

WORK UNITEDLY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGES

Embodiments of Love!

FROM PRABHAVA TO AKSHAYA, there are 60 years in Telugu almanac. The other names of these years are *Vibhava, Sukla, Pramodutha, Prajotpatthi, Angirasa, Srimukha, Bhava, Yuva, Dhathu, Easwara, Bahudhanya, Pramadhi, Vikrama, etc ...* This cycle culminates in the 60th year named Akshaya. This body was born in the year Akshaya, and it has seen another Akshaya year after the passage of 60 years. This cycle will repeat itself again with the passage of 120 years.

Cherish Noble Desires

The present year which is named Sarvajit is very significant for man to realise his divinity. Man has innumerable desires. The year Sarvajit is significant for the fulfilment of his noble desires and advancement in all fields – moral, physical, religious, scientific and spiritual. He will lack nothing if he cherishes noble desires. Everybody is sure to be victorious in life if he has noble desires. Man should therefore develop noble desires and he should hold on to these with firmness. Sarvajit is the year of victory for all noble endeavours of man. In all the 60 years, this is the most significant year. Its very name indicates victory in all fields of human endeavour; ‘jit’ means victory and ‘sarvajit’ means all-round victory. So, if you want to attain growth and progress in life, you should develop only noble desires.

There is none who cherished noble desires yet suffered in life. Therefore, fill your heart with noble desires and experience happiness and bliss in this Sarvajit year.

It was Parvati who gave the name Sarvajit to this year. Parvati performed intense penance for many years without food and sleep to attain Lord Easwara. Pleased with her penance Easwara manifested before her and asked, “What are you performing this penance for?” “I am performing this penance to attain you,”

From today onwards, you should all embark on the mission to bring about transformation in villages. It does not mean that the villages are to be changed into towns and cities. This is not what is desired. First and foremost, the villages are to be kept clean. The towns and cities are thoroughly polluted. Outwardly, people may appear to be very clean, wearing a beautiful pant, shirt and neck-tie. But thoughts and feelings inside them are all dirty. When you put on a clean white dress, you should maintain purity and sacredness of your thoughts and feelings also in the same way.



*He has matted locks and
wears a tiger skin;
He rides a bull and
is constantly on the move;
He is adorned with snakes;
How did you court him?
Don't you know all this?
He has no house of his own
and sleeps in the cremation
ground. (Telugu Poem)*

“Why do you desire to attain the one who is old and begs from door to door?” they questioned her. Parvati said to them, “You see only his body; you do not try to recognise the principle of the Self within him. I desire to attain this divine principle of the Self which is not subject to any change.” Parvati then followed Easwara and led a happy life with him. The Ugadi (New Year) day on which Parvati attained her noble desire after achieving victory over all difficulties was thus named Sarvajit.

Thus, it was Parvati who gave the name Sarvajit to this year. After Sarvajit come the years named *Sarvadhari*, *Virodhi* and *Vikruthi*. *Vikruthi* stands for all types of bad things. After this come the years by name *Nala*, *Pingala*, *Kalayukthi*, *Siddharthi*, *Roudri*, *Durmukhi*, *Dundubhi*, *Rudhirodgari*, *Raktakshi*, *Krodhana*. One can attain Akshaya after crossing all these. God always incarnates in the year Akshaya only. This body was also born in the Akshaya year at Brahmanuhurta (early morning) time. When we understand the inner

Efforts should be made to develop the villages in all possible ways. We are launching this scheme from today itself on the auspicious day of Ugadi. The elders and children, the poor and rich should all work unitedly to make this project successful. This Seva should unite one and all. The spirit of unity should be developed, and both the villages and towns should become united. We are starting this work from this very day. This scheme would become a reality very soon. It is envisaged that by next Ugadi all the villages would be covered under this scheme.

replied Parvati. Then Easwara said, “Your wish has fructified. You have attained me.”

Before her wish fructified, many gods and goddesses tried to dissuade Parvati from pursuing her noble desire to attain Easwara. This was the purport of their counsel:

*Oh! Gowri! You are very young and
Sambasiva is old;*



meaning of all matters, then we will become aware of what is good and what is bad.

Supply of Water to the People of Chennai

Parvati is also responsible for providing water to the entire world. She was granted this boon by Easwara. The Ganga is embodiment of Parvati. That is why it is worshipped as Ganga Devi. Some years ago, I went to Madras (Chennai) by car. There is a place called Red Hills near Chennai where there is a huge reservoir for storing water. The entire supply of water to Chennai is made from this reservoir. But there was no water in the reservoir itself at that time. Then what supply could be made from there? Some devotees told Me that there was no water in it for the last ten years. Here and there, we saw children drinking rain water which got collected in puddles. This was very polluted water. We were told that people were using this water for drinking as well as cooking. The devotees asked Me, "Swami, when will this reservoir have water?" For accomplishing anything, proper combination of Kala, Karma, Karana and Kartavya (time, action, cause and duty) is necessary. I keep these in view while undertaking any task. Then I said, "I will not step into Chennai hereafter for ten years. I will come here only when the whole of Chennai has pure water for drinking for all its residents. Since then, ten years have passed. The other day, I went there. There was plenty of water everywhere; it was enough not only for drinking but also for growing crops.

The Britishers resided in Madras (Chennai) for nearly 200 years. At that time, there were no roads or cars. They went to many places and climbed hills on horseback to search for water. But the water problem could not be solved even up to the time they left

this country. Rich people requisitioned tankers and drank potable water. But what about the poor people? Their condition was miserable as they had no money to buy water from tankers. One day, I got down at Teynampet in Chennai city. All people gathered around Me and prayed, "Swami! We have no water for drinking." Small children also came running as there was holiday in the primary school that day. Everybody came to Me and prayed, "Swami! We need water for drinking." I told them, "You will surely get water for drinking. I will bring the water from the river Krishna for you." Now I have fulfilled My promise and I have given Krishna water to them. The Britishers promised that they would link the rivers Krishna, Godavari and Ganga. But they did not do anything. The water of Godavari is drained out in the sea without being made much use of. Only Krishna water could be harnessed. Even now, there is plenty of water in this river. Several new barrages have been constructed on the river Krishna, and its water is now being supplied for drinking as well as for raising crops. Now the people of Chennai happily drink pure water. We have incurred an expenditure of two hundred crore rupees for supplying drinking water to the people of Chennai.

The other day, when I went to Teynampet again, the people of this area happily informed Me, "Swami! Now we drink cool, sweet water. How can we express gratitude to You? There are no words which can express our gratitude to You." I told them, "Drink this water and be happy. That is enough for Me. I do not need anything else." God can do anything. But due to their ignorance, some people do not recognise Divinity. Such foolish people need to be taught a good lesson. There are many wealthy people with a lot of money. But they do



not give even a paise to a beggar. Then what can anybody expect from them? So, I told the devotees of Teynampet, "You need not ask anything from anyone. God, who is the creator of the universe, can give you everything. You only pray to Him." The people prayed wholeheartedly and their prayers have been granted. Arrangements have now been made to supply water to every house and even every hut through water pipes. All have now sweet water to drink. My heart itself is full of sweet nectar! My happiness lies in the happiness of all. *Loka Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the people of the world be happy!). Consider the happiness of others as your happiness. This is the inner meaning of this prayer. All of you should pray in this manner.

Sri Sathya Sai Water Project for East and West Godavari

Afterwards, we started the water project of East and West Godavari districts. The District President of West Godavari, Bhaskar Rao is present here. This was a very difficult project. It was very difficult to raise up the water flowing at a lower level. I told those engaged in this project, "You do your work; I will take care of the result." I had sent Ramakrishna, former Vice President of Larsen and Toubro and Kondal Rao, former Chief Engineer of Andhra Pradesh to manage the work of this project. Afterwards when they saw, they were surprised and exclaimed, "How did water come up! How did water come up!" This is not a subject which can be described in words; it is seeing and believing.

The lifestyle of the people living in this hilly region is not like that of others. They do not come down to lowlands because of fear. They become fear-stricken to see

All should take part in this village development scheme unitedly. If all become united, then the entire world would become one in no time. We should take part in this task with firm determination. Never go to anybody for collection of funds. I Myself will give you everything. Whatever you need just ask Me; I will provide. The service done to anyone reaches Me only as all the rivers ultimately merge in the ocean. Have no fear. Ask Me anything you need without any hesitation. I shall give everything. Both men and women should get ready to participate in this task.

other people. They complained to Me, "Swami! We live right above Godavari, but we do not get even a drop of water of this river to drink." Water has now been supplied to the residents of upland areas through pipes, and they are immensely happy to drink this water. In this way, water has been provided to many villages for the satisfaction of the people residing in them. The people of these areas, mostly women, came to Prasanthi Nilayam the other day. After seeing Prasanthi Nilayam and the devotees residing here, they said, "People who are residing at this holy land are very fortunate. But we are also very fortunate that we have somehow been able to come in the proximity of Swami." Composing songs to express gratitude to Swami in their own languages, they sang and danced happily. The import of their songs was like this: "This is the water given by Swami; not even a drop of it is to be wasted. This water sustains our life."



They rendered these songs into appropriate Ragas (musical modes) and sang in chorus along with performing dance. They were very happy as their water problem had been solved permanently. They fill the water in big vessels and carry it on Kavadis (bamboos with pots on both ends). It gives one great happiness to see this joyous scene. The people of cities and towns have so much to learn from these people who lead their life contentedly and experience bliss. Yesterday, Ramakrishna and Kondal Rao came and requested Me, "Swami, please visit the villages of East and West Godavari. People of these villages are praying earnestly for Swami's visit." I told them that I would go there. Soon I will go to Rajahmundry. But it is not possible to reach these villages by car from Rajahmundry; one has to go on foot. Earlier, the villagers pleaded, "We will not cause any strain to Swami's body. We will take Swami there without making Him walk. If necessary, we will carry Swami on our shoulders." The villagers are giving expression to their joy in this manner.

Bhagavan Launches a New Village Development Scheme

On this sacred day of Ugadi, we are launching a new scheme for village uplift. Every house in every village should be made clean. Suitable programmes should be undertaken to keep the houses neat and clean both from inside and outside. The children in the villages have also to be groomed into clean and healthy individuals. I want that this Seva should be performed by going from village to village. This, of course, will involve an expenditure of crores of rupees. But we do not bother about money. Money comes and goes, but the help rendered to others remains for ever. Therefore, efforts should be made to develop the

villages in all possible ways. We are launching this scheme from today itself on the auspicious day of Ugadi. The elders and children, the poor and rich should all work unitedly to make this project successful. This Seva should unite one and all. The spirit of unity should be developed, and both the villages and towns should become united. We are starting this work from this very day. This scheme would become a reality very soon. It is envisaged that by next Ugadi all the villages would be covered under this scheme. All should join this Seva work including the students, considering this as service to God. *Service to man is service to God.*

Today we limit ourselves at individual level. But we should develop the spirit of unity and make the entire country united. In the meeting recently held at Chennai, a large number of Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Governors of different States of India, a number of I.A.S. officers and a mammoth gathering of people took part. In keeping with the spirit of unity seen at Chennai, all should take part in this village development scheme unitedly. If all become united, then the entire world would become one in no time. We should take part in this task with firm determination. Never go to anybody for collection of funds. I Myself will give you everything. Whatever you need just ask Me; I will provide. The service done to anyone reaches Me only as all the rivers ultimately merge in the ocean. Have no fear. Ask Me anything you need without any hesitation. I shall give everything. Both men and women should get ready to participate in this task.

The Whole of India should Become Clean, Beautiful and United

The other day, a group of devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam from Mumbai. They are all very rich. They proposed, "We





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want to erect a Stupa in the sea near Mumbai. It will be hundreds of feet high and will bear the words 'Sai Ram'. We will come to Prasanthi Nilayam for Swami's Darshan after completing the project." It will be illuminated at night so as to be visible from a long distance. It will involve an expenditure of crores of rupees. No doubt, the devotees of Mumbai are doing a lot of work. Everything they are doing is good, but the city of Mumbai is very dirty. First and foremost, make the city pollution free. Earlier also, efforts have been made in this regard by some people, but without any success. The reason is that at the time of high tide the sea is at a higher level and some areas of the city at a lower level. As you all

know, water flows towards lower level. Unless the drainage water is pumped out, the city cannot become clean. The people of Mumbai can certainly do it. So, I firmly told them, "You do this work; I will surely come." When they all join hands, they can perform any task. Moreover, they have patience and perseverance required for it. I wish that the entire country of Bharat becomes clean and beautiful and all its people live in peace and bliss. Swami's happiness lies in the happiness of all. My happiness is not separate from that of yours. If you all are happy, then I am also happy. Your happiness is My happiness. So, whatever work you undertake, you should do it for the peace and happiness of all.

More than anything else, man requires water. Water is the sustainer of life. You may live without food for a few days, but you cannot live without water. Hereafter, there will be plentiful rains. No one will be put to hardship. In fact, I have come to save the world from all calamities. I will surely provide you happiness by correcting your faults and forgiving your mistakes. You should all live in unity and love. We consider Prana, Apana, Vyana, Udana and Samana as Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths). But true Pancha Pranas of man are Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Where there is truth, righteousness will come there on its own. Peace is attained by following



the path of righteousness. From peace comes love. Truth and love go together. A person having these two will have everything. Very soon, the whole world will be united. Students should make suitable efforts for world unity. Young boys and girls have strong limbs. They are endowed with great physical, mental and spiritual powers. They should make proper use of all their powers. Do not misuse your senses. Only then can you become capable of doing great service to the world. It is not enough if you simply go to a temple and do some whitewashing to its walls. Every house should be made clean. Then only one can visit such houses.

Visit to the House of a Harijan

In earlier days in Puttaparthi, the houses of Harijans were separate from the village. I used to visit their houses also. A person by name Nagappa lived there. His son-in-law Ramulu was educated up to 3rd Form (8th Class). He knew somewhat about Swami. One day, he invited Me to have food in his house. When I told this to Subbamma, she tried to dissuade Me, saying, "What Swami! Will You go to the house of a Harijan? Please do not go." I insisted on going. I also told her to come along with Me. Subbamma belonged to the orthodox Brahmin community. Nevertheless, she decided to follow Me, saying, "I will do anything for the sake of Swami." I was walking ahead and she was following Me. Ramulu was leading the way. By the time we reached the house of Nagappa, the entire area was filled with sweet fragrance. I asked the inmates of the house, "From where did you bring this fragrance?" Ramulu replied, "Swami! We did not bring it from anywhere. It is emanating from You only." I stepped into the house. Subbamma happily followed Me. She

was then 62 years old. They served Me some rice in an aluminium plate. In fact, that is what they had. Stainless steel plates were not in vogue then. Subbamma was served food in another aluminium plate. Subbamma used to have a feeling of superiority as high caste Brahmin in the beginning. Later on, she changed her attitude on the advice of Swami. She thought, "Fie on me! I should not entertain such differences of high and low." She happily ate food in their house along with Swami.

When we returned to the village, the people of the village joined together and started saying derisively, "Subbamma has become a Mala (Harijan). No one in the village should touch her." Subbamma responded by saying, "That is exactly what I desire. Let no one touch me. It is enough if Swami alone touches me. I have no children. I have no daughters to give in marriage to other families nor do I need bring their children into my house. It is enough if Swami is with me." She used to cook food for all devotees. Fortune favoured her for this act of generosity and her fields yielded rich harvest. She would have two to three crops in a year. Such big yields of rice could not be stored in the house. Hence, the bags of paddy used to be emptied into a specially built granary from above. Thus, Subbamma sanctified her life in the service of Swami. One day, I asked her, "Subbamma! What do you want?" She replied, "Swami! I have no worldly desires. It would be enough if You pour some water into my mouth from Your Divine Hands before I leave my mortal coil." I promised her that I would fulfil her wish.

Redemption of Subbamma

Once I was returning from Chennai by car. Subbamma had died on the previous day. Her relatives were making arrangements



to bring her dead body from her house to the cremation ground in Bukkapatnam. As soon as they saw Me, they came running towards Me and said, "Subbamma died yesterday." I told them, "It is only your illusion. Subbamma did not die. She won't leave her mortal coil without seeing Me." So saying, I reversed My car and drove towards her house. Subbamma's mother was still alive then. She was grief-stricken and lamented, "Swami! She was remembering You all the while and was chanting 'Sairam', 'Sairam', till last night. She kept enquiring, "Has Swami come? Has Swami come?" The body of Subbamma was covered with a cloth. I removed the cloth and called her, "Subbamma! Subbamma!" To everyone's surprise, she opened her eyes. When God gives a word, He will not forget it under any circumstances. I told her, "You wanted Me to pour water into your mouth with My hands. Isn't it? Here it is; have it." So saying, I put a basil leaf in a tumbler of water and poured some water into her mouth. She then drank the water, held My both hands tightly, put them reverentially on her eyes and said, "Swami! I have been waiting to take leave of You. Now permit me to leave." I gave her permission and she merged in Me. I have built a housing colony in her memory and named it after her.

Subbamma was a great soul. She used to go up on the terrace of her house every now and then and converse with Easwamma through the window. She used to tell her, "Easwamma! You gave birth to Swami and I fostered Him. Hence you are Devaki and I am Yashoda." Easwamma used to reply, "Subbamma! You served hundreds of Swami's devotees by giving food and shelter to them in your house. Won't you deserve the fruit of that Seva? Surely you will." Before

Subbamma left her mortal coil, she came to Easwamma and pleaded with her, "I am leaving. Look after Sathya well." Both of them shed tears. The next day, Subbamma died.

Keep your Thoughts and Feelings Pure

The name of Subbamma's husband was Narayana Rao. He always used to sit near the Tulasi Brindavan (basil plant) in front of his house. When he took to bad ways, I composed some songs and trained a few children to sing those songs in front of his house in order to correct him. The children used to move in a group in front of his house, singing those songs, one of which runs as follows:

Don't seek the company of women of bad character;

Surely you will suffer a fall.

You will become an outcaste in your own community;

Your relatives will not entertain you and will drive you out;

Your friends will beat you with their slippers if they see you!

(Telugu Song)

When the children moved about in a group singing this song, he felt very much embarrassed. He called them inside and enquired, "Who has taught you this song?" The children replied, "Raju has taught us, Sir!" He thought, "Yes, it is true. Who else can know about my habits except Raju?" From then on, he gave up his evil ways and bad habits. He also distributed mangoes to all the children, cartloads of which used to be brought into his house those days.

Wrist watches had just arrived in those days. If anyone in the village wore a wrist watch, he was considered to be a great

Continued on page 144 ...



JOYOUS UGADI CELEBRATIONS

ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION of Ugadi, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba launched a new scheme for the all-round development of the villages of India and expressed His resolve to bring about unity in the nation through selfless service. Bhagavan made these profound declarations in His Ugadi Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the morning of 20th March 2007.

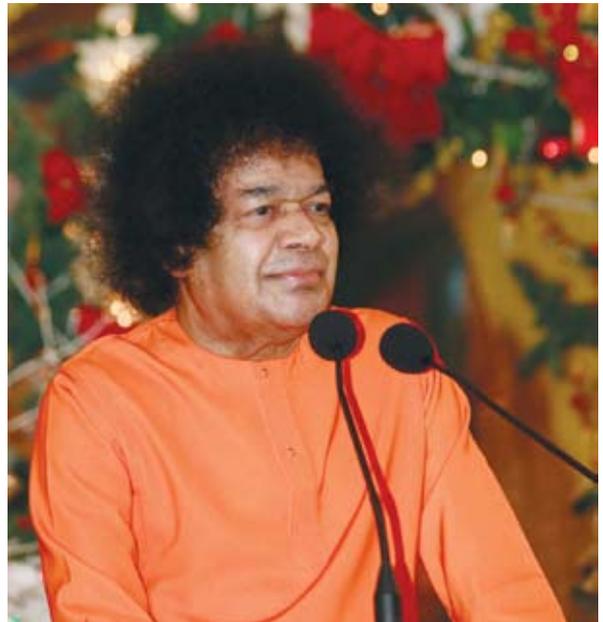
Nadaswaram music and Vedic chants welcomed Bhagavan to beautifully bedecked Sai Kulwant Hall when He came to bless the devotees with His Divine Darshan on the auspicious day of Ugadi at 8.40 a.m. on 20th March 2007. Soon after Bhagavan occupied His seat on the dais, the Ugadi programme commenced with the recitation of thrilling Telugu poems by Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University. Dwelling on the exalted theme of the relationship between God and His devotee, the poems touched the heart of the listeners with the beauty and subtlety of expression as well as with their fine lyrical quality.

Bhagavan's Ugadi Discourse

Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, addressed the gathering. Giving his impressions of his recent visit to East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Venkataraman narrated how the people of this area were expressing their deep gratitude to Bhagavan for providing drinking water to them. Referring to the divine

inspiration and energy provided to the youth by Bhagavan, Dr. Venkataraman observed that the problems of India and the world could be solved by channelising the youth power. This is what Bhagavan is doing, said the learned speaker.

In His Divine Discourse that followed the talk of Dr. Venkataraman, Bhagavan made many profound declarations, expressing His resolve to start major movements for rural uplift



Bhagavan giving His Divine Message in Sai Kulwant Hall on the auspicious occasion of Ugadi on 20th March 2007.

and unity of the country and the world. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) At the conclusion of His Discourse, Bhagavan blessed the students and their teacher who organised the programme of Burra Katha on the life of Mother



Easwaramma on 18th March 2007. Bhagavan also distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.15 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. Bhagavan also offered a sumptuous feast to all the devotees in the South Indian Canteen on this auspicious occasion.

Providing Means of Livelihood to Needy People

The holy festival of Ugadi assumed added sacredness and auspiciousness at Prasanthi Nilayam when on the afternoon of 20th March 2007, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba distributed sewing machines, wet grinders, agricultural implements, presses for ironing clothes, push carts, looms for making Saris, etc., to provide means of livelihood to nearly 140 needy men and women selected from all parts of Anantapur district. Besides, eight bicycles were also distributed to deserving students and needy persons who had to come to town for study or employment trudging a



Some of the items which were distributed by Bhagavan to needy persons for their self-employment on the auspicious day of Ugadi on 20th March 2007.



One of the beneficiaries with the push cart that was offered to him by Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall on 20th March 2007.

long distance from their villages on foot. The programme was organised by the Anantapur district of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh. The programme started at 4.15 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University, announced the names of the beneficiaries



Bal Vikas children of Anantapur district enthralled the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with their excellent devotional songs on the occasion of Ugadi.

who came before the dais one by one, offered their salutations to Bhagavan and received the items offered to them for their self-reliance with gratitude.

This was followed by a thrilling programme of devotional songs by ladies and gents singers and Bal Vikas students of Anantapur district. The melody of the songs and their feelingful rendering by the Bal Vikas children had a captivating effect on the audience who expressed their joy by many a loud applause. In

the end, Bhagavan blessed the gathering with His Divine Discourse in which He expressed His appreciation of this music programme and the service activities undertaken by the Anantapur devotees to better the lot of underprivileged sections of society. He exhorted the devotees to consider all as brothers and sisters since all were the children of God. The programme came to a close at 6.25 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

... Continued from page 141

person. Not only that, gents in those days used to keep a small moustache under their nose, as a fashion. I composed a song on these fashions and taught it to the village children.

People hang silver medallions from a leather strap on their left wrists – and call it fashion!

Grotesque appearances are made that cannot be seen by the eyes – and they call it fashion!

Long moustaches are cut to tiny patches under the nose – and they call it fashion!

(Telugu Song)

In this manner, I used to compose songs and make the children sing those songs in the village so that people might give up their craze for fashions and cultivate noble thoughts. Thus, I brought about transformation in one and all, right from children to elders by such methods.

From today onwards, you should all embark on the mission to bring about transformation in villages. It does not mean that the villages are to be changed into towns and cities. This is not what is desired. First and foremost,

the villages are to be kept clean. The towns and cities are thoroughly polluted. Outwardly, people may appear to be very clean, wearing a beautiful pant, shirt and neck-tie. But thoughts and feelings inside them are all dirty. When you put on a clean white dress, you should maintain purity and sacredness of your thoughts and feelings also in the same way. First transform yourself and then work for the transformation of the world.

Yesterday, three boys presented the life story of Easwamma in Burra Katha. They rendered it very well. Their description about Subbamma was also very good. All that made Me very happy. No one has written this story in such a manner.

(Swami called Sri Krishna Bhaskar who wrote the script and the three boys who rendered the Burra Katha to the dais and blessed them. He also distributed clothes to them and posed for group photos with them).

– From Bhagavan's Ugadi Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the morning of 20th March 2007.

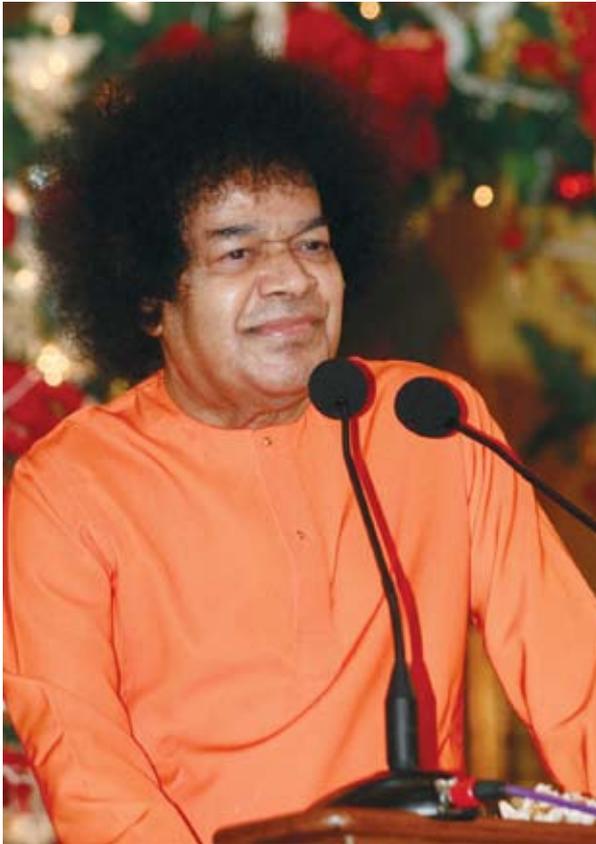


DO NOT FORGET THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN BIRTH

YOU MAY BE ANXIOUS AS TO WHY I am a little late in coming here. But I do not remain in My house without any work. There were some devotees

Even eating of food and drinking of water are not for My sake. I am giving Discourse after sipping a little water only to wet My tongue. Even a new car cannot be run without petrol! Isn't it so?

Educare is the Process of Manifesting our



You should combine modern education with ancient wisdom. If you do that, you will get the happiness you aspire for. When you attain this happiness, your life will be redeemed.

Acquire secular education for happiness in this world, and seek Brahma Vidya (knowledge of Brahman) for happiness in the other world. You have come to acquire the knowledge of Brahman, not merely secular education. Along with secular education, acquire spiritual education also. Consider both of them equally important and lead your life accordingly. Only then will your life become meaningful.

waiting for Me there, and I had to gratify their longing for My Darshan. Each and every task that I perform is for the sake of devotees only. There is no task which can be termed as Mine. I have not incarnated to spend time in eating and drinking.

Innate Qualities

The ways of the world today are becoming more and more peculiar. Pollution has entered all fields of human life – physical, religious, worldly, moral and even spiritual. One is apt to laugh on the one

hand and feel sad on the other, seeing the strange ways of the world.

Humanness is most sacred. There is no greater power than that of humanness. Man should develop humanness by pursuing both education and educare. Education signifies the knowledge gained through the study of books written by others. But educare is not like that. It comes from the heart. It is man's latent power which should be made manifest through Sadhana. What is to be made manifest? Human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are to be manifested, not the evil qualities that we hide within us.

The first human value is Sathya. Where has Sathya come from? Who taught and wrote about Sathya? None. Sathya lies in the harmony between thought, word and deed. Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones). This is the truth which great and noble souls have been teaching. Sathya comes from one's own heart. The second human quality is Dharma. Who created Dharma? What is Dharma and what is Adharma? Deep enquiry makes it clear that there is none who has created Dharma. Sathyannasti Paro Dharma (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). Dharma comes from Sathya. The third is Santhi. Ask any millionaire, "Sir, you have everything in life. Do you have peace?" Pat comes the reply from him, "I have everything but no peace." Who can give you Santhi? It is not something one can pass on to another. It comes only from one's heart. In the world today, wherever you see, you find only 'pieces', not 'peace'. The fourth value is Prema. Where has Prema come from? Has your father, mother or any friend given it to you? Has somebody given it to you as gift? No, nothing of the sort. Love manifests from within you. It is your life-breath. The world cannot exist without love. The fifth

Selfishness is very cunning; it troubles a man in many subtle ways. Therefore, man should never allow selfishness to come near him. Selfishness cannot even touch a man who is suffused with love. Therefore, you should develop love. This only is your God. If you have love, non-violence will come to you on its own. Where there is love, even the shadow of violence will not be seen there. In this way, when man attains Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa, he will follow the right path, and his intellect will be illumined.

human quality is Ahimsa. Buddha taught, Ahimsa Paramo Dharma (Non-violence is the supreme Dharma). But today wherever you see in the world, you find only violence. Like all other human values, Ahimsa also comes from one's heart only.

Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are not separate from each other; they flow from one another. These five human values are the sacred gift of God to man. Man should try to make these manifest and put them into practice. That is educare.

What is the foremost quality a man should possess? His foremost quality should be to speak only truth. Speaking untruth or talking in an irresponsible manner is not humanness. Since the tongue has no bone, you twist it the way you want. Then how can that be called truth? In fact, truth should dance on your tongue. Before speaking something, you must enquire whether it is truth or not. Truth is one, not two. If there is duality, it cannot be truth. We should speak only the truth which emerges from our heart. The



entire world is an aspect of truth. Truth is the basis of everything in this world.

Control your Thoughts

The Pancha Bhutas (five elements) are the natural phenomena of creation. In fact, everything in Nature is in its natural form. Similarly, the five human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are naturally present in the heart of every human being. Man should manifest them and lead a natural life. They should naturally flow from the 'source'; they cannot be manifested by 'force'. Truth is pure and unsullied. Love is selfless. Man should lead a pure and selfless life. Truth and love will then flow from our heart in a natural way. Love does not expect anything in return; nor does it reject anything. Selfishness is very cunning; it troubles a man in many subtle ways. Therefore, man should never allow selfishness to come near him. Selfishness cannot even touch a man who is suffused with love. Therefore, you should develop love. This only is your God. If you have love, non-violence will come to you on its own. Where there is love, even the shadow of violence will not be seen there. In this way, when man attains Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa, he will follow the right path, and his intellect will be illumined.

The bats hang from the branches of trees with their heads downward and feet upward. They are the creatures of darkness and lead their life in darkness. Has anybody hung their heads downward out of malice? None has done this. They are destined to lead their life in this manner as ordained by God. In the same way, man cannot escape from the consequences of his actions.

Everyone has to face the consequences of his Karma (actions). Who has made the bats to hang from the branches of trees with their heads downward? Has anyone tied them upside down out of hatred? No, it is their fate. Likewise, nobody can escape from the consequences of Karma.

(Telugu Poem)

However, some changes may occur during the course of experiencing the results of one's actions. Sometimes, the results of one's actions may appear to be rather strange. Karmas make a man dance to their tune in many ways. Birth and death make him happy and sad respectively. Aren't both birth and death the result of one's Karma? Aren't they mysterious divine phenomena? One should develop faith that everything happens as per the Will of God. However, when people have happiness, they consider it as the blessing of God. But when they have sorrows and difficulties, they blame others for them. One should consider everything – happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, troubles and difficulties as the blessings of God. They come and go like passing clouds.

Dear Students!

The clouds moving in the sky sometimes cover the sun. It is not possible to drive them away. They will go in the same way as they have come. Likewise, the clouds of thoughts move about in the sky of the heart, and cover the moon of mind and the sun of intellect. Chandrama Manaso Jatah (moon is born out of the mind of the Supreme Being). Mind is of the nature of the moon; intellect is a reflection of the sun. At certain periods of time, the clouds of our thoughts become very thick. Particularly, it happens during the stage of youth. These dark clouds are saturated with the water of desires. When such dark clouds appear, then the sun and the moon disappear from our view. It is at the stage of youth that we get too many thoughts which enmesh us in numerous difficulties. When you are totally overpowered by these thoughts, you forget even your humanness. Therefore, you should get rid of these clouds of thoughts. Where did these clouds come from? These are caused by our Sankalpas and Vikalpas (intentions and agitations). The moment the clouds move away, the sun



becomes resplendently visible to us. In the same way, when the dark clouds of Sankalpas and Vikalpas are cleared from the sky of our heart, the truth will shine in it brilliantly. Therefore, first and foremost you should control your thoughts. Then both your mind and intellect will shine brilliantly.

Seek the Company of Noble Souls

Human mind is a bundle of thoughts. When you exercise control over your thoughts, then your mind will become clear. Narendra (Swami Vivekananda) tried hard to control his thoughts. His heart became pure when he was able to control his thoughts. "I am so very proud of my birth as a Bharatiya. How much pure and sacred is the country of Bharat!" These feelings came to him on their own. To whichever country he went, he proudly told the people of that country, "I have come from the sacred land of Bharat." He made them aware of the greatness of Bharat. When you think of the sacredness of Bharat, you get imbued with the feeling of its greatness. Therefore, we should reflect upon the greatness of our country. Today the students do not read the stories of such great men as Swami Vivekananda and Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa. They read vulgar novels, considering them as great literature. You should keep away from such cheap types of books.

God is the indweller of all beings. He is everywhere. Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma (one Atma dwells in all beings). You may



The Pancha Bhutas (five elements) are the natural phenomena of creation. In fact, everything in Nature is in its natural form. Similarly, the five human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are naturally present in the heart of every human being. Man should manifest them and lead a natural life. They should naturally flow from the 'source'; they cannot be manifested by 'force'. Truth is pure and unsullied. Love is selfless. Man should lead a pure and selfless life. Truth and love will then flow from our heart in a natural way.

perhaps say, "If the same Atma is present in all, then why should I not have friendship with such and such person?" If his feelings, conduct and thoughts are not proper, you should not have friendship with him. If you associate yourself with him, you will also become like him. Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are. Therefore, you should have the company of good people. It is with reference to this that Adi Sankara said:

Satsangatwe Nissangatwam,



Nissangatwe Nirmohatwam,
Nirmohatwe Nischalatattwam,
Nischalatattwe Jivanmukti.

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Good company leads to detachment; detachment makes one free from delusion; freedom from delusion leads to steadiness of mind; steadiness of mind confers liberation.)

Always seek the company of noble souls. Attain purity of speech. See good, do good, think good. Then you will become good only. Do not read cheap and vulgar literature. Reading of bad books amounts to associating with bad company. Today I do not wish to speak to you about spirituality and divinity. My only wish is that you should adopt the path of truth in the affairs of your day-to-day life. Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are present in you like your Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths). Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy) come from outside. Keeping these evil qualities out, manifest your innate human values.

Faith is Necessary to Cultivate Human Values

What do we do to bring out water from a well? We tie a rope to a vessel and put the vessel in the well. When we pull the rope up, the vessel full of water also comes up with the rope. Likewise, human values are like pure water in the well of your heart. Acquire the rope of faith to bring out the water of human values from the well of your heart. But today people in this world have become virtually blind, having lost both their eyes of faith. We should not become blind. Our humanness will change into effulgent divinity when we strengthen our faith. All can give speeches. Mere listening to speeches cannot give you satisfaction. You just listen to them and forget. Put into practice what you listen. First and foremost, cultivate faith conscientiously. With the help of the strong rope of faith, you can bring out the water of the human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and

Ahimsa. That is what is called educare. Educare signifies manifesting our innate qualities. But educare cannot be acquired from outside; it cannot be bought from the market. No teacher can impart educare to you. You yourself have to develop it. Only then can you have self-realisation. To attain self-realisation, first of all you need to cultivate self-confidence. And to cultivate self-confidence, you should cultivate sacred qualities.

Embodiments of Love!

Secular education can help you to attain greater intellectual acumen, but true happiness can be attained only by educare. In fact, educare is the foundation of man's life. Bookish knowledge is of little importance. Even if you attain a great name as a highly educated person after acquiring the degrees of B.A., M.A., etc., consider educare most important. Howsoever high education you may acquire, it is of no use. You may acquire high degrees, but bereft of educare it cannot be considered real education. Whom does your education benefit? The aim of all your education is just to fill your belly! There are many highly educated persons in the world. What is it that they are doing? Are they promoting non-violence or protecting righteousness or contributing towards peace in any manner, or at least have they themselves attained peace? No. They do not vouchsafe their love for their children even. First, you yourself should develop love. Then you should share it with all. Only then can you experience the taste of love. You are the repositories of so many powers. You are endowed with Pancha Bhutas (five elements), Panchendriyas (five senses) and Pancha Koshas (five life-sheaths). But due to misuse of these, you are becoming weak. What can you achieve if you make yourself weak in this manner? On the path of spirituality, steadfastness is very necessary.

Having resolved, what ought to be resolved,
hold on to it till you have succeeded.

Having desired, what ought to be

desired, hold on to it till your desire is fulfilled. Having asked what ought to be asked, do not leave the hold till you get it. Having thought what ought to be thought, hold on to it till you have succeeded. With heart mellowed, the Lord must yield to your wishes or forgetting yourself, you should ask Him with all your heart. Persevere, be tenacious, and never give up, for it is the quality of a devotee never to retreat, abandoning his resolve.

(Telugu Poem)

Acquire the Knowledge of Brahman

You should have a firm resolve to get good marks in your studies. But do not be satisfied with earning good marks only. You should see to it that you do not get any bad remarks. Only then can you realise the true value of education. In a similar way, you should perform well in the test administered to you by God.

Dear Students!

I am teaching you many things day in and day out. But you are not reflecting on them even a little. You have forgotten the purpose for which you have come here. First of all, try to understand that. You have come for one thing, and are pursuing something else. You will not attain anything by conducting yourself like this. You want to eat Idli and Sambar (vegetarian dishes) but you go to a non-vegetarian hotel! You have come to make your heart pure and sacred. But you are doing everything which makes your heart unsacred. What is the reason? The reason is mental pollution. Do not allow your mind or thoughts to be polluted even a little.

These are the teachings of our elders. You belong to modern age. You should combine modern education with ancient wisdom. If you do that, you will get the happiness you aspire for. When you attain this happiness, your life

will be redeemed. Acquire secular education for happiness in this world, and seek Brahma Vidya (knowledge of Brahman) for happiness in the other world. You have come to acquire the knowledge of Brahman, not merely secular education. Along with secular education, acquire spiritual education also. Consider both of them equally important and lead your life

Continued on page 154 ...



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Cultural Programme by the Children of Orphanages

TAKING INSPIRATION FROM SRI Sathya Sai Deenajanodharana Pathakam, a project started by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for destitute children, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Andhra Pradesh has set up orphanages in many of its districts. How well these children are being looked after was witnessed when 93 of them from nine districts of Andhra Pradesh presented an excellent music, dance and cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam on 3rd March 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

The programme began after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.30 p.m. The first item of the programme was Veda chanting. A group of boys in ochre dress came to the dais and chanted Vedic Mantras in perfect rhythm and intonation to the delight of all. The next item of the programme was a magnificent display of band music. The band group made many formations and produced a delightful medley of tunes winning the heart of one and all by their grand display. Thereafter, one small boy made a fluent speech expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for bringing hope and joy in the life of so many orphan children. Bhagavan blessed the child, materialised Vibhuti for him and lovingly applied it on his forehead at the end of his speech. The next item of the programme was a dance by nine boys to the tune of a melodious Telugu devotional song, popularly known as Chekka Bhajan. Rhythmic movement of the children to the tune of exhilarating music earned them the appreciation of the entire



Chekka Bhajan being performed in Sai Kulwant Hall by the children of the orphanages set up by the Sai Organisation of Andhra Pradesh.

audience who expressed their joy by applauding their performance.

The last item of the programme was a musical dance drama entitled “Jagruthi” (awakening). The drama depicted the story of a young promising dancer whose rich father wanted to send him on a tour of America to accumulate money. But he was brought back on the path of love and service by his friend who was helped and educated in an orphanage set up by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Supported by episodes from the lives of saints



The musical dance drama “Jagruthi” enacted in Sai Kulwant Hall on 3rd March 2007 gave the message of selfless service, sacrifice and devotion to the youth of the country.

like Pothana, Mirabai and Dokka Seethamma, the story helped in creating love for motherland in young minds and showed them the path of devotion, selfless service and sacrifice as taught by Bhagavan. Excellent direction, appropriate acting of the children and thrilling songs and dances made the drama an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan blessed the children at the end of the drama, posed for photographs with them and distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands. He also materialised a ring for the boy who played the role of the rich man's son and another ring for one of the organisers. This excellent programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.50 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

Holi - the Festival of Love and Joy

The sacred festival of Holi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 4th March 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The programme, comprising Holi songs and dances by children and a drama entitled "Mana Darpan", was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand.

On the morning of 4th March 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.55 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University. As soon as Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the programme started with a song and dance in praise of Lord Ganesh. The programme entitled "Ekoham Bahusyam" (One willed to become many) depicted the life and teachings of Bhagavan rendered through thrilling Holi songs and dances including a Qawali by the children of Bihar and Jharkhand, enthralling one and all for nearly one hour. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.00 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

An excellent drama entitled "Mana Darpan" was presented on the afternoon of 4th March 2007. The drama depicted with aplomb



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand presented thrilling Holi songs and dances depicting the life and teachings of Bhagavan on 4th March 2007.

how mind could be harnessed to attain happiness in life by exercising control over senses, limiting desires, performing selfless service and developing love for God. Helped by sweet thematic songs and appropriate episodes from the Puranas (mythological texts), the presentation made a lasting impact on the viewers and brought alive the teachings of Bhagavan who is the embodiment of love and selfless service. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and also materialised a gold ring for the boy who played the role of mind



The drama "Mana Darpan" enacted by the children of Bihar and Jharkhand in Sai Kulwant Hall excellently depicted how human mind worked and how it could be controlled.

in the drama. Holi celebrations came to a happy conclusion with this excellent presentation. The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

Life Story of Mother Easwaramma in



Burra Katha

The students of Sri Sathya Sai University presented the life story of Mother Easwaramma in Burra Katha, the famous folk art form of Andhra Pradesh, on the afternoon of 18th March 2007 in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The programme started with an invocatory song in praise of Lord Ganesh. What followed this was a captivating presentation of the glorious life of Mother Easwaramma through lively dialogues and thrilling songs highlighting her exemplary qualities of ideal motherhood and concern for the welfare of others. The programme which started at 3.45 p.m. came to a close at 4.40 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire programme and blessed the students who narrated this story.



The life story of Mother Easwaramma came alive when three students of Sri Sathya Sai University presented it in Burra Katha in Sai Kulwant Hall on 18th March 2007.

Bhagavan expressed His appreciation of this presentation in His Ugadi Discourse also on the morning of 20th March 2007.

Sri Rama Navami Celebrations

On the sacred occasion of Sri Rama Navami, the birthday of Lord Rama, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessed the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with a nectarine Discourse, revealing many subtle and profound truths about Rama's life. He observed that the land of Bharat was sacred because the Divine Name of Rama was vibrant in

every village, house and even a hut of Bharat. That is why, Bhagavan said, God incarnates in the land of Bharat.

The programme of Sri Rama Navami began at 4.15 p.m. on the afternoon of 27th March 2007 in Sai Kulwant Hall after Bhagavan's blissful Darshan in the Hall. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, two eminent speakers addressed the gathering. Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, was the first speaker. Dr. Venkataraman narrated a few incidents from the life of Lord Rama to show how His entire life was a shining ideal of Dharma in practice. The learned speaker exhorted the devotees to follow the ideals set by Rama and attain total purity of heart which was the only way to merge with God.

The second speaker, Sri S.V. Giri, also a former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, quoted the dialogue between Valmiki and Sage Narada from the Ramayana and recounted the rare qualities possessed by Rama. Referring to the declaration made by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in His Ugadi Discourse regarding the launching of a scheme for the all-round development of the villages of India, Sri Giri observed that Bhagavan's all endeavours for the welfare of mankind were the steps towards the establishment of Rama Rajya. In conclusion, Sri Giri observed that Bhagavan was giving the rare opportunity to the devotees, especially the youth, to become a part of His Divine Mission as Rama had provided it to the monkeys. After the talks of these two learned speakers, Bhagavan called one of the students to speak. The student narrated how when he was a Primary School student, Bhagavan visited the Primary School and all the students surrounded Him. Bhagavan, he said, then made a very profound statement, saying that they were all Vanaras (monkeys) when He incarnated as Rama, and pointing to one boy, Bhagavan declared that he was Sugriva. Bhagavan blessed the student at the end of his speech and also



created a gold chain for him.

After this, Bhagavan gave a wonderful description of the story of the Ramayana in His Divine Discourse to the delight of the entire gathering. Bhagavan said that the land of Bharat was sacred because the Divine Name of Rama was being recited in the entire length and breadth of Bharat. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “Rama Kodanda Rama ...” which the devotees followed after Him in chorus with deep devotion. After a brief session of Bhajans, the function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m.

Daivam Manusha Rupena: A Drama

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented this drama depicting the life and Leelas (divine play) of Shirdi Sai Baba in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 29th March 2007. The drama not only presented some well-known miraculous cures and transformations of people brought about by Him through relevant episodes from His life, but also showed how He spent all His life for the welfare of others. The realistic story was adorned with sweet and melodious songs and a beautiful concluding dance. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance from 4.30 p.m. to 5.20 p.m. and blessed the students at the end of the drama. He also posed for group photos with them.



A scene from the drama “Daivam Manusha Rupena” presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School on 29th March 2007.

... Continued from page 150

accordingly. Only then will your life become meaningful.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with Bhajans “Govinda Krishna Jai,

Gopala Krishna Jai ...” and “Vaheguru Vaheguru Vaheguruji Bolo ...”)

– From Bhagavan’s Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 29th September 2006.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

U. S. A.

A FREE VETERINARY CLINIC WAS held in Carlsbad, California near San Diego on 9th December 2006. At the camp, 88 dogs and 35 cats were seen by veterinarians. Veterinary exams were



A free veterinary clinic was organised by the Sathya Sai Organisation in Carlsbad, California, in which 88 dogs and 35 cats were examined by veterinarians and provided loving treatment on 9th December 2006.

conducted along with vaccinations, flea and parasite control, blood analysis and grooming. In addition, pet owner education was provided in pet nutrition, disease prevention, early intervention with flea and parasite infestation, proper grooming and dealing with pet's behavioural problems from a base of love and compassion. All these services were offered to the public completely free of charge by the Sathya Sai Organisation. For follow-up care, the pets were referred to local low-cost clinics and charities. The event, which took place at a local Christian Church,

began with a brief talk by Dr. Sam Sandweiss. Dr. Sandweiss focused on Swami's teachings of "Love All, Serve All" and exhorted all to treat the patients, pets and each other with love and compassion. All pets received food and pet toys and the owners received fruit juice and snacks free of charge.

During the same time as the veterinary camp on 9th December 2006, a medical camp was held at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad. A team of 32 doctors, 8 dentists, 27 nurses, psychologists, dietitians and physical therapists provided free consultations in paediatrics, family practice, internal medicine, cardiology, endocrinology, dermatology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics and dentistry. 157 patients were seen by primary care doctors, 193 patients received dental screening and 316 laboratory tests were performed, all free of charge. In addition to this, 282 persons were screened for diabetes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, breast cancer and cervical cancer. Dr. Poniachik, an Internist on the staff at North County Health Services, kindly volunteered at our camp and made this observation: "After having been involved in numerous charitable medical activities, the (Sathya Sai) Carlsbad Free Medical Health Screening was the most well-organised community clinic I have ever participated in. Most importantly, all the patients were extremely happy with the care they received."

CANADA

The Scarborough Sathya Sai School in Toronto was one of 37 elementary schools to receive the top grade in an annual





The Sathya Sai School in Toronto, Canada was one of 37 schools to receive top grade by an independent educational organisation for its academic excellence balanced with character education and civic responsibility.

report card released by the Fraser Institute on 11th February 2007. This grade was awarded to the school for its academic excellence balanced with character education and civic responsibility. The ranking was done by the Fraser Institute, an independent think-tank research and educational organisation, which reviewed 2,812 schools. The Scarborough newspaper "The Mirror" reported, "The Sathya Sai recipe for outstanding achievement included academic excellence balanced with character, yoga exercises, meditation and civic responsibilities."

From 27th October 2006 to 29th October 2006, Sri Jonathan Roof, president of the Sathya Sai Central Council of the U.S.A., visited the Sai Centres in Calgary, Saskatoon and Edmonton. During his visit to these Centres, he talked about Swami's message of love, selfless service and his personal transformation. The talks were interspersed with several songs on human values written by him, and he played these on an acoustic guitar. He held a workshop on how to see the

eternal Atma and not to be deluded by the impermanent body/mind/personality complex. He also elaborated on Study Circle techniques that would increase spiritual awareness. Later, he talked to the SSE students about unity and the importance of respecting elders. His visit was very well received by all devotees from Canada.

INDONESIA

The province of Aceh in Indonesia has witnessed several natural disasters that have shocked the world and, at the same time, brought the world together in an unprecedented



The Sathya Sai Organisation organised relief operations and distributed food to flood ravaged households in the province of Aceh, Indonesia.

bond of compassion and solidarity. This New Year brought unrelenting rain, floods and devastation displacing over 87,000 inhabitants and killing 23. The flooding caused widespread damage to crops, plantations, cattle, poultry, fish ponds, roads and bridges. Over 1,600 houses were completely destroyed and more than 15,000 houses were damaged. The Sathya Sai Organisation sprung into action to provide immediate relief. Evacuation camps were set up for the displaced and rescue operations were mobilised immediately. On 14th January 2007, service was rendered



to Bukit Tempurung village in a sub-district of Aceh Tamiang where food was distributed to 1,065 households. It took 14 volunteers about four hours to drive each way to deliver the rations including food, medications, sanitation facilities and potable water.

VENEZUELA

In the mountain city of Abejales, Venezuela, the Sathya Sai School was founded in 2002 and named as “Model Rural School” in 2004 by the



The Sathya Sai School in Abejales, Venezuela declared as “Model Rural School” by Ministry of Education in 2004 provides socially-needed curriculum based on human values.

Ministry of Education. In a recent article on 19th February 2007, the newspaper “The Nation Daily” wrote about the Sathya Sai School. The newspaper hailed it as a unique school with a socially-needed curriculum based on human values. At present, 148 children are enrolled from kindergarten to grade 5. Next year an expansion to grade 6 is planned. The school is staffed by 10 teachers who are all trained in Education in Human Values. The newspaper reports praised the educational programmes of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation all over the world, especially in South America where there are Sathya Sai schools in Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Mexico,

Guatemala, Colombia and Brazil. The article described the importance of inculcating human values in the lives of people and incorporating them into school curriculum.

MALAYSIA

The Sathya Sai School of Malaysia is located adjacent to an orphanage run by the Pure Life Society of Malaysia on a piece of land which is leased to the school. The children from the orphanage are given free education not only on academic subjects but also on human values at the Sathya Sai School. This year, for the second consecutive time,



The Sathya Sai School of Malaysia which provides free education integrated with human values. The school scored higher than national average for the second consecutive year.

students of the Sathya Sai School scored well above national average in the Upper Primary School Examinations. This is especially notable because 30% of the candidates for the examination came from the orphanage. As a result of their interaction at Sathya Sai School, the children of the orphanage have gained much confidence in setting higher goals while the school children have all grown in their ability to love and share with less fortunate children.



ROMANIA

The Sathya Sai Centre of Bucharest, Romania organised public programmes from 6th to 8th October 2006 which began with a public meeting at the 130-year-old world renowned State Jewish Theatre. With Swami's grace, exactly 108 people attended the event. At the meeting, Dr. Thorbjorn Meyer, Director of the ESSE Institute, spoke about the five human values and their importance in an individual's life. This was followed by screening of the film 'His Work'. The next speaker was Petra von Kalinovski who described Bhagavan's humanitarian projects. She concluded by saying that individual transformation formed the foundation of global transformation. During the day's events, Romanian translations of Bhagavan's "Gita Vahini" and Dr. Hislop's book "My Baba and I" were introduced to the public. On 7th and 8th October, Dr. and



The Sathya Sai Centre of Bucharest, Romania organised public programmes in Bucharest from 6th to 8th December 2006, which included a public meeting and a seminar on "Spirituality in Day-to-day Life."

Smt. Meyer held a seminar on "Spirituality in Day-to-day Life", describing their personal experiences with Sri Sathya

Sai Baba and how to practise His teachings. The interactive session included a question and answer session. In addition to the initial 108 people, another 150 people participated in the programmes on the second and third day. During the same weekend, a course on Education in Human Values for teachers was held in Bucharest, which was attended by 20 teachers and parents. The speakers for this course were Petra von Kalinovski from Germany, Vassiliki Stefanidis and George Bebedelis from Greece.

ITALY

The city of Carrara located on the Mediterranean Sea in Italy has a beautiful Sai Centre. About 15 Sai Youth volunteers from various parts of



Sai devotees spent time with twenty elderly residents of Regina Elena home in the city of Carrara, Italy and shared their love with them.

Italy along with the Carrara Sai Group visited the Regina Elena home for the disabled and elderly on 22nd and 23rd July 2006. The group took the twenty elderly residents to a mountain cabin for recreational activities. The volunteers had prepared a day full of events including games, music and supper in the evening. Some of the guests sang in the karaoke while others danced. A



sumptuous vegetarian meal was prepared and served to all. The Sai Youth Group had wrapped presents for all and distributed them to the residents who were filled with joy and appreciation for the loving time they were able to spend with the group. Prior to this visit also, a group of Sai devotees from various cities of Emilia Romagna visited the Regina Elena home and lovingly served the residents.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam district conducted a medical camp in Polla village on 11th February 2007, in Khajipeta on 18th February 2007 and in Peddaganagallapeta on 22nd February 2007, treating a total of 700 patients. In Polla, 300 kg rice was also distributed to the deserving poor. This district came to the rescue of 50 fire victim families of Savaraddapanasa village by giving to each family 10 kg rice and other provisions sufficient for one month, 3 cooking utensils along with new and old clothes to wear. The district gave 40 blankets to the inmates of Saranya Anadha Ashram, 29 Amrutha Kalasams (food provisions) to selected poor and started Nitya Narayana Seva (daily meals) for 28 selected poor people.

Ranga Reddy district conducted a free medical camp treating 336 patients, organised Bal Vikas classes for 93 children and carried out sanitation work as part of slum area improvement programme at Janda Nagar Wadder Basti on 4th February 2007. It also conducted medical camps, treating 607 patients in Yavapeta and Aadalpur villages on 11th February 2007 and 25th February 2007 respectively.

Prakasam district started Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna programme at

Markapur town on 4th February 2007, under which 27 boys and 13 girls coming from nearby villages to high schools in the town will be served midday meals. These students were also provided with school uniforms. The district distributed 40 blankets to leprosy patients on 30th January 2007. It also gave towels and food packets to about 100 leprosy patients at Kambam on 6th February 2007.

A newly-built service centre, Sri Sathya Sai Samaj Seva Sadan, was started at Karampudi (Guntur district) on 1st February 2007. In the Narayana Seva done on this occasion, meals were offered to nearly 1,500 people. The district carried out Narayana Seva for 1,000 people in Tathavaripalem village and for 500 people in Duggirala on 21st January 2007.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: The role of human values in shaping today's education system was discussed in a seminar on "Education in Human Values" organised under the aegis of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Assam, Manipur and N.E. States at Cotton College auditorium, Guwahati on 28th January 2007. In his keynote address, the State President of the Sai Organisation elaborated upon the theme of the seminar, viz., imparting ethical and spiritual content to the education of children. Referring to the integral system of education being implemented in Sri Sathya Sai University, he said that it integrated the five basic values of truth, righteous conduct, peace, love and non-violence with studies.

Speaking on this occasion, former Chief Secretary of the State, Sri H.N. Das put forth his analysis of role of education in different ancient civilisations. "The quintessence of education was found in the Mesopotamian and Harappan civilisations, and the ancient Indian classics like the Bhagavadgita, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata were



also based on educative values”, the learned speaker said.

The speakers at the seminar covered several aspects of education and human values. Apart from the theme issue, they also dwelt upon varied topics like the role of the teacher and the role of the mother in value-based education. The seminar concluded with an overview on values presented by the Trust Convener of the Sai Organisation.

Haryana and Chandigarh: A five-day winter course in Indian Culture and Spirituality was conducted at Chandigarh wherein 75 rural youth from villages of various districts of the State participated. A two-day Rural Bal Vikas Gurus Training Camp was also conducted, wherein 25 new Bal Vikas Gurus from various villages undertook the Bal Vikas training.

Multifaceted medical camps were conducted in various adopted villages, viz., Maloya (Chandigarh district), Nada and Maginand (Panchkula district), Rampur, Baleka-Nagla (Ambala district), Amin (Kurukshetra district), Hisar, Mohasatpur (Faridabad district). About 3,000 patients were treated and given free medicines in these camps. Four veterinary camps were conducted in Hisar, wherein 320 animals were treated by experts.

During this winter, 819 blankets, 50 shawls, 13 woollen jerseys and 150 sweaters were distributed at Chandigarh, Panchkula, Ambala and Faridabad to selected needy people. Four sewing machines were also given to needy ladies in village Dohana Khera.

At a function held at Amin (Kurukshetra district), 32 pedestal sewing machines were presented to needy women to make them self-reliant. One rickshaw, two carts for tea shops and one floor grinding machine

were presented to needy families to make them self-dependant. A cultural programme and a drama entitled “Nachiketa” was presented by the Bal Vikas children of Amin village on this occasion. Nearly 1,300 villagers witnessed this programme. All India President of Sai Organisations addressed the gathering after the cultural programme. Nearly 2,000 villagers took meals in the Narayana Seva done at the end of the programme.

Kerala: A State-level meeting of unit incharges of Sai Youth activities was conducted on 18th February 2007 at Sai Centre, Alwaye for planning and evaluation of youth programmes. It was attended by 147 participants.

Under ‘Sai Neethi’, lawyers forum of Sai Organisation, a one-day seminar was conducted for lawyers on legal aid at the High Court premises on 17th March 2007. Justice Benjamin Koshy inaugurated the seminar. More than 150 selected advocates from different parts of Kerala participated.

An awareness camp and medical check-up for detection of cancer was conducted at Tellicherry, Kannur district on 25th February 2007.

Calicut district organised a service camp at Srisailam on 18th February 2007, in which 300 Seva Dal members participated.

Sai Youth of Thiruvananthapuram district started a new programme of regular study of scriptures from January 2007. 43 schools have been adopted for educare activity in this district. Regular classes for children, teachers and parents are being conducted.

Thousands of Sai devotees participated in the Lalitha Sahasranama Japam (recitation of 1000 names of Divine Mother) at Attukal Devi Temple, Thiruvananthapuram as a part of the temple festival. Sai Organisation





Attukal Devi Temple in Thiruvananthapuram where thousands of Sai devotees took part in religious and service activities.

organised medical clinics, distribution of drinking water, etc., during the one-day festival, in which 15 lakh devotees participated.

Sai Organisation, with the assistance of Grama Panchayat, arranged a three-day programme in Puduppariyaram village on evils of Pan Masala. 100 centres of this village were covered by Seva Dal members. Shopkeepers voluntarily came forward to burn Pan Masala packets.

Punjab: A Sarva Dharma Sammelan (interfaith meet) was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab at Ferozepur on 26th November 2006. About 1,000 people from all communities, e.g., Sikh, Muslim, Christian and Hindu, attended the programme. Speakers from all the communities delivered speeches bringing out similarities of the teachings of all faiths. A community lunch was served at the end of the meeting. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan.

West Bengal: This was the 17th year of service at Ganga Sagar Mela by the Sai Youth of West Bengal. Like every year, a team of around 150 youth including 16 ladies from all

the districts of the State set out on the morning of 10th January 2007 for the holy Ganga Sagar Mela (fair), which is held every year at the confluence of the holy Ganga and the Bay of Bengal. Several lakh pilgrims from all over the globe take a holy dip in the sea on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti every year. In order to make the experience of the pilgrims blissful, Sai Youth kept the sea beach clean and uncluttered. This activity was carried out from 10th January 2007 to 15th January 2007. The work would start from around 3.00 a.m. and would go on till 6.00 p.m. everyday. For the pilgrims, the holy dip on the auspicious day



Sai Youth kept the entire area of Ganga Sagar Mela clean and hygienic to make the pilgrimage of devotees a blissful experience during the period of this famous fair in January 2007.

of Makar Sankranti is of crucial significance but for the youth who participated in this service camp, which is actually a Sadhana camp, the realisation about the significance of this pilgrimage came only by way of the work done by them for the lakhs of pilgrims.

A four-day residential camp was organised by the youth of Birbhum district for rendering service of varied types during the Joydeb Mela which is held every year on the bank of river Ajoy. More than 5 lakh pilgrims



take a holy dip on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti in this river. Around 75 Sai Youth participated in the service camp. The youth took the responsibility of cleaning the streets, removing the garbage and dumping it at appropriate places designated for the purpose. They kept the entire area clean and hygienic. A team of doctors also participated in the camp: both homoeopathic and allopathic medicines were distributed to needy people. Drinking water was also distributed by the youth during the Mela on all the four days.

Like every year, this year also the youth of Kolkata district set out at 12 o'clock at night on the streets of the city with 81 blankets. Three



Sai Youth cover a pavement dweller with a warm blanket on a cold night in Kolkata.

teams went into specific directions in three vehicles. The youth silently put the blankets on pavement dwellers shivering in the wintry night, without even letting the persons know about this.

A blood grouping camp was organised by the youth of Cooch Behar district on the day of Christmas, 25th December 2006 in Madhya Bairiguri village. Blood grouping of around 150 persons was determined during this camp.



A blood grouping camp organised by Sai Youth in progress in a village. These camps are organised to help villagers to know their blood group and to arrange blood among themselves in case of any emergency.

This would help the villagers in the event of any emergency requirement of blood which they would be able to arrange from among themselves.

This activity is, in fact, going on throughout the State as a youth project to create a “Group of Direct Blood Donors” who will be ready to donate blood whenever necessary at 24 hours notice. This also includes creating “Rare Blood Group Club” with the objective to familiarise the members of this club among themselves, so that in case of any blood related emergency, the members will be able to contact each other.

A conference of office bearers of the State Organisation was held at Durgapur, Burdwan district on 27th and 28th January 2007. Active youth members from every district were also invited to bring in new ideas for the betterment of the Organisation. The theme of the conference was “Inner Transformation”. This platform was used to strengthen the Organisation at every level. Keeping this in mind, an action plan for coming years was formulated. Special emphasis was laid on outreach programmes.

True Renunciation

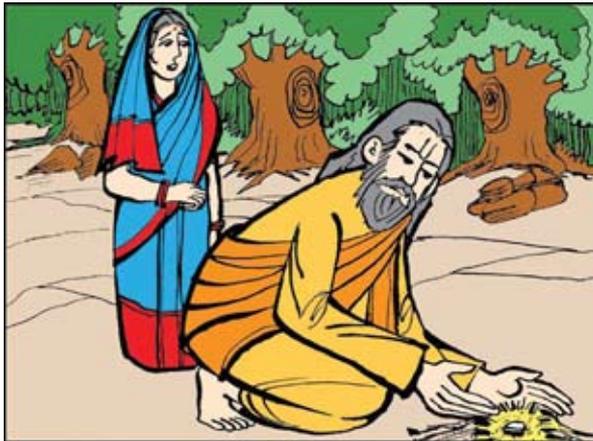
CHINNA KATHA

THERE LIVED IN A VILLAGE A husband and his wife who were both great spiritual aspirants. They were repositories of discrimination and wisdom and had great faith in the pre-eminence of renunciation.

Once they set out on a pilgrimage. On their way, they passed through a forest. The husband was walking ahead, and his wife was following closely behind him. While walking on the way, the husband saw a precious jewel brilliantly shining in the dust. He covered it with a little more dust so that his



“Do you consider dust and jewel different from each other?” Questioned the wife when she saw her husband covering the jewel with dust.



The husband covered the jewel with dust so that his wife might not get tempted by it.

wife might not get tempted by it on seeing it. The wife understood the import of her husband’s action and said to him, “Dear one! Do you consider dust and jewel different from each other? It means, the feeling of disparity, considering one thing greater than the other, has not yet left you.” The husband realised his shortcoming, and understood that his wife was a greater renunciant than him.

For a true renunciant, both dust and jewel are equal.

There is a tendency to confuse renunciation with totally giving up everything. Renunciation actually means attaining a state of perfect equanimity. People may criticise you or they may praise you; take them both with a sense of equanimity. One may try to harm you while another may try to do you a good turn; treat both situations with equanimity. In one business venture, a loss might be incurred while a profit might be made in another; treat them both alike.

– Baba

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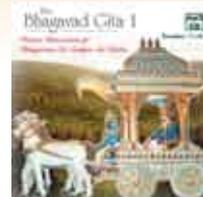
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