity and attain name and fame,

One may have physical strength and enjoy a long and healthy life,

One may be a great scholar studying and preaching the Vedas,

But none can equal a true devotee of the Lord.

One cannot attain Mukti (liberation) without Daiva Bhakti (devotion to the Lord).

What else is to be conveyed to this assembly of noble students!

(Telugu Poem)

Man thinks that he is very intelligent and he has learnt many things. But one who is truly intelligent does not think in this manner. One who lacks intelligence thinks that he is an intellectual! Your life will blossom and shine as an ideal for others only when you develop love for God. You should become an ideal in all respects. What is important is that you should realise the principle of the Atma (Self). In fact, every human being is the embodiment of the Atma. But because of body attachment, he forgets the principle of the Atma. When you give up body attachment and develop Atmabhimana (attachment to the Self), you will experience bliss.

Divine Love is Sweeter than Ambrosia

There are three types of beings in this world. Some beings can live only in water, some others can live only on earth and there are some others which can live both on earth as well as in water. Similarly, there are some noble souls who spend all their time in the constant contemplation of God. There are some others who lead a worldly life but once in a while think about spiritual matters. Their life is like a two horse race. They have one leg in the world and the other in spirituality. There is a third category of people who lead totally a worldly life and have no spiritual inclination whatsoever. Because they are afflicted by the cold of ignorance, they cannot even smell the fragrance of spirituality. People in the world can therefore be classified as theists, atheists, theistic-atheists and atheistic-theists.

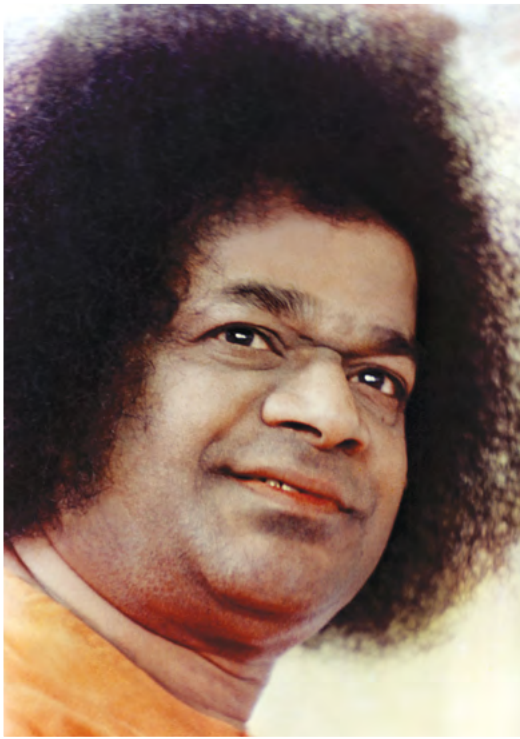


It is your great good fortune that you are blessed with human birth. It is not possible for everyone to attain human life birth after birth. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Human birth is very noble, exalted and virtuous. It is like a precious diamond. But man is ready to barter it away for petty things which are like pieces of charcoal.

precious is the name of the Lord.

Mira sang, *Payoji Maine Nam Ratan Dhana Payo* (I have found the jewel of Divine Name). She considered Divine Name as the most precious diamond. Who can give this? How can it be attained? It can be attained only by the grace of God. It is not available in a market or a shop; it is available only with God. God is the master of this diamond. Therefore, when you take refuge in Him, it becomes yours. You know how it looks like. It shines with

You are not a mere mortal. The body is just a vesture you have put on. You do not know how many vestures you have changed. Death is the dress of life. You have too much attachment with the body. But, you are not the body. Always remind yourself, "I am God, I am God." Aham Brahmasmi (I am Brahman). Never forget this truth even in your dream. All are the embodiments of Brahman. Other than Brahman, there is no other entity.



One who knows the value of the diamond, will he use it like a paper weight on the table? No. One who knows its value will keep it safely in a steel almirah under lock and key. Therefore, first of all it is necessary to know the value of the Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self). Equally

the brilliance of a thousand suns. Even the effulgence of a thousand suns pales in comparison with the brilliance of this 'sun'. How does the divine love taste? Do you know? Even the divine ambrosia appears tasteless in comparison to the sweetness of divine love. Its sweetness is unparalleled and incomparable. God is the embodiment of sweetness. *Vachanam*



Madhuram, Nayanam Madhuram, Vadanam Madhuram, Madhuradhipathe Akhilam Madhuram (His speech, His eyes and His looks are sweet. He is the Lord of sweetness and sweetness itself too). How can one who has experienced this sweetness desire for worldly pleasures which are fleeting, momentary and ephemeral? Only those who do not know the taste of Divinity crave for worldly pleasures. What is the reason? The reason is their ignorance which is the result of sins accrued over many past lives. Today we find people craving for money, position and power but not God.

One may boast of immense wealth, but it cannot give you even an iota of peace in this world.

One may boast of worldly education, but it also cannot bring even an iota of peace in this world.

Peace can be found only in one place and that is the temple of your heart.

(Telugu Poem)

Never Forget your Innate Divinity

People are in search of peace, but it is not available outside. It is present within. Those who strive for real peace will attain everything – wealth, worldly pleasures, power, name and fame. They need not go in search of them. They will come to them on their own. They need not strain a nerve; liberation will virtually fall into their lap. They will experience the bliss of heaven. What is heaven? People think having a good sleep on a soft bed in an air conditioned room is verily heaven. This is not the happiness one should strive for. Real

happiness cannot be derived from physical pleasures.

The body which is made up of five elements is weak and is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may leave one's mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature. (Telugu Poem)

Human birth is a gift of God. You have to understand its significance. If you spend all your time in reading books, what is the use if you don't practise anything? Time is fleeting and does not stop even for a moment. No one knows when, where and how the end will come. Understanding the truth that death is certain, you should perform your duty. Why should you beg anything from others? In fact, all are beggars, God is the only giver; He is the only master. When the king of Thanjavur sent material gifts to Thyagaraja, he refused to accept them, saying, "I am not Anatha (without a master) as I have Lord Sri Rama as my Natha (master). In fact, Rama is Anatha, as He has no master above Him. Therefore, offer these gifts to Him." Lord Rama is the master of the poor and needy. Sing the glory of Rama. Nothing will give you more benefit than this. Discharge your worldly responsibilities keeping the Lord's Name in your heart. You don't need to give up anything. What you have to give up is the feeling that you are a mortal. You are not a mere mortal. The body is just a



vesture you have put on. You do not know how many vestures you have changed. Death is the dress of life. You have too much attachment with the body. But, you are not the body. Always remind yourself, "I am God, I am God." *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). Never forget this truth even in your dream. All are the embodiments of Brahman. Other than Brahman, there is no other entity. *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). Though you are essentially divine, you consider yourself low and mean. It is really a great misfortune.

In spite of his education and intelligence, a foolish man will not know his true Self and a mean-minded person will not give up his evil qualities. Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom.

(Telugu Poem)

What is the use of acquiring worldly and secular education which cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal.

(Telugu Poem)

Realise the Glory of God's Love

In the story of the Mahabharata, when Yaksha questioned, 'who is really blind in this world', Yudhishtira replied, "He who does not give up his evil qualities in spite of all his education is really a blind person." When you have studied so much, you should put it to proper use and get rid of your bad qualities. That is true renunciation. Renunciation does not mean leaving your home, family and property and going to the forest. To give up evil thoughts is true renunciation and true yoga. You should

know what yoga really means. It means giving up evil qualities, evil habits and evil thoughts. Then God will come running to you on His own and shower His immense love on you.

Once Lord Easwara said to Parvati that he is under debt to devotees. Parvati asked him, what type of debt is it and what have you borrowed from them? Easwara replied, "Devotees love me. They are giving me their most valuable love. Therefore, I have to repay their debt of love with interest by granting them liberation." What is the rate of interest that God gives? It is not 14% or 18% that banks give. He gives 100% interest. Such is God's love for His devotees that He is ever ready to shower His grace on them. But you do not know this truth and this mystery. Who can describe the glory of God's love?

God is present here, there and everywhere, said Annie Besant. People in India go on pilgrimages in search of God. Truly speaking, do devotees search for God or God is in search of a devotee? Where is the need to search for God who is everywhere? In fact, wherever you see, you do not find a true devotee. Therefore, God is in search of a true devotee, said Annie Besant. Many people act like devotees when they are in Swami's presence. "Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are." When they are in front of Me, they pretend as though they are great devotees. But they lack real devotion.

They indulge in sinful deeds and later blame Me for their suffering when they



have to face the consequences of their actions.
(Telugu Poem)

Is there any meaning in this? Can you call them devotees? Bhakti means total surrender to God. Everything belongs to God. Other than God, there is no second entity. When everything is God, where is the place for a second entity? The same truth was proclaimed by Radha. What is meant by constant contemplation of God? You should constantly remind yourself of your reality, "I am Brahman, I am Brahman, I am Brahman." Instead, you are moving about calling yourself so and so identifying yourself with the name given to your body. It is a big mistake. You say, I am Ramaiah, but Ramaiah is the name given to your body; it is not your name. Body is like a water bubble. Who knows when this bubble will burst? You should always identify yourself with Brahman. Say, *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). Then wherever you go, you will be successful in all your endeavours. When you have complete faith in this statement, you become God.

True Happiness Comes from God

Embodiments of Love!

You may not relish it when I tell you again and again not to have attachment with the body. But that is the truth. I have not come here to earn your appreciation. I have come to teach you the truth. That is My duty, and your duty is to follow the truth.

A Sadhaka should keep in mind four types of purity: Bhu Shubhrata, Bhava Shubhrata, Deha Shubhrata and Atma

Shubhrata (purity of place, feelings, body and the inner being). What is meant by Bhu Shubhrata? You should keep all places and surroundings pure and clean with the faith that God is everywhere. More so, when you see God right in front of you in physical form, you should keep the place all the more clean. For example, you should keep the place wherever Swami is present absolutely clean and maintain perfect silence. You should be free from ego and attachment. This is what is meant by Bhu Shubhrata.

Next is Bhava Shubhrata. How should you observe this? God is all-pervasive, eternal and immeasurable. He is the embodiment of love, compassion and bliss. You should always focus on this truth and contemplate on Him. In whatever form you worship Him, He will manifest before you in that very form.

What is the meaning of Deha Shubhrata? You should serve everyone with the feeling that God is present in him. You should help him in every possible way understanding his needs with regard to food and shelter. This is Deha Shubhrata.

Then, what is Atma Shubhrata? *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Srutimalloke Sarvamavrutya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). Atma is everywhere. When you realise this truth, you experience real happiness. Whomsoever you serve and

continued on page 17...



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF WEST BENGAL YOUTH

MORE THAN 400 YOUTH, BOTH boys and girls, came on a three-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from West Bengal in the last week of August 2014. As part of this pilgrimage,



Bhajans by West Bengal youth (girls).

the Sai Organisation of West Bengal organised a devotional music programme “Prema Aradhana” (loving worship) which was presented by two alumni of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music on 28th August 2014. Beginning their presentation with a prayer to Lord Ganesh, the singers rendered a classical composition, a Mira Bhajan and a special composition in the metre and rhythm of “The Ramayana” of Tulsidas. This excellent music programme concluded with a couple of Bhajans by Sai Youth (girls) of West Bengal. Arati at 6.20 p.m. marked the conclusion of the programme.

GANESH CHATURTHI

The sacred festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with deep devotional fervour on 29th August 2014. The programme in the morning comprised Ganesh Stotras and devotional songs which were presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Beginning their presentation with a prayer song to Lord Ganesh, the students rendered the Stotras “Ganashtakam” and “Ganesh Pancharatnam” and sang devotional songs dedicated to Lord Ganesh. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The morning programme which began at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting came to a close with Arati at 9.40 a.m.

Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse

The first item of the programme in the evening was an illuminating talk by Sri Bishu Prusty, an Institute alumnus serving in Radio Sai Global Harmony. Dwelling on the significance of celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi, Sri Prusty observed that Ganesh was the embodiment of divine wisdom. Realisation of divine wisdom which was within every human being, he added, was the real purpose of celebrating this sacred festival.

This talk was followed by the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, in which He



exhorted one and all to master the mind because mind was the cause of both happiness and sorrow of man. All the sufferings of man would end when he focused his mind on God, said Bhagavan. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan “Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma”. Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam followed this. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.45 p.m.

Immersion Ceremony

Worship of Ganesh idols by various groups of students and Ashram staff started in their respective places on Ganesh Chaturthi day, 29th August 2014 and closed on 31st August 2014 when these idols were ceremoniously taken to Sai Kulwant Hall in grand processions. The idols in their beautifully decorated vehicles of various shapes and designs were led by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups and were methodically lined up in Sai Kulwant Hall by 4.30 p.m. on 31st August 2014 when regular Vedic chants in the hall began. Soon after this, all the groups of students and staff circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir while chanting Vedic Mantras and singing Bhajans. Thereafter, a group



A vibrant dance by Primary School students.

of Primary School students performed a very beautiful and vibrant dance. This was followed by another beautiful dance by the students of Higher Secondary School. Then, the Mandir priest offered Arati to all the Ganesh idols which signalled their departure from the hall for the sacred ceremony of immersion. Before proceeding for the immersion ceremony, various groups of students and staff brought their idols in front of Bhagavan's Samadhi and offered their salutations to Bhagavan. The grandeur of the entire spectacle of Ganesh idols in various colourful and artistically



The grand spectacle of Ganesh idols in Sai Kulwant Hall.

designed vehicles was to be seen to be believed. Among the most attractive of these were the designs of a huge watch, a beautiful peacock, a military tank and a grand chariot. As the idols were taken out of the hall, Bhajans started which concluded with Bhagavan singing "Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam". Arati at 6.00 p.m. marked the end of this grand ceremony.

ONAM FESTIVAL

To celebrate the sacred festival of Onam, a large number of devotees came from Kerala on a three-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 5th to 7th September 2014. On this sacred occasion, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala organised a variety of programmes which included illuminating talks, devotional music presentations, vibrant and colourful dances of children and Divine Discourse of Bhagavan. Besides presenting music and cultural programmes, the devotees of Kerala recited Vedic hymns and led Bhajans in Sai Kulwant Hall on all these three days, both in the morning and evening.

Talks and Music Concerts

The programme on 5th September 2014 comprising two talks and two devotional music concerts began at 5.00 p.m. with the talk of Sri K. Jayakumar, Vice Chancellor of Malayalam University. Dwelling on the significance of celebrating Onam, the distinguished speaker observed that Onam was the festival of self-sacrifice to seek the grace of God for the eradication of ego as

exemplified in the story of Mahabali. The second speaker was Sri Mohammed Ali, one of the 250 heart patients who had come to Prasanthi Nilayam as part of this pilgrimage. In fluent Malayalam, Sri Mohammed Ali narrated how he and other heart patients received much-needed help and loving care from the Kerala Sai Organisation after their heart surgery in Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals. Expressing his gratitude to Bhagavan, the speaker exhorted one and all to follow the path of love and selfless service shown by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Two noted singers, Sri Ramesh Sadasiva and Sri Muralidharan Unni, thereafter enthralled the devotees with devotional songs and Carnatic music compositions for nearly 45 minutes, suffusing the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam followed this. Meanwhile, the two singers were honoured with a shawl each and mementoes were presented to them. The musicians who provided instrumental support to them were also felicitated. Arati at 6.40 p.m. marked the conclusion of first day's Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

A Beautiful Dance Presentation

The programme on 6th September 2014 comprised talks by two speakers and a dance presentation by the students of Kerala. The first speaker was Justice P.B. Suresh Kumar of Kerala High Court. Narrating some incidents from his personal life, the distinguished speaker described



how Bhagavan Baba saved him in many difficult situations and took care of him as a mother takes care of her child. Onam, he said, signified a new beginning in life and adopting the path of truth, righteousness, love, peace and goodness. The second speaker was Sri Sathish Chandra from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru who travelled from Kasargod to Thiruvananthapuram on bicycle and met heart patients who had undergone heart surgeries in Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals at Puttaparthi and Whitefield. Recounting his experiences of meeting the patients being looked after by the Sai Organisation of Kerala, the speaker remarked that this service of poor patients not only brought cheer to the patients but also gave a sense of fulfilment to all doctors and Sai volunteers.



A spellbinding dance performance by Bal Vikas students of Alappuzha district of Kerala.

These talks were followed by a scintillating dance performance by the Bal Vikas students of Alappuzha district. Beginning their presentation with a dance to the tune of the Bhajan "Manasa Bhajare

Guru Charanam," the students kept the audience spellbound by their excellent performance for nearly 45 minutes. Beautiful costumes and make-up, graceful footwork, expressive gestures of the students, sweet music and well-rendered devotional songs made the dance presentation an extraordinary performance. At the conclusion of the dance, clothes were presented to the students. After a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam, the programme which began at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting came to a close with Arati at 6.45 p.m.

Onam Festival

On the Onam day, 7th September 2014, Sai Kulwant Hall bore a festive look with various types of decorations which included colourful parasols, beautiful cloth hangings, festoons and flowers. The programme on this day began with Veda chanting at 8.00 a.m. After 20 minutes of Veda chanting, percussion band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning played soulful musical notes. Thereafter, popular singer Sri T.S. Radhakrishnan and his son Shankar Vinayak enthralled the devotees with their soulful rendition of devotional songs. Beginning their presentation with "Jai Swami Jai Jai" (hail Swami hail), the duo sang melodious songs in Malayalam and brought their 40-minute excellent rendition to a close with the song "Jagadoddharana" (redeemer of the world). This was followed by Bhajans. Meanwhile, Sri Radhakrishnan was honoured with a shawl. The artistes who provided instrumental support were



also felicitated. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at 9.30 a.m.

The programme in the afternoon started at 5.00 p.m. with an introductory speech of Prof. E. Mukundan, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala. Offering hearty Onam greetings to devotees, Prof. Mukundan introduced the three students who had won gold medals in the essay writing competition held in Kerala in the year 2014 in which about 24,000 students participated. The three gold medal winners then made brief speeches. Elucidating on Bhagavan's immortal teachings, they expressed gratitude to Him since, they felt, it was Bhagavan's grace and inspiration which helped them win gold medals. Sri Chakravarthi, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, who gave away the medals to the three students, congratulated them on their brilliant success and prayed to Bhagavan for His grace on one and all on the auspicious occasion of Onam. An excellent devotional music presentation by Kanhangad Sri Ramachandran followed this. Beginning his presentation with a prayer song dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the singer enraptured the devotees with melodious rendition of four devotional songs and brought his concert to a close with the song "Hari Sankirtanam Papa Nashakam" (chanting of Divine Name destroys all sins), thus glorifying the significance of chanting the Lord's Name.

Bhagavan's nectarine Discourse marked the grand finale of Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Dwelling on the greatness of Emperor Mahabali who sacrificed everything for God, Bhagavan in His Discourse exhorted one and all to entertain only good thoughts, make truth the basis of life, lead a spiritual life and serve others. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram". As the Bhajans began, the singer Kanhangad Sri Ramachandran was honoured with a shawl and the artistes who provided instrumental support to him were felicitated. After distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme came to a close with Arati at 7.30 p.m., marking the happy conclusion of three-day Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

SAI SANNIDHI PROGRAMME

A group of over 200 former students of Bhagavan working in Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust and other institutions of Bhagavan and forming an alumni forum "Sai Sannidhi" organised a cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 14th September 2014 to offer their gratitude and homage to their Divine Master Bhagavan Baba who blessed them with the unique opportunity of working in the institutions set up by Him.

The programme started at 4.50 p.m. with an introductory speech of Sri Satyajit, National Coordinator, Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project. Expressing deep gratitude to Bhagavan, Sri Satyajit exhorted the students to constantly introspect and

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From our Archives

HOLD ON TO TRUTH

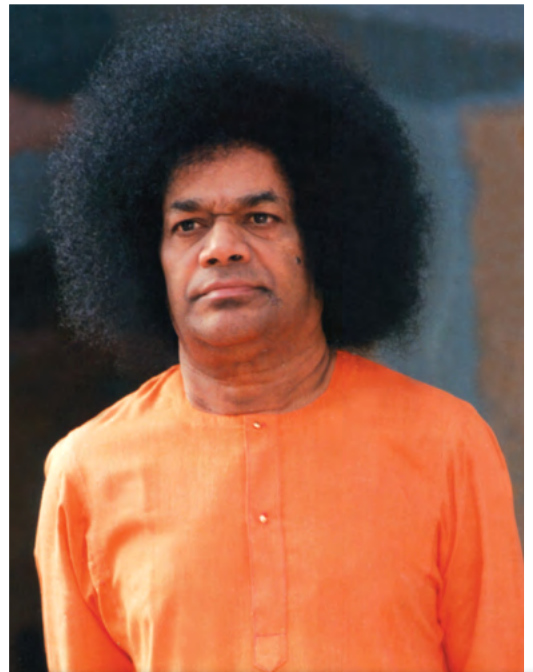
NONE CAN DIMINISH MY SPLENDOUR

Embodiments of Divine Atma!

IN THIS LAND OF BHARAT, along with the growth of spiritual organisations dedicated to the illumination of the hearts of men, certain activities that bring ridicule on these organisations are also afoot.

There is false publicity that is being indulged in by some. They claim that in some places I have entered into some people or 'possessed' them, and that I am answering questions and solving problems posed before such persons! Those who claim this and behave in this manner have something 'loose' in their brains; or, they are ill with hysteria; or, they are insane; or, they suffer from some mania, or else, they are clever crooks, who have discovered a way of cheating gullible folk and earning money by this means. I warn you not to entertain such people in our Organisation.

Again, in some States and regions, there are some crooks who move about announcing that I have authorised them (!) and given them some tasks to perform in those regions, because as they say, "My devotees have increased so fast and so much in numbers that I am not able to cope with the consequent work; so, I



*There is none who can stop
or diminish My splendour.*

*It has no bounds; it can
meet with no obstacle. You
may believe it or you may
not believe it, but I can
transform earth into sky and
sky into earth, and that too
in a moment.*



have authorised these fellows to foster and guard devotees in that area, on My behalf!" Never believe them, for, this has never happened; nor will it ever happen! This propaganda is but a mean ruse to turn devotees into the wrong path. Realise this and be warned.

Moreover, such pretenders gather around themselves persons of the same vile nature; for as the saying goes, the load gets the vehicle it deserves! Persons with mean desires and low intellects group around them and fall into ruin. So, you have to remove from the Organisation persons who attach themselves with such claims; you can do it as soon as you discover them associating with such men.

Certain evil forces are also afoot to attract devotees by such propaganda and later, when they have submitted to their tricks, turn them into wrong path and destroy their faith and devotion. Now that the necessity has arisen, this has to be stated. There is none who can stop or diminish My splendour. It has no bounds; it can meet with no obstacle. You may believe it or you may not believe it, but I

can transform earth into sky and sky into earth, and that too in a moment. But there is no need to do that.

There is a vast gulf between the Sai Force and these low forces. The Divine Force is Nidarshan (self-evidence) but the low forces indulge in Pradarshan (exhibition). The low forces seek to exhibit for some selfish gain, but, the Divine Force is its own evidence.

But, you may ask: They too give things out of their hands as You do. Nobody can put any restriction on them with regard to the things they give and the dress they wear. So, do not be misled by these artificial tricks. Truth is ever truth; false is ever false. Let people indulge in any type of propaganda and create confusion. But you should not get perturbed by it and lose your faith and devotion. With courage and conviction, hold on to truth and attain your goal. Then this Truth becomes your truth.

– **From the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan on the third and last day of the All India Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations: 22nd November 1970.**

...continued from page 10

make him happy, it amounts to serving God and making Him happy. You can derive true happiness only from God, not from anyone else. Father, mother, wife, children and all other worldly relations can give only momentary happiness. Only God can give you eternal bliss. You should take to the path of service to experience this bliss. There is no God greater than you when you follow this path in your daily life.

In fact, all of you are the embodiments of God. You should believe that you are God, manifest only divine qualities and conduct yourself with divine feelings.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin...")

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 2nd September 1996.**

My Experiences with Bhagavan Baba

Padma Menon

Bhagavan Baba is the Yuga Avatar, come to give solace and light to the world, to help us all to tread the holy path without neglecting our duties. He protects and sustains us through all our trials and troubles and showers peace and prosperity on those who surrender totally to Him. He is humanly divine and divinely human!

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO RECORD a few of my wonderful experiences with Bhagavan Baba to help the future generations to develop their devotion to Him and get immense joy. It all happened in the year 1967 in Bangalore (now Bengaluru) when my husband Sri K.S. Menon and I decided to go to Puttaparthi with our children along with a group of devotees. My eldest sister and her husband also accompanied us.

A Miraculous Cure

It was easy to get an interview, then. Swami sat on the floor, and all of us sat around Him. He chose to speak to our only son Krishna Kumar, first. He was only six years old then, suffering from asthma for a long time. I told Bhagavan everything, and He jokingly remarked that doctors would only frighten you with so many things and that there was nothing to worry. He

materialised a Laddu and gave it to my son, and this was distributed to everybody. With Bhagavan's blessings, Krishna Kumar recovered fully from asthma as he grew up and today he is the proprietor of Elvin Engineers in Coimbatore.

Swami's Unique Way of Teaching

During our interview, in the small room, Bhagavan stroked the left side of my husband's chest (mainly the heart region) and said he is a very good man with a lot of Bhakti, etc., etc., but a little unsteady! He sweetly told my husband, "If you want to know the sweetness of Payasam, you should drink it." This proved His omnipresence because my husband never accepted Bhagavan as God, and we used to argue over this always. We must examine, experience, and then reflect about Bhagavan, before we draw our conclusions.



By this time, I was charged with Bhakti, and was determined to have Bhagavan's Darshan, whenever He came to Whitefield. My husband used to object because of the strain involved. In spite of it, I used to go, and the all-knowing Lord chided me for it. The first time, he scolded me in Tamil in the presence of the other devotees, "You want to fight with your husband!" and during another visit, in Hindi, "Fight, fight... fights in the house!" This upset me terribly and I stopped going to Whitefield. One day, my husband most unexpectedly asked me the reason and I said that it was because he did not like my going to Whitefield. Immediately, he said that I could go with a friend, Smt. Parvathy Panickkar, who used to go regularly in her car. That day, Swami welcomed me with a smile, and said, "Oh! You have come! Good!" and gave me Padanamaskar also! This is the way He teaches you to obey and respect your husband and elders.

Swami Visits our House

I invited Him to our house after that, and I shall narrate briefly how it all went off. We went to pick Him up at Whitefield, but He arrived rather late as there were too many V.I.P.s waiting to see Him. In the meantime, our hall and verandah were full of devotees singing Bhajans, and when Swami came, He went straight to our Puja

Bhagavan has proved in various ways and forms that He is the Supreme Lord of the universe and we, in this Kali Yuga, should consider ourselves to be extremely lucky to enjoy all His Leelas and blessings and derive immense joy!



room, admired everything and lovingly produced a Rudraksha, gave it to my husband and asked him to pour water on it and drink the water daily to calm his nerves and to sleep well. I have kept it in my Puja room now, so as to give the holy water to everyone. Then He took a little Prasadam, drank a little water, went back to the hall and sang three Bhajans! After the Arati, we dropped Him back, and throughout the way, He talked about various matters in a philosophical way. He dropped His handkerchief in our Puja room which He allowed us to keep and I still have it, with the Paan (betel leaves) marks on it. I have not washed it, even though 46 years have passed. (Swami used to chew betel leaves in the early years!)

A Photo Session with Swami

On another occasion, a friend invited me to her house, as Swami was going there. She had arranged a photographer,



in addition to all the other arrangements. I had not arranged a photographer when He had come to my house and had lost the opportunity of a lifetime. The Lord knew how miserable I was about this. He came straight to me and said, "I am coming to your house now." I was shocked and asked Him, "But do You know the way?" Immediately, He raised His eyebrows and asked, "Are you the one showing all the routes in this world?"

We left immediately, and Bhagavan followed in another car, with Sri Appa, Chairman of the Electricity Board (we came to know this later). But the miracle was that the photographer in the friend's house had watched and heard everything and followed Swami's car! We were to receive a gift of a lifetime due to this.

There was no paraphernalia when Swami came as we never expected this. Only our children (four of them) were there to receive Him. You should have seen the way He played with my youngest daughter Indira. We sat in the drawing room, and I told Him about my husband, not allowing me to go for Bhajans to Whitefield, etc., and He immediately said, "Mahila Samaj! If three ladies join together, even the stars will fall down! Isn't that so?" He turned and asked my husband, who just nodded and smiled. Bhagavan continued to talk in Tamil, "This is your temple, and your husband is the Lord. If you make him happy, Swami is happy! You remain here itself! Swami is always here!"

As Swami was talking, He suddenly looked straight and said, "Wait, sir!" in

Tamil. When we looked up, we saw the photographer was adjusting his camera to take photos. This was unbelievable because it was a dream come true, to get a photograph with Swami! The photographer kept on clicking and we have now got some lovely photographs with Swami and our family alone! We selected a family photograph from the collection and took it to Him at Whitefield. Swami lovingly autographed it for posterity. How Bhagavan plans out everything for us and satisfies all our wishes!

Swami has Lunch in our House!

Another time, Swami came unannounced to our house and left without coming inside. We came to know about the incident only after a month! It was on my husband's birthday. A lot of Kerala dishes were prepared, and offered on a banana leaf to God (in the Puja room) before we ate. This was the usual practice. Unfortunately, we had to go out suddenly, and during that time, a white Fiat car drove in. When the gardener who was doing the weeding of the grass in our garden, saw the car, he said in Tamil, "There is no one in the house!"

A young man passing outside our gate saw Swami driving into our compound, and rushed to Smt. Lalitha Bose, who stayed nearby, and gave her the news. She came rushing in a taxi but there was no car and no one around! She went to Whitefield in the evening to find out whether Bhagavan had gone out that day and what time he had returned to Whitefield that afternoon. She



was told that Bhagavan had indeed gone out. He refused lunch after He returned and remarked that He had eaten a sumptuous lunch in “Menon’s house”! She noted this in her diary. We knew nothing about this, until one month later.

This is how it happened. I visited the house of Smt. Lalitha Bose for a Bhajan with my friend Smt. Parvathy Panickar, who introduced me as “Smt. Menon of Binnys” to Smt. Lalitha Bose. Immediately, she looked at me closely, and said, “You are very lucky to have given lunch to Swami!” I was shocked and asked her who told her this. She asked me my address. She said she would confirm it after coming to our place to verify if it was the same place she had come to in a taxi. Then she told us the whole story. She had noted the date in her diary, and that was how I knew the visit had occurred on my husband’s birthday! Later, the gardener confirmed that a white Fiat car had come on the day I had given him lunch as well, because it was my husband’s birthday. (He was given lunch on special days.)

Not satisfied with this, I decided to ask Swami during our weekly Mahila meetings. He immediately, said, “Yes, I came on your husband’s birthday! But nobody was there! Do you know, there was this man called Ramdas who was always meditating on Rama? The peons were waiting for Ramdas outside. Now, when Sri Rama Himself arrived, the peons were completely unaware of their good fortune. They thought that some Maharaja had

When I looked up, it was Ganesh. I saw (side view) that grey rough skin of the elephant, the trunk, the sacred white thread, a green shawl on the body and one lotus eye looking at me all the time. I was really shocked, wondering what all this meant, and slowly started looking from the trunk to his face. The moment my eyes looked into those small elephant eyes, they blinked and the head nodded!



come and gone!” I burst out crying when I heard this! What grace on my husband’s birthday! The only answer to this is that what I offered to Lord Ganesh in my Puja room, Bhagavan accepted it, and that is why He did not have lunch in Whitefield that day!

Darshan of Lord Ganesh

When our golden jubilee wedding anniversary was nearing, we went to Parthi and got His blessings. He smiled, took my letter, and said, “Romba Santosham” (very happy). This was in April 2003. The previous year, we went again for Onam. At that time, He gave me the Darshan of Lord Ganesh! This is how it happened. The auditorium was full with Keralites from several States, foreigners, patients, students, staff members and volunteers when I reached there at 7.30 a.m. I got a place in the last row, but by the edge. I had to raise myself on my knees to see Swami and the programmes. Suddenly, a carpet



was rolled down by my side, and I was told that He would go back that way! That made me very happy, because I would be able to see Him close, and I hoped His eyes would fall on me also!

After a long wait, when He started coming, people became restless and waited with folded hands. The chandelier lights blinked, and Swami stood facing the crowd, about five feet away from me! I knelt down, my head touched the ground, and my eyes were filled with tears. When I looked up, it was Ganesh. I saw (side view) that grey rough skin of the elephant, the trunk, the sacred white thread, a green shawl on the body and one lotus eye looking at me all the time. I was really shocked, wondering what all this meant, and slowly started looking from the trunk to his face. The moment my eyes looked into those small elephant eyes, they blinked and the head nodded! In no time, the vision changed to Swami again and He walked down the aisle. I did not tell this to anyone, because I knew no one would believe me. I wondered why this vision of Ganesh!

Slowly the truth dawned on me. This happened in the year 2002. We had by now settled down in Coimbatore and were staying in an apartment called 'Rainbow Manor'. This was very close to the Sai Mandir, where Bhajans were conducted regularly on Thursdays and Sundays, like the Chennai Sundaram Bhajans. The builder of the apartment had installed a Ganesh idol outside the compound wall, to ward off dangers due to the crossroads outside the apartment. The idol was neglected and many residents were going

through a lot of problems. I decided to fix a grill door, provide all the Puja vessels and items for Puja. The lamp was lit everyday, the dress changed every Friday and on Vinayaka Chaturthi day, a priest was called to perform the Puja, do the Abhishekam (ceremonial bath), etc. Bhagavan proved to us that what we performed to the roadside idol, He had accepted fully, as He was Lord Ganesh Himself! How beautifully He proved it!

Nature's Bypass for my Husband

The significance of rubbing my husband's heart 46 years ago is this. My husband started off with an ischemic heart condition in Chennai, and he was on medication for several years. When we came to Coimbatore in 1992, he developed heart pain, and we rushed him to Apollo Hospital in Chennai to get the bypass operation done. The angiogram revealed that he had three major blocks in the heart, but capillaries had already formed and blood was flowing! There was no need for an operation! This was called Nature's bypass. He is only on medication now, and no bypass surgery was done. He is 92 years now. That is Swami's grace!

In conclusion, Bhagavan has proved in various ways and forms that He is the Supreme Lord of the universe and we, in this Kali Yuga, should consider ourselves to be extremely lucky to enjoy all His Leelas and blessings and derive immense joy!

– The author, Smt. Padma Menon, is an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.



Students Corner

EDUCARE DEVELOPS INTEGRATED PERSONALITY



SWAMI SAYS, “THE END OF Education is Character.” Today’s education provides knowledge and skills to satisfy only the material needs of our lives. But alas! We find that moral and social values are disintegrating because skills and knowledge are being misused for vested interest. True education should impart practical knowledge which leads to nobility of character and selfless love culminating in the realisation of our innate divinity. Educare is that practical approach to education. Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas imparts educare that aims at blossoming of the child at physical, mental, emotional

and spiritual levels through five teaching tools of prayer, silent sitting, storytelling, group singing and group activities, thereby encouraging good character formation and good habits in the individual.

The deeper the root in human values, the greater is the potential to rise to glorious heights. Educare thus develops an integrated personality on the strong foundation of human values such as Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa.

Through Bal Vikas also comes the understanding that we are embodiments of the Divine Atma. This in turn leads to Lok Vikas, for when realisation dawns upon us that the Lord innate in us is also present in everyone around us, we rise above all differences of caste, colour, religion and creed. The whole universe thus becomes a Prasanthi Nilayam wherein human beings, animals, birds and all forms of creation breathe and radiate peace and love all around.

Truly, Bal Vikas is the road map where the source is Educare at the individual level and the destination becomes Lok Vikas of society at large.

– From the article of Lavanya Jayasankar in “Educare for Loka Vikas”.



Swami's Tips to Students

The period of a student's life is a crucial stage. All the three other stages are based upon one's life as a Vidyarthi (student). Whatever purity or sanctity you develop during your student days will determine the degree of purity in the other three stages. Life as a student is thus a foundation for the rest of one's life. Hence, a strong foundation must be laid for the ground floor. If the ground floor is weak and gives way, the whole edifice will collapse. Thus, the entire human existence should be sanctified by observing Brahmacharya. This implies that, by practising purity and recognising the omnipresent Divinity, one should regulate one's daily life by spreading purity and sacredness everywhere.

Valuable Maxims

Here are six valuable maxims given by Bhagavan. Remember these and search the following words in the given word maze:

Oblige, laziness, rust, luggage, comfort, early, safely, pupil, teacher, complains, explains, inspires, career.

1. You cannot always oblige but you can always speak obligingly.
2. Laziness is rust and dust, whereas realisation is best and rest.
3. Less luggage, more comfort makes travel a pleasure.
4. Start early, drive slowly, reach safely.
5. A bad pupil harms only himself but a bad teacher ruins the career of thousands.
6. A bad teacher complains, a good teacher explains, the best teacher inspires.

B	H	A	V	A	T	E	A	C	H	E	R
I	E	X	P	L	A	I	N	S	M	P	O
R	T	O	A	N	L	U	G	G	A	G	E
T	H	B	I	L	K	L	E	I	K	C	W
A	D	L	M	I	N	I	A	S	T	A	R
G	O	I	N	S	P	I	R	E	S	R	G
B	O	G	O	K	S	W	L	V	A	E	L
H	I	E	N	I	M	E	Y	D	I	E	A
T	C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	S	R	Z
A	T	I	R	U	S	T	O	N	S	U	I
P	L	A	N	C	O	M	P	S	A	I	N
G	S	A	F	E	L	Y	R	S	A	L	E
M	P	U	P	I	L	A	M	E	W	A	S
S	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	I	T	M	S

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evaluate whether they were following what Bhagavan taught and try to live up to Bhagavan's expectations. Let the spark of selfless love and self-sacrifice ignited by Bhagavan in our heart give light to all, added Sri Satyajit.

With their heart full of love and gratitude, the students then paid glowing tributes to Bhagavan. Beginning their programme with a song "Pyare Sai Hamare" (our dear Lord Sai), the former students of Bhagavan narrated how Bhagavan taught them Veda chanting, Bhajan singing and

drama presentation, paying attention to their minuscule details and bringing them to perfection. The students outlined how Bhagavan made Bhajan singing and Veda chanting global movements from a small beginning with a few students. Embellished with Hindi, Telugu and English songs dear to Bhagavan, the presentation enraptured the audience for nearly one hour. This was followed by Bhajans which concluded with Bhagavan singing "Love is My Form". After distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m.

Effulgence of Divine Glory

HE IS THE SUPREME TRUTH



ONCE A FEW DAYS BEFORE Sivarathri, Sri Karunyananda set out for Puttaparthi. Though he had five vehicles at his centre in Rajahmundry, he undertook the journey by bus along with his cook. After travelling a little distance beyond Chittoor, the bus broke down. All the passengers were asked to get down and wait. It took a very long time before the bus could be repaired and Sri Karunyananda was upset. Talking to some of the passengers, he lamented the fact that Sri Sathya Sai Baba should have thought of such a remote place for His stay, thus giving them all problems! Why could He have not chosen a more central place easily accessible to all?

Finally, the bus was repaired and they reached Prasanthi Nilayam via Bukkapatnam. Sri Karunyananda bathed, changed and went to see Swami, who was then with several scholars and others. The very first question that Swami asked him was, "Karunyananda! How many cars have you got?" Sri Karunyananda felt highly embarrassed at Sri Baba's question about insignificant worldly possessions. But since the others prompted him to answer, he said, "I have a car besides jeeps and vans."

Swami asked, "Then where was the need for you to travel by bus? Why do so and lecture to others about Swami staying in a remote place and also feel bad about it?" Sri Karunyananda was stunned: "Who could have told Him? ... No one! ... since I had not told anyone! This proved that sitting at Puttaparthi, Swami knew what had happened many miles away!"

In 1965, Sri Karunyananda had a "thrilling experience" which sent "shivers like electric current" passing through his body. He had accompanied Swami to Bombay (now Mumbai). At Dharmakshetra, Swami was upstairs and Sri Karunyananda was in a room downstairs. It was around eleven in the morning and many were going up to meet Swami. So, Sri Karunyananda bolted the door of his room from inside, and sat down near a small window-like opening, from where he could see the people go up the stairs and come down, after meeting Swami. Though he could see others he was hidden from their view, since he had nicely bolted the door. After a while, he experienced a tickling sensation all over his back. Startled, he turned back and was unable to believe his eyes! ... For, there stood Bhagavan Baba with a smile on His lips! "What is this play? Are You going back to Your Krishna Leela days?" asked Sri Karunyananda.



Swami said innocently, “What! I only came to call you for lunch!” Sri Karunyananda got up and went near the door. The bolt was there all right well secured! There was no one else inside who could have let Swami in! Unable to contain himself, Sri Karunyananda exclaimed, “Swami! How did You come in? ... I had bolted the only door to this room!” Swami asked, “If I want to come in, can that bolt be an obstruction?”

Sri Karunyananda's body shook at the tremendous revelation! As he trembled, Swami went near him and patted him. Instantly, he forgot all about the great revelation, became normal and went with Swami for lunch. “You see! Again His doing! ... Noticing that His physical appearance inside a room through a thick, well secured door, (through which even an ant could not have entered) had a nerve-shaking impact on me, He restored me to normalcy with just a pat!,” said Swami Karunyananda.

“That is Bhagavan Baba! ... His powers are so immense, His Will so potent! ... He is no ordinary mortal or superman. He



Swami Karunyananda with Bhagavan Baba.

is the Supreme Truth... But He will not reveal even a fraction of it! He covers up everything purposely with a veil of Maya,” explained Swami Karunyananda.

– Excerpted from “The Glory of Puttaparthi” by V. Balu.

Love of the Divine is the only pure, unsullied, unchanging, enduring love. It is free from the taint of selfishness and self-interest. This is the love that is glorified in Bharatiya culture. There should be no unfair comparison between different cultures. All of them are essentially one.

- Baba



Blind Imitation

ONCE THERE LIVED A SAGE IN an Ashram in a forest. The sage loved to observe religious practices and performed yajna daily. He had a pet cat. As it disturbed him in the performance



As the cat disturbed the performance of yajna, the sage put it under a basket.

of the yajna by moving here and there, the sage used to put it under a basket before starting the yajna. The son of the sage used to observe the practice of his father. After some time, the sage died. Thinking that he should follow the path adopted by his father, the sage's son also procured a



The sage's son blindly imitated his father.

cat and a basket. Everyday before starting the yajna, he used to drag the cat to the place of yajna and put a basket over it.

In fact, there is no connection between the performance of the yajna and putting the cat under a basket. The son did not ask his father why he put the cat under a basket while performing the yajna. He also did not apply his mind to understand the reason behind this practice observed by his father, and blindly followed what his father did. In this way, even today many people observe meaningless rituals. This is absolutely useless.

Develop Prema towards the Lord, the Parama Prema (highest love) of which He is the embodiment. Never give room to doubts and hesitations, nor questions to test the Lord's Prema.

- Baba

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

LAO PDR

SATHYA SAI VOLUNTEERS HAVE been serving food to blind children on the 23rd of every month for the past 12 years at a local school in Lao PDR that houses 43 children currently.



Helping blind children in Lao PDR.

On 19th July 2014, as a part of a new service initiative titled “United Hearts for Sai Children,” about 20 Sathya Sai youth and SSEHV students washed and cut the blind children’s hair and trimmed their nails. The volunteers further resolved to continue visiting the school three to four times a month. A database of the students at the blind school was created to maintain and monitor their health records, and to facilitate conducting health clinics and dental clinics on a regular basis.

NEW ZEALAND

Mangakino is a small town about 85 kilometres south-east of Hamilton, New

Zealand. Since 2013, Sathya Sai youth from Hamilton have been visiting the disadvantaged youth of Mangakino to support their needs. In May 2014, 12 people from two Auckland Sathya Sai Centres visited Mangakino and organised



Teaching human values to disadvantaged youth and supporting their needs.

activities based on the five human values. Fourteen youth from the Mangakino Royals youth programme participated with great enthusiasm. In the first session, the youth found clues and completed games and puzzles. In the second session, they used practical construction skills and participated in a competitive race. Afterwards, one of the Mangakino youth said, “We all learned to value and respect each other. It was a great opportunity to practise the theme, All Are One.”

GUATEMALA

On 14th and 15th June 2014, Sathya Sai devotees from Guatemala City organised a public conference in Antigua Guatemala,



for the first time. On the first day, 40 people viewed the video, “His Work,” and listened to talks by senior leaders of the Sathya Sai International Organisation in Latin America. Next day, about 30 people participated in a retreat that included a study circle, Light Meditation, devotional songs, and talks about the activities of Sathya Sai International Organisation. The participants showed interest in starting a new study circle in Antigua, and one of the attendees offered a vacant commercial store building for the study-circle meeting, which later began on 22nd June 2014 with 13 participants. The Spanish translation of a Discourse from Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 26, titled “La Conquista de la Mente,” was also distributed at this meeting.

AUSTRALIA

On 12th July 2014, about 900 people attended a play titled “Sai in the Forest, Sai in Society,” staged by the Sathya Sai Youth of New South Wales, Australia. The programme commenced with three Bhajans, followed by the drama, exploring the challenges of integrating spirituality into society. The play conveyed Swami’s universal message of constant integrated awareness, and the fact that the two entities – forest and society – do not stand as two separate ends. An upcoming National Youth Retreat in Australia was mentioned, and a five-minute video was presented about a national service project of the Sathya Sai School in Australia.

U. S. A.

On 3rd May 2014, more than 300 members of the Sathya Sai Centres in



Sai Spiritual Education children at the registration desk in New Jersey.

New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York came together to pay homage to Mother Easwaramma at the Robertsville Elementary School in Morganville, New Jersey. The theme for the event was “Revere Elders, Revere Sai,” and the programme included devotional singing by Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) children, a treasure hunt, a panel discussion, team building games and music programmes by children. Both SSE children and senior devotees participated in the panel discussion, which highlighted the importance of developing good habits at a young age, and of expressing gratitude and respecting parents.

INDONESIA

Guru Purnima was celebrated at the Sathya Sai Centre of Jakarta with devotional activities, Bhajans and cultural programmes presented by SSE students and members of the Young Adult Programme. More than 130 Sathya Sai devotees attended the morning session, and about 240 devotees participated in the evening celebrations.



A 12-hour Akhanda Bhajan session was held at the Tegehkuri Sai Centre, in Denpasar, Bali. Despite an electricity outage in the middle of the programme, more than 200 participants continued singing devotional songs with unabated enthusiasm.

EL SALVADOR

Sathya Sai devotees in El Salvador observed Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day by holding three meetings to discuss Swami's eternal and universal teachings. On the evening of 24th April 2014, Sathya Sai members from four Centres began the devotional meeting with prayers and Bhajans. Dr. Barillas, President, SSIO National Council of El Salvador, narrated the history of the SSIO in Central America, followed by videos and a Discourse by Bhagavan on the unity of all religions. On 26th and 27th April 2014, two devotional meetings were held, featuring activities for SSE children and a talk by Sri John Behner, Chairman, Zone 2A of the SSIO. Sri Behner encouraged devotees to share their spiritual experiences with others.

MIDDLE-EAST COUNTRIES

About 250 SSE children from the Serve And Inspire (SAI) group in Oman presented a three-hour cultural programme in celebration of Easwaramma Day on 2nd May 2014 at Sri Krishna Temple Hall in Muscat. Dressed in colourful costumes, the children presented plays and dances and recited verses from the Bhagavadgita, to the delight of about 600 guests.

In Dubai, Easwaramma Day programme was staged by EHV students on 10th May 2014 at the Indian High School auditorium in Dubai. About 940 Sathya Sai devotees attended the programme, which included a play interspersed with songs and dances by about 220 children.

The SSIO of Bahrain celebrated Easwaramma Day on 24th May 2014 with a programme by the SSE children titled "Nava Vidha Bhakti" (nine types of



Easwaramma Day in Bahrain.

devotion). Nine groups of SSE children presented nine forms of devotion through songs, dances, plays, dance drama and visual effects before more than 750 people. The Chief Guest was the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Guest of Honour was the Chairman of the Indian School of Bahrain, which is the largest school in Bahrain, with over 12,000 students.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

BHARAT

Gujarat: A three-day retreat was organised from 15th to 17th August 2014 at Navsari for office bearers and District Presidents of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat. The retreat programme was conducted



by Dr. Giri Shankar for improvement in personal, social, professional and spiritual fields. Dr. Giri started his session, saying this three-day retreat was just to see within ourselves. Your effectiveness as a person, he said, was directly proportional to the certainties that you generate in the face of uncertainties. The retreat was inaugurated by Dr. B.G. Pitre, Director, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Dharmakshetra.

Haryana and Chandigarh: A two-day State Conference was held on 30th and 31st May 2014 at Sri Sathya Sai Old Age Home and Seva Centre, Chandigarh. Two sessions of the conference were held on 30th May 2014 from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. and the third session was held on 31st May 2014 from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first session was devoted to Spiritual and Service Wing, the second to Bal Vikas and the last and third session to Sai Youth, both boys and girls. Sri Nimish Pandya, All India Vice President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Smt. Kamala Pandya and Dr. Neeta Khanna, both National Deputy Coordinators, Bal Vikas, guided the deliberations of the conference. The conference was based on Swami's teaching "My Life is My Message" and "Your Life is My Message". More than 500 devotees including Bal Vikas Gurus and Sai Youth attended the conference.

Punjab: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab conducted a two-day disaster management training camp in Sangrur along with the National Team of Sri Sathya Sai Disaster Management Authority on 16th and 17th August 2014. 65 Sai Youth

from different Samithis of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh along with State office bearers participated in this important camp. The trainees were given useful tips on how to act in the face of natural disasters, like flood, earthquake and landslide, road and train accidents and stampedes. Members of local administration also participated in the training and learned how to deal with disasters that may occur anywhere and



Disaster management training in Punjab.

at any time. Talking to the trainees, Sri Thyagarajan Sitaraman from Tamil Nadu said, "We have targeted a vast territory and large population. Disaster awareness, preparedness and mitigation are better than disaster response. Appropriate measures of preparedness and relief can significantly reduce their impact."

Rajasthan: A State-level Bal Vikas Guru Motivational Workshop was organised at Sri Sathya Sai P.G. College for Women, Jaipur on 14th-15th June 2014, in which over 125 Bal Vikas Gurus across the State came to take part. The resource person of the two-day workshop was Smt. Meera Dubey, a senior Bal Vikas Guru and trainer from Puttaparthi. Dwelling on the objectives and importance of Bal Vikas, Smt. Dubey urged



the participants to specially focus on the residential form of Bal Vikas as it provided the best atmosphere for the blossoming of values in Bal Vikas students. Smt. Dubey also gave valuable talks on story-telling, value games and methodology of parent contact programmes. Other speakers in the workshop were Smt. Sapna Srivastava, Ms. Garima Joshi, Sri R.K. Srivastava and Smt. Kirti Mishra who spoke on the topics "Education in Human Values", "Prayer and Group Singing", "Silent Sitting" and "Role of e-media and Technology" respectively.

Sikkim: The 1st Convocation of the Bal Vikas alumni of the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Sikkim was held on 18th April 2014 at Sri Sathya Sai Dharma Nilayam, Balwakhani, Gangtok. The programme was attended by all State office bearers, District Presidents, Gurus from almost all the Bal Vikas Centres and



Convocation of Bal Vikas alumni in Sikkim.

Bal Vikas alumni of all the four districts. The programme started with the lighting of sacred lamp by the Chief Guest, Dr. Robin Sharma, a Sai University alumnus followed by Veda chanting, Prasanthi flag hoisting, benediction procession. This was followed by the inaugural address of the State President, Benediction Pledge, talks on Educare by the alumni, Address of the Chief Guest and certificate distribution.

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Experience: Preferably with minimum one / two years of experience in the Department of OBGYN / General Surgery.

Non Medical: Department of Dietary – Post of Dietary Technician

Qualification: B.Sc. (Home Science / Food and Nutrition)

Desirable experience in the line / preferably in a large teaching hospital.

– Medical Superintendent

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Ganesh idols in Sai Kulwant Hall.



A dance performance as part of Onam celebrations.



A music concert on Onam morning.

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Develop Love

Scriptures are endless; Sadhanas are countless; opportunities are few; time is already overstocked. But you can easily win the battle of life, in spite of these handicaps, provided you arm yourself with love, which is the essential teaching of all scriptures, the goal of all varieties of Sadhana, the best use to which all opportunities can be put and the most profitable way of utilising the precious capital time.

– *Baba*



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