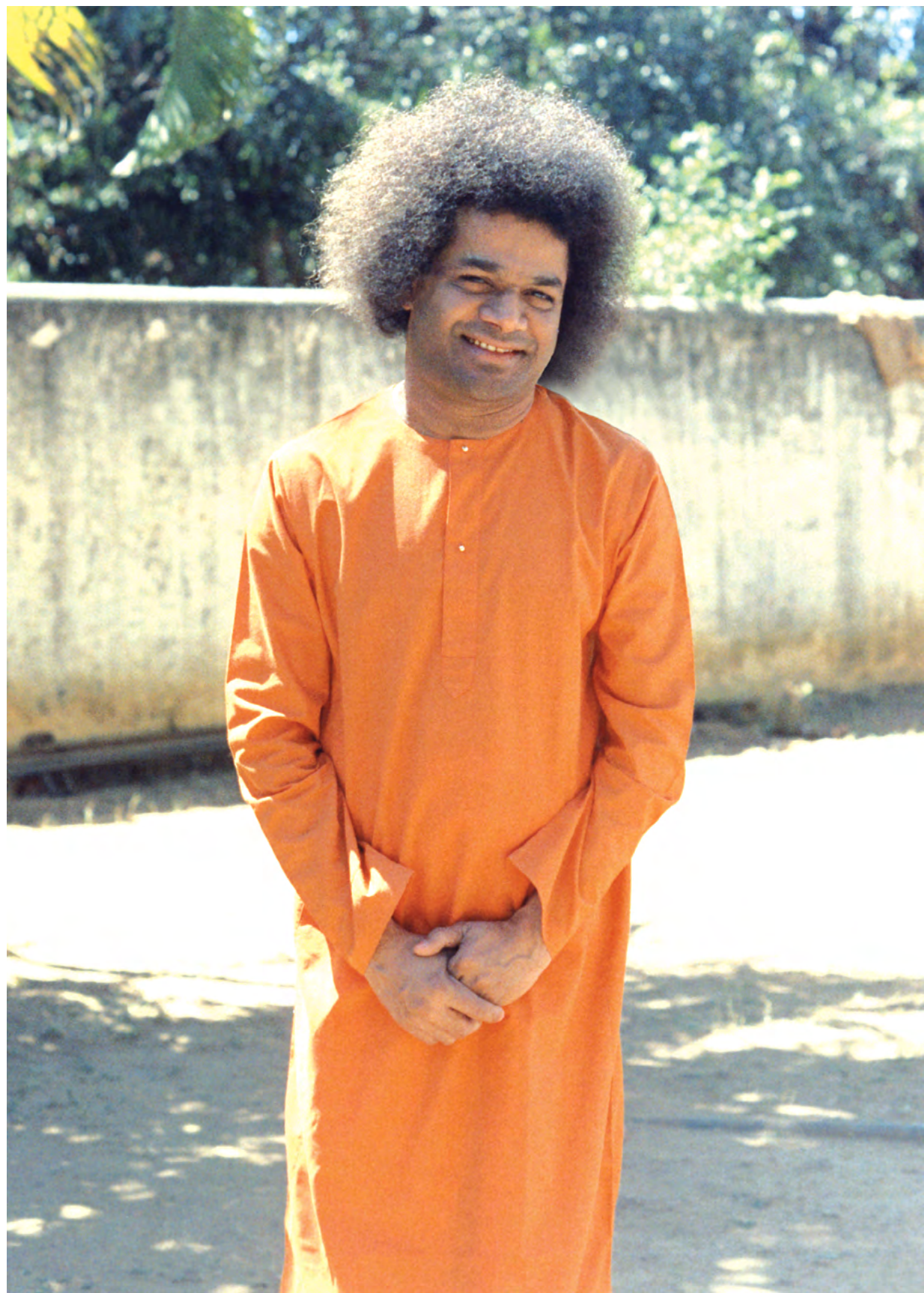




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Editor **G.L. ANAND**
Assistant Editor **P. RAJESH**

E-mail: subscriptions@sssbpt.org
editor@sssbpt.org
For Audio Visual /

Book Orders: orders@sssbpt.org
ISD Code : 0091
STD Code : 08555
Telephone : 287375

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Telefax : 287390
Sri Sathya Sai University -
Administrative Office : 287191 / 287239
Sri Sathya Sai Higher
Secondary School : 289289
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knowledge is of any use in
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AVATAR VANI

THE LIGHT OF SPIRITUALITY REVEALS THE ATMA

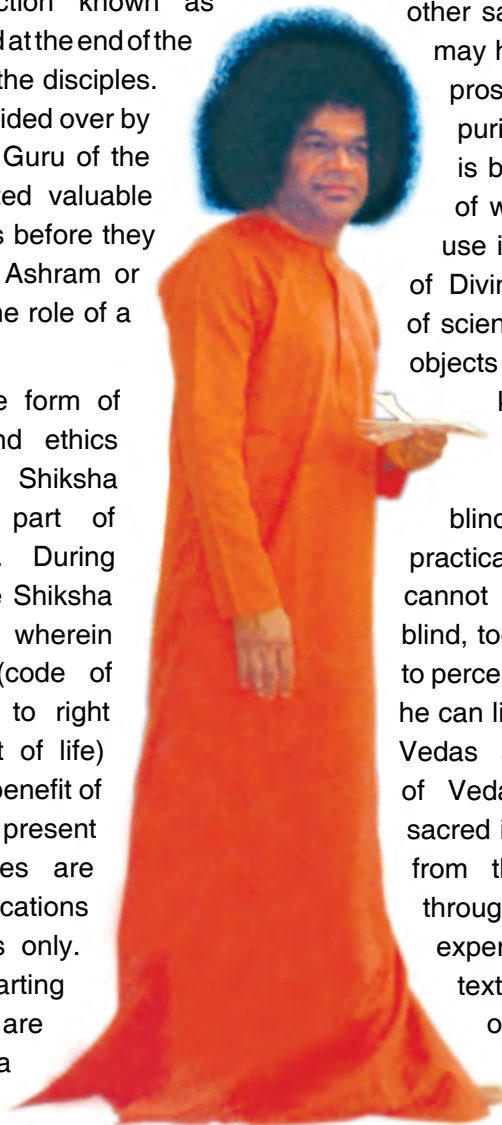
SPIRITUALITY INVOLVES PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

IN THE ANCIENT GURUKULA (tutelage under a realised Guru) tradition, a function known as Snatakotsava was held at the end of the educational period of the disciples. This function was presided over by the Chief Acharya or Guru of the Gurukula who imparted valuable advice to the disciples before they entered the Grihasta Ashram or the married life with the role of a householder.

This advice in the form of code of conduct and ethics is contained in the Shiksha Valli which forms part of Taittiriya Upanishad. During the Snatakotsava, the Shiksha Valli is recapitulated, wherein Dharmic principles (code of conduct with regard to right and righteous pursuit of life) are enshrined for the benefit of a householder. In the present times, the universities are organising Convocations for awarding degrees only. But they are not imparting human values that are important for leading a happy life.

Spiritual Practices Purify the Mind

One may have studied the Vedas and other sacred texts thoroughly, one may have acquired command on prosody and poetry, but when purity of mind is lacking, one is bound to perish. No amount of worldly knowledge is of any use in understanding the nature of Divinity. Even a great scholar of science cannot perceive worldly objects during sleep. Is it not a kind of blindness? Lack of knowledge of spirituality is similar to this kind of blindness. Spirituality involves practical knowledge. Those who cannot enjoy the inner bliss are blind, too. Even a blind man is able to perceive the world around him, as he can listen to all happenings. The Vedas and Vedangas (branches of Vedas) speak of all that is sacred in man's life. One can learn from them and realise Divinity through Swanubhuti (one's own experience). These sacred texts help us to acquire purity of mind. Tapas (penance), Dhyana (meditation), Yoga, Bhajans, etc., are



all meant for purification of mind. The true nature of Atma however cannot be realised merely by these spiritual practices.

Just as clouds cover the sun, ash covers fire and moss covers water, the principle of Atma is unrecognisable as consciousness is covered by passion and hatred. The principle of Atma is beyond all measures and comparisons, most mysterious of all mysteries, and is incomprehensible. Scientists have been striving hard to know its form and features. They want to know in what form the Atma exists. It should be realised that anything or any object that has a form or shape will have the quality of decaying and perishing. The Atma has no definite form or a particular shape. It has to be recognised within one's own being, not outside. Each and every individual refers to himself or herself by the word 'I'. A young man refers to himself in terms of I. An old man also uses I. Even though the body is undergoing changes, the 'I' does not change. This changeless nature connotes the Atma. I is not confined to any particular individual. It is present in everyone.

Divinity Permeates the Entire Creation

There is water in a pot. There is the reflection of an object in the water. The reflection moves as water moves, even though there is no movement of the object. You may or may not see the reflection, but the object is there which you can see. So, this water is what is known as Upadhi or the medium of the reflection.

Human body has three forms or levels – Sthula (gross), Sukshma (subtle) and Karana (causal). Prana (life principle) is subtler than the gross body, mind is subtler than the life principle, Buddhi (intellect) is subtler than mind and Vijnana (discriminatory intellect) is subtler than

The moon appears to be moving while clouds are moving. Sitting on a boulder, how can you attempt to remove it at the same time? Having been immersed deeply in body consciousness, how can you realise Divinity? You should be able to discriminate between an object and its basis. A cart moves well when the horse draws it from the front. Will it move when you put the horse behind the cart?



intellect. Vijnana is very important in the life of man. As one goes on shedding mental modifications and objective perceptions with the help of Vijnana, the Atma gets revealed.

The entire creation is composed of Pancha Bhutas (five elements). They are: earth, water, fire, air and space. Earth is possessed of all the Tanmatras (attributes in subtle form) – Sabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa, Gandha (hearing, touch, sight, taste, smell) and so it is the grossest of all the five elements. Next is water. It is associated with four attributes, sans the quality of smell, and hence it is endowed with the capacity to move. Fire contains three attributes of sound, touch and form. So, fire is capable of moving upwards. The fourth element is air, which has only the attribute of sound and touch; and hence it is free to move in all directions. The fifth element is Akasa or sky. It has sound as its only attribute and is bereft of all the other four attributes. So, it pervades all over. God is beyond all attributes, and at the same time, He is the repository of all of them.

The Same Divinity is Present in Microcosm and Macrocosm

Earth, which is gross, is called Bhutakasa. Literally, it means space in gross form. There is Chittakasa (space in mental form in it). There is Chidakasa within Chittakasa. Chidakasa connotes consciousness in the form of space. If you look at this description in the reverse order, you can realise that consciousness is contained within the endless space, mind is contained within the consciousness, and gross bodies such as earth, planets, stars, etc., are contained within the mental domain. When you look at this description in one direction, you find evolution, and in the other direction, it is involution.

All those things perceptible to senses, without any exception, come under the domain of Bhutakasa. The earth is vast and measures 8,000 miles in diameter. The sun is far bigger than earth. The solar system extends to 800 million miles. A galaxy (Nakshatra Mandala) is far far bigger than the solar system. The sun is at a distance of about 93 million miles from the earth. It is the nearest star to earth. A ray of light travels at a speed of 1,86,000 miles per second. It takes several years for a ray of light to reach earth from a distant star. No ray of light has reached earth from many distant stars as yet. All that is contained in Bhutakasa is vast.

As explained by the Upanishads, all these clusters of galaxies come under the domain of Bhutakasa. All this Bhutakasa is but a small fraction of Chittakasa. You are seeing innumerable sights and countless stars. But when you recollect, all those planets, etc., are accommodated in a small fraction of your mind. You are sitting here and are looking at the group of people at

Kodaikanal. When you go back to your place and try to recollect on this gathering, the entire group occupies a tiny fraction in your mental domain, is it not?

Dakshinamurthi described Chittakasa as a reflection of universe in the mind. The cosmos has a very small occupancy within Chittakasa. But even such a vast Chittakasa is considered to be a tiny fraction of Chidakasa (the domain of consciousness of the Self). Chitta means mind. Chit is the primordial consciousness, from which Chitta emanated.

The Upanishads describe God as *Anoraneeyan Mahato Maheeyan* (subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest). The same Divinity is present in microcosm as well as in macrocosm. Names may be different, but essence is the same. You may draw a circle within a bigger circle. Both are different in volume, but their value is the same zero. The Atma is equally present all over, in all types of bodies, whether seen or unseen. It is beyond time and space. There is a reflection of the moon in oil. The reflection is destroyed when the oil is burned; but this act has no effect on the moon. All that you perceive through senses is but a reflection, and not the reality. When you travel in a train and look out through the window, you feel all trees moving. In fact, you are the one who is moving. The earth is rotating at a speed of 1,000 miles per hour. It is also revolving around the sun. The moon appears to be moving while clouds are moving. Sitting on a boulder, how can you attempt to remove it at the same time? Having been immersed deeply in body consciousness, how can you realise Divinity? You should be able to discriminate between an object and its basis. A cart moves well when the horse



draws it from the front. Will it move when you put the horse behind the cart?

Body Attachment is the Cause of Illusion

Right from morning till night, you are striving to groom and pamper your body with bath, smears and decorations, and feeding it with the petrol of food intermittently. It is not the cart (body) but the horse (mind) which should be groomed properly. One morning, Alexander was riding on a horse and going in the western direction. Looking at its own shadow, the horse got frightened, and became erratic. Alexander understood

Mukhadindraschagnishcha Pranad Vayurajayata (the moon was born out of the mind, the sun out of the eyes, the fire and Indra from His mouth and the wind god from the breath of the Supreme Being). *Vedahametam Purusham Mahantam Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat* (I have visualised the Supreme Being who shines with the effulgence of a billion suns and who is beyond Tamas – the darkness of ignorance). In this description, Lord Indra is said to have emanated from the mouth of the Virat Purusha (the cosmic form of Divinity). Indra is the Lord of Indriyas (senses). In your body, you find all these sense organs

Human body has three forms or levels – Sthula (gross), Sukshma (subtle) and the Karana (causal). Prana (life principle) is subtler than the gross body, mind is subtler than the life principle, Buddhi (intellect) is subtler than mind and Vijnana (discriminatory intellect) is subtler than intellect. Vijnana is very important in the life of man. As one goes on shedding mental modifications and objective perceptions with the help of Vijnana, the Atma gets revealed.



the situation well, and he directed the horse eastwards. As the shadow was now cast behind, the horse was rid of fear. You find many people moving always in the wrong direction, whereby a figure of five feet casts a shadow of eight feet.

The Purusha Suktam says, *Chandrama Manaso Jataha Chaksho Suryo Ajayata*

– eyes, ears, nose and tongue. Improper use of senses is the cause of delusion and suffering of man. When you stand facing the sun, your shadow falls behind you. Similarly, when you turn your attention towards God, you will be rid of ignorance or delusion. In a Siva temple, you will find the Nandi, Siva's bull, always looking at Siva, unmindful of everything else. That is why the animal



Nandi came to be revered at par with God. In the Rama temple, you find Hanuman looking only at Rama (the Supreme Soul) in full attention. That is why Hanuman is being revered at par with God. Look at rat, which is despised by one and all. But the same rat is revered when it is in the proximity of Lord Ganesh. A snake is generally feared and despised. But the snake adorned on the statue of Siva is revered as a divine being. When associated with God, even a tiny object gets glorified. So, one's value varies in keeping with one's association.

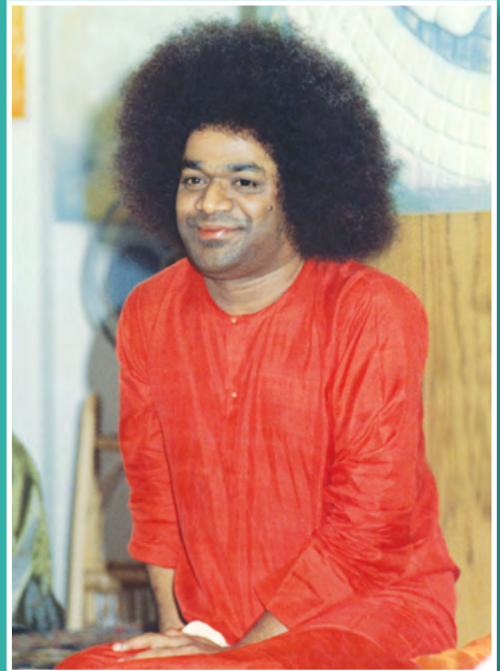
One day, Lord Vishnu sent Garuda (the Lord of eagles who serves as Vishnu's vehicle) to the abode of Siva to convey some important message to him. Just as Garuda, the enemy of snakes, appeared before Lord Siva, the snake which adorned the body of Siva, hissed at him in anger. Then the Garuda said, "Oh the arrogant snake! No doubt your writ run here, because of your

proximity to Lord Siva. You just come out and see what could be your fate". Such is the value and power of Satsang (good company). In fact, good company implies that one should always remain in Tadatmya Bhava (total immersion in thoughts of God). Always remember that Divinity permeates everything. If the world is the effect, God is the cause. The entire creation is a play of cause and effect. Who is Easwara? The one who has sway over everything is Easwara. There is no one above Him to command. We believe all that we see in the world as truth or reality. This type of delusion is because of our attachment to body, sans understanding of its essential nature. It is like a day dream. We know that any dream is false. This illusion about the world falls off only when we acquire true knowledge.

– Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 26th April 1992.

We are celebrating the advent of the New Year. But what we should celebrate is the coming of every new moment. A year is made of seconds, minutes, hours, days and months. Why wait for a whole year? Greet every new second as a new moment for celebration. Contemplate on God every moment as your life-breath. To make God approach you, you have to engage yourself in the service of others, in conferring joy on them, and in activities which will please God. Subject all that you do to the test of Divine pleasure.

– Baba



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM ADILABAD

MORE THAN 3,000 DEVOTEES came to Prasanthi Nilayam from Adilabad district of Telangana on a three-day pilgrimage and presented music and cultural programmes on 24th and 25th February 2018.

A stream of divine music flowed and inundated each heart in Sai Kulwant Hall when the singers from the district presented a devotional music programme entitled “Sai Mera Sahara” (Sai is my sole refuge) on 24th February 2018. The songs melodiously rendered by the singers to the accompaniment of exhilarating music were “Jagadeeswari Maa Parameswari Sai Maa”



Devotional music presentation by the devotees of Adilabad district.

(the Divine Mother Sai, the Creator of the Universe), “You and I are one”, “Maula Mere Maula”, “Om Namah Sivaya”, to mention a few.

On 25th February 2018, Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of this district presented a dance drama entitled “Prema Saramu” (essence of love) which demonstrated the Divine majesty and glory of Krishna as



The drama “Prema Saramu” highlighted the Divine majesty of Lord Krishna.

omnipotent Lord of the universe through a mythological story. Uplifting theme, excellent acting of the cast and beautiful dances of children made the drama an impressive presentation.

HOLI CELEBRATIONS

As part of Holi celebrations organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Bihar and Jharkhand at Prasanthi Nilayam, Bal Vikas children and devotees of tribal areas of these States presented a dance drama entitled “Lava Kusha Samvad” (elocution of Lava and Kusha) on 4th March 2018. While the children in the role of Lava and Kusha narrated the story of the Ramayana as learnt



Lava Kusha Samvad.

by them from Sage Valmiki, the devotees enacted the relevant incidents from the epic.

UGADI FESTIVAL

The joyous festival of Ugadi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great piety and enthusiasm on 18th March 2018. More than 1,500 devotees came from the Hyderabad district of Telangana to participate in these celebrations and made a string of musical offerings on 17th and 18th March 2018.

The programme on 17th March 2018 began at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting by the devotees of Hyderabad. An erudite talk by Sri V.S.R. Murthy, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from Hyderabad, followed this. In his talk, the learned speaker emphasised that Ugadi was the occasion to worship Nature which was the creation of God. He exhorted the devotees to divinise their lives by putting into practice the teachings of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa as taught by Bhagavan Baba. Service to mankind through the medium of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation was the best way to lead a noble life, he added. Bhajans led by the singers of Hyderabad followed next and concluded with Arati.

The programme on 18th March 2018, the auspicious day of Ugadi, began at 8.00 a.m. with chanting of Vedic hymns by the devotees of Hyderabad. Thereafter, a renowned Vedic scholar, Acharya Kuppa Siva Subrahmanya Avadhani from Veda Pathashala, Tirumala presented Panchanga Sravanam (listening to the almanac) traditionally conducted on Ugadi day. Illustrating his scholarly talk with Sanskrit Slokas (verses) from scriptures, the learned scholar

described some forthcoming events of the New Year and exhorted the devotees to take to spiritual path shown by Bhagavan Baba to attain His grace.

After the conclusion of Panchanga Sravanam, devotees were blessed with a Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, in which He emphasised that the control of mind and senses was the greatest victory in the life of man. All his troubles and miseries, Bhagavan added, were the result of man's lack of control of mind and senses. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram". Bhagavan's Discourse was followed by a devotional music presentation entitled "Pranava Nadam Sivam" by Sivam Bhajan Group of Hyderabad who suffused the entire milieu with devotional fervour with melodious songs which included "Gopala Govinda", "Shambho Shankara Gauresha" and "Oyi Rama, O Hoyi Rama". Bhajans led by Hyderabad devotees followed next and concluded with Arati.

In the evening also Veda chanting was offered by the devotees of Hyderabad. What followed next was a superbly rendered devotional music programme by Sri M. Ramachary and party which transported the listeners to a higher plane; specially the compositions rendered by students



Devotional music offering by the devotees of Hyderabad.

and tiny tots enchanted the audience. Beginning with the prayer song to Lord Ganesh, “Eka Dantaya Vakra Tundaya”, the singers presented soul-stirring songs which included “Narayana Mantram Sriman Narayana Mantram”, “Jagadabhiramudu Sri Ramude” (Rama, the supremely beautiful), “Jai Jai Ram Jai Raghu Ram”. Bhajans led by Hyderabad devotees followed this and concluded with Arati.

SRI RAMA NAVAMI FESTIVAL

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th March 2018 with great piety and devotion. The programme in the morning started at 8.00 a.m. with Sita Rama Kalyanam (celestial wedding of the Divine Couple Lord Rama and Sita). A special platform was set up in Sai Kulwant Hall to perform this event of great spiritual significance and idols of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman were installed on it. The celestial wedding comprised the rituals of Raksha Bandhan, Upanayanam,



Exchanging garlands as part of the celestial wedding “Sita Rama Kalyanam”.

exchange of garlands, offer of Mangal Sutra to Sita, all of which were performed amidst chanting of sacred Mantras and auspicious

musical notes. Puja and Arati of the idols was performed all through the celebration. A Yajna was also performed as part of this wedding, and the programme came to a close with Poornahuti in the Yajna Kunda. This was followed by the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, in which He explained how Lord Rama set great ideals for mankind to follow. He specially emphasised the qualities of equanimity and self-sacrifice that Rama demonstrated in His life and exhorted one and all to lead a noble life by developing these qualities. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram”. Bhajans followed next and concluded with Arati at 11.00 a.m.

The programme in the evening consisted of devotional songs dedicated to Lord Rama. Melodiously sung by the Prasanthi Bhajan Group, the songs enthralled the



Singing the glories of Rama on Sri Rama Navami.

devotees for nearly one hour. Some of the soulful songs were: “Ramji Ki Mahima Apar” (the glory of Rama is limitless), “Sri Rama Saranam Mama” (Rama is my refuge), “Pibare Rama Rasam” (drink the nectar of Rama’s Name). The programme concluded with Arati after a brief session of Bhajans.

BHAGAVAN'S BUDDHA PURNIMA MESSAGE

CONTROL OF SENSES IS TRUE SADHANA

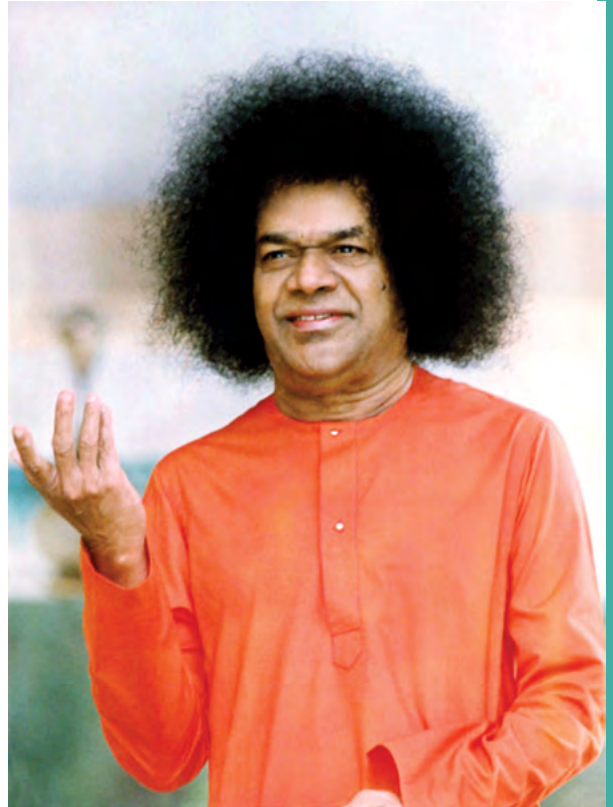
"Mere formal worship or ritualistic practices do not constitute spiritual striving. These religious practices are good in a way. But they do not constitute spiritual Sadhana. True spirituality consists in the unity of thought, word and deed in all their purity and sacredness," said Bhagavan in His Buddha Purnima Discourse on 5th February 1998.

DO NOT POLLUTE YOUR MIND WITH WORLDLY DESIRES

MAN TODAY DOES NOT recognise the nature of his humanness. How can he then recognise his inherent divinity? It is only when man is aware of his humanness that he will be competent to recognise his divinity. How then is man to reach humanness? What is the means? Buddha undertook various enquiries to discover the Divine and came to the conclusion that it was only through mastery over his senses that he could achieve this.

Samyak Darshanam

Man has to make the right use of his senses for sacred purposes to realise his divinity. Hence, Buddha declared that the first requisite is Samyak Darshanam (right vision). The implication of this statement is that, having been bestowed with the great gift of eyes, man should use them for seeing sacred objects and holy beings. But, on the contrary, by using his eyes to look at unsacred objects and evil persons, man fills himself with bad thoughts and becomes a prey to evil tendencies. What one sees influences the feelings in the heart. The state of the heart determines the nature



of one's thoughts. The thoughts influence one's life.

Hence, to lead a good life the first requisite is a pure vision. Man has to cultivate sacred outlook. As a result of looking at cruel, ugly and wicked scenes, man leads an animal



existence. The very first enquiry one should make is to ascertain what is pure, edifying and godly that he should see. Whatever he sees leaves its imprint on man. Few realise the effects of this.

Human life today is racked by anxiety, misery, unrest and troubles of various kinds. The root cause of all this is that man is witnessing what is repulsive, wicked and demeaning. For transforming one's life, the first requisite is proper vision. Netra (eye) is comparable to Sastra (philosophical text) and one's Drishti (vision) determines one's views of the Srishti (cosmos). Hence, one has to purify one's vision to acquire the highest knowledge. This means one should avoid seeing what is obnoxious. One should strive to see only that which is sacred and pure. What man sees is like seeds sown in the heart. Evil scenes give rise to evil thoughts. Good scenes evoke good thoughts. When sacred scenes are implanted in the heart, there will be no room for bad feelings or thoughts to grow in the heart.

This was the first lesson Buddha taught. Buddha wandered all over the country in search of spiritual peace and liberation. After many years of enquiry, he came to the conclusion that the secret of spiritual wisdom was not to be got from scholars or by study. He realised that spiritual understanding could only come from mastery of the senses.

Samyak Vachanam

From developing sacred vision, man should proceed to Samyak Vachanam (right speech). Buddha declared that only sacred thoughts could lead to sacred speech. He stressed that the tongue should not be used recklessly to utter whatever one thinks. The tongue has been given to speak the truth,

to expatiate on what is sacred and pure. It has not been given to man to pamper the palate with delicious sweets. It is not given for talking as one likes. It is not to be used for causing displeasure to others. Nor is it to be used for indulging in falsehood. The tongue has been given to man to be sweet to others, to praise the Divine and enjoy the bliss derived from such sacred speech.

There are people who devote their entire time to reading all kinds of books, without trying to put into practice what they learn from such reading. What is the use of such reading? Buddha spoke out against scholarship unrelated to the good life. He carried out a great deal of study and met many great men. He listened to their discourses and concluded that true knowledge could not be got by these means. He realised that a pure, unsullied consciousness confers the highest knowledge. True knowledge is derived from a pure Antahkarana (inner psyche).

The Quest for Peace

This year (1998) is dedicated to Peace. How is this peace to be achieved? The first requisite is purification of one's vision. The second requisite is the cultivation of sacred feelings within, which will be conducive to purity in speech. Harmony will promote a climate of peace. The well-being of society is bound up with the transformation of the individuals composing it. Righteous individuals alone can build a righteous community. A pure mind is essential for pure thoughts, pure vision and pure speech.

The country today has plenty of persons who talk a great deal and display bookish knowledge, but do not practise even a fraction of what they have read or speak about. It is such people who are responsible for the lamentable plight of the nation.



Samyak Karma and Samyak Sadhana

Buddha emphasised on Samyak Karma (right action). The mark of good action is harmony in thought, word and deed. When there is no such harmony, the action belies what is said or thought.

Buddha went on to declare that good action is conducive to Samyak Sadhana (right spiritual exercise). Good deeds constitute genuine spirituality. Mere formal worship or ritualistic practices do not constitute spiritual striving. These religious practices are good in a way. But they do not constitute spiritual Sadhana. True spirituality consists in the unity of thought, word and deed in all their purity and sacredness.

Samyak Jivanam

Buddha declared that when spiritual striving of this nature has been completed, there is Samyak Jivanam (right way of living).

This is how the Panchendriyas (five senses) should be used to achieve the supreme goal of life. Good vision, good thoughts, good speech, good deeds and good spiritual endeavour are the prerequisites for a good life.

In this context, the meaning of spiritual striving should be properly understood. Essentially, spiritual striving calls for the shedding of all bad qualities and the cultivation of good thoughts. Spiritual Sadhana means cultivating good thoughts and undertaking good deeds.

The principle of love in you is highly sacred. But because of delusion, you are

polluting it, and thereby diminishing your value. I want to give a small example before I close. Gold in its pure form is brilliant and highly valuable, but when you add metals like silver, copper, brass, etc., to it, its brilliance as well as value diminishes. Likewise, man is like pure gold. But as he is associating himself with worldly desires, he has lost his value as well as effulgence. When you develop the human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa (truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence), you will attain exalted position and people will respect you wherever you go.

Embodiments of Love!

Do not pollute your mind with worldly desires. You have attained this human birth as a result of meritorious deeds done in past lives. Do not misuse it. Human life is highly valuable. Keep up its value by practising human values. This was the teaching of Buddha. People aspire to attain Nirvana. In order to attain Nirvana, one should have a pure heart. True Nirvana lies in having love for God, fear of sin and morality in society. Animals do not know what sin is. So, they do not have fear of sin. But you should have fear of sin, as you are aware of what it is. You should have control over your senses.

Recapitulate all that you have heard and experienced here. Charge your spiritual batteries by joining good company. Only then will you progress in life and become ideal.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan's Buddha Purnima Discourses.

Joy is your birthright; Santhi is your inmost nature. The Lord is your refuge and support. Do not be led away from the path of faith by stories invented by malice and circulated by spite.

– Baba

FROM PHYSICAL FORM TO COSMIC FORM

Anurupa Roy Choudhury

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA chose to leave His physical body and return to His Cosmic Form on 24th April 2011, thus leaving millions of His devotees suddenly orphaned. Our Divine Mother and Father laid in His own “Temple of Healing” for twenty-eight days while we, His children, beseeched Him with fervent prayers and anguished appeals to heal Himself.



Devotees all over the world, with hearts laden with anguish and pain, intensified their Sadhana and Seva activities and practised

His teachings with more fervour to make Him happy. The Bhajan “Deena Dukhiyon Se Prem Karo, Mera Sai Prasanna Hoga” (love those who are destitute and distressed to make our Sai happy) was poignantly sung by many. We wanted Him to forgive us of our wrongs and stay with us many more years in this beautiful Form to give us His Divine guidance. Akhanda Bhajans and sacred chanting of Gayatri Mantra, Sai Gayatri, Rudram, Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra, Sai Ashtottara, Hanuman Chalisa or Vishnu Sahasranama could be heard in Sai Centres and homes from America to Australia. A region in the U.S.A. undertook what they termed LEAP – Leave Everything And Pray. There were nightlong prayer vigils. As one devotee sorrowfully put it, Baba was uniting us as never before.

Heart-rending Separation

The daily Medical Bulletins released by the hospital at first filled us with hope. We were sure He would soon come back to Yajur Mandir, His residence, and even give Darshans again. After all, had He not said He would be with us till He was ninety-six years of age? But that was not to be. All His vital organs began to fail one after the other as if going according to a Divine plan. It seems our Beloved Baba had decided to follow the lunar calendar. According to this almanac, each month has 27 days and a year has 324 days instead of 365 days. Thus, the 30,834 days He had moved

among us amounted to 96 lunar years – the Vedic calculation we had not accounted for. According to the Gregorian calendar which we follow, He was 85 years old at the time. Perhaps Swami in His wisdom made this shift to the lunar calendar to avoid emotional breakdowns among His devotees when He approached the age of ninety-six according to our calculations. Who knows?

Baba had given His devotees and students ample preparation for this heart-rending separation. But we could not read the signals. When His students were putting up decorations for His 85th Birthday celebrations, which was His last Birthday in this Form, He instructed them to use permanent material and not cardboard for putting up the banners which read “85 Years of Love”. He knew that these did not have to be brought down. He had also been speaking of late to His students about His mother and father appearing in His room at night. He had confined Himself to a wheelchair for the last few years. His health had been deteriorating and He had made it clear that, having taken human form, His body too would have to bow to time. Darshans had also become irregular. We longed to see Him but frequently He did not put in an appearance. We would file out feeling forlorn. He was only trying to make us accustomed to separation from His physical form. In one of His last Darshans towards the end of March 2011, Baba gave a clear indication that He was taking leave of us in His physical form. But it was only on hindsight that this became clear to devotees. As He was leaving on that day, He raised His hands with palms together in the Namaskar gesture, turning in all directions to commune with everyone sitting in Sai Kulwant Hall. Normally, Baba’s blessing

was always the Abhayahasta (hands raised in blessing posture). The Namaskar is an Indian way of greeting people when meeting them or parting with them. It also conveys another deeper meaning – an appeal. Baba may have been appealing to us to carry on His work and follow His teachings with full dedication even after He left His physical form. He spent twenty-eight days in hospital by His Will only to further mentally prepare His devotees, apart from giving some doctors, nurses and others the rare opportunity of attending to the Lord. World renowned doctors put in all their efforts to save Him, but the Divine Master’s decision was final.

So, our Beloved Lord, who had come to Puttaparthi from eternity, dissolved once again into eternity. All Avatars before Him also gave up their human frames when the right time came. Puttaparthi, the Divine birthplace, has seen huge crowds at festival times but the crowds that descended on this holy land to get one last Darshan were unprecedented. In deep anguish and grief, they came in multitudes from far and near – the poor, the rich, the famous, the old and infirm and people of all faiths, for He belonged to everybody. For two days and two nights, they filed past His physical Form, lying peacefully inside a glass casket. There was perfect discipline as the long queues moved slowly allowing every devotee to offer his or her respectful homage. All the while, non-stop Bhajans were sung by His shattered students which brought tears to every pair of eyes – emotion was combined with devotion as sometimes voices choked. Bhajans are very dear to our Beloved Lord. He says Namasmara is the easiest way to attain God in this age. Many among the devotees, who were overcome with emotion



and sorrow, even expected Him to rise in response to the soulful Bhajans being sung by His beloved students and others. It is estimated that nearly one million people filed past His Divine Form. All roads leading to Puttaparthi were jammed, yet they came braving all odds. The Ashram authorities and the people of Puttaparthi rose to the occasion. Unending supplies of food and drinking water were distributed free to all who needed to refresh themselves. The Prime Minister of the country, other dignitaries and National and State leaders also came to pay their last respects to Bhagavan Baba who had worked untiringly for the uplift of the poor and downtrodden.

The last rites of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba were performed on 27th April 2011 with full State honours in the presence of many dignitaries. Eminent personalities of all major religions recited prayers from their respective scriptures and offered their respects to Bhagavan Baba. This was in the fitness of things as Baba represented the unity and oneness of all religions. The glass casket with His beautiful form lying inside was draped in the national flag. After the bugles sounded the Last Post, there was a gun salute. Devotees present chanted Sai Gayatri collectively with great devotion and reverence as always, but the sadness this time was palpable. Our Beloved Lord's physical body was then laid to rest in the very portico of the Mandir from where He had given Darshans and Discourses to His legions of devotees for so many years. While priests chanted Vedic Mantras, Baba's nephew, Sri R.J. Rathnakar, performed the last rites according to Vedic injunctions.

The Mission Continues

The Samadhi was very soon opened to the public for Darshan. Inconsolable

devotees found some solace laying their heads at His Lotus Feet where He now lay. On Guru Purnima Day 2011, the ethereal permanent construction at the Samadhi, made of pristine white marble, was unveiled. The Samadhi has now become one of the most powerful spiritual centres of the world, drawing the same huge, multi-hued crowds that came when Baba physically gave Darshans. Every devotee speaks of powerful divine vibrations surrounding the Samadhi. Baba's Presence is strongly felt and many see Him actually sitting on the chair placed for Him just beside. The same activities are going on from morning to evening and with the same devotional fervour. After Bhajans and Arati, very orderly lines are formed for people to offer their obeisance at the Samadhi. Hundreds of people queue up on daily basis to offer flowers and their prayers. Every devotee longs to place his or her head on the Samadhi and pray to Him, seeking His blessings. This is ultimate bliss for us now and we are drawn to His Samadhi just as we were drawn to Baba Himself. The ache in the heart remained for a long time but soon devotees were comforted by Baba's presence everywhere.

Cultural and devotional programmes by national and international troupes continue as before. The performers face the Samadhi and His chair for they are performing for Baba. All religious festivals and special occasions are celebrated as Baba had programmed. All His institutions and projects are running with added zeal and devotion. The interesting fact is that there are many coming to Prasanthi Nilayam now who have never seen Baba in His physical form. These new followers come from all lands, drawn by His teachings and stories



about His wondrous life and amazing work. Thus, His message is spreading and the new golden era will surely dawn with the arrival of Prema Sai who will continue the work first started by Shirdi Sai.

Sai is Supreme Consciousness

Parthi Sai has time and again advised us not to get attached to His physical form but to install Him in our hearts. He even advised devotees who spent a lot of money coming to Puttaparthi to see Him that there was no need to do that. The heart must be converted into a Prasanthi Nilayam, He said. As evidence that He is not limited to the Form in orange that we would see, He appeared in numerous forms before devotees in different parts of the world. He heard calls of distress from every corner of the globe while He was physically at Prasanthi Nilayam. His miracles, manifestations and materialisations happened not just in His physical presence but even miles away in places where He was not physically present. And the Sai miracles are still happening even though He has returned to His Cosmic Abode. There are authenticated reports from all over the world, including Prasanthi Nilayam, of Sai manifesting Himself in different ways before His devotees. His Omniscience, Omnipresence and Omnipotence are still evident in the lives of Sai devotees. His 'calling cards' are still coming to reassure us that He is eternally with us. The joyous realisation has dawned on us that He has not left us at all and that nothing has changed. He is still with us, around us and beside us, guiding and protecting us as ever and answering all our calls. Baba has also repeatedly said that all names and all forms of Divinity belong to Him – Rama, Krishna, Allah, Jesus, Buddha, Mahavira, Zoroaster, Jehovah.

Guru Nanak, Sai. We can pray to Him by calling Him by any name which pleases us for now He is Formless. He came down as God Incarnate to bring about transformation in man by His physical proximity. Now the time has come to worship Sri Sathya Sai Baba in His Supreme Cosmic Form as present in all living beings and pervading the entire universe. He has no beginning and no end for He is the Supreme Absolute Consciousness.

The time has come for every Sai devotee and every Sai Centre in the world to continue Swami's Mission of improving the lot of the destitute and downtrodden. And this is precisely what is happening because He has instilled the spirit of service and that of universal love in His devotees. The time has come for us to follow His teachings implicitly if we are to continue to call ourselves His devotees. "Obeying my instructions is enough; it will benefit you more than the most rigorous asceticism. Practise Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema which are dear to Me. Resolve to keep those ideals before you ever, in all your thoughts, words and deeds. That can confer on you the summum bonum of mergence in the Supreme Substance of Divinity." (Divine Discourse, 17th May 1968). Those of us who were fortunate to have been in His immediate physical presence, which no doubt conferred on us the greatest blessings, have tremendous responsibility now to carry His Message and Mission forward. The mantle of His vast spiritual legacy rests with all His devotees.

– **An extract from the book "To Sai with Love" by Anurupa Roy Choudhury, a long-time devotee of Bhagavan and Management Committee member of the Sathya Sai School in Kolkata.**



Sowcar Janaki

MY EXPERIENCES OF SWAMI'S DIVINITY

MY HUMBLE LOVING PRANAMS at our Beloved Lord's Lotus Feet. I am really blessed to be here on Ladies Day with all of you, the embodiments of love of Bhagavan.

Millions of devotees all over the world have experienced the incredible miracles of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. But, I always question myself if we loved Swami or we were only looking at His miracles, wishing and praying that they should happen to us also? What greater miracle could there be for us than the all-pervasive Lord Himself descended in human form in our midst, to reform us, to teach us and tell us the very importance of being as human beings.

Swami's Mission of Transforming Humanity

He did touch millions of lives. He tried to tell us time and again that our lives are not just for living; we have to live with noble principles, with good character, service to mankind with humility. He detested ostentation, bragging about our own greatness, trying to be proud. You can be proud of your achievements but you should not be arrogant and hurt people. He always said, speak obligingly. How much did we learn and practise from the teachings of Bhagavan in all those years? Did we live up to His expectations? Did we make Him happy? Did we believe with devotion that He is God? Did we realise that He was here only to do good to us, to take care of us? Sometimes, I wonder if we just treated Him like a godman, an astrologer or a magician

creating miracles for His devotees. With a kind of dualistic mindset, I am afraid many have questioned His powers, His Divinity, His fathomless love and grace. We have hurt Him beyond words. This is what we did to Swami. But He did not lose hope on us. He smiled at our ignorance. He never gave up even after leaving His physical form.

For Swami mother is supreme. He wanted empowerment of women. Swami could not tolerate women being treated badly as if they are not human beings. In the year 1995 He initiated "Ladies Day" on the 19th of November. He had asked Smt. Anjali Devi to call me and told that I should compere and conduct the entire programme that evening. She called me and said, Swami had ordered that I should be there for the event. Though I was simply thrilled that Baba desired and wanted me for that unique day, fear took over my joy – God! What will I do standing in the Divine Presence? I gathered myself, made bold and entered the gates of Prasanthi Nilayam. I was stopped at the gate near Sai Kulwant Hall. Wondering what to do, I stood there looking for someone who would let me in. I saw Anjali Devi running towards the gate panting for breath and called, "Come in, come in. Swami said you were stopped at the gate and told me to bring you to Him". I was thrilled and when I did Padanamaskar to Bhagavan, He blessed me and leaned towards me and said, "Today is your day, you have to take care of the entire programme". Trying to overcome my nervousness, meekly I said, "*Swami Nenu Chaduvu Koledu Intha Pedda Karyakramam Ela Chestanu*"? (Swami, I am not educated enough, how can I conduct such a big programme?). He smiled and said, "Who said you are not educated? You are a Ph.D. from My college. You will do it". Swami's mischievous fine sense of humour



made me laugh. Anyway, the Ladies Day was a grand success. Everyone was happy and so was I with Swami's Divine blessings. Today I am profusely blessed by Sai Bhagavan to be present at Brindavan on Ladies Day. Such is His love for us.

Quest for God

I was born in a very orthodox Brahmin family. My father Late Sri Venkoji Rao studied in England for a couple of years and returned to India as a Paper Manufacturing Expert and a Chemical Engineer in the mid-thirties. I was born in 1931 on 12th December. There was a rigid social stigma in those days. When people travelled overseas and returned, they had to sanctify themselves by doing Prayaschitta (atonement). My father had declined that ritual by saying that he only believed in purity of thought and deed. As a result of his refusal to purify himself physically, we were prevented from entering any religious places like temples, Mutts and so on. My mother Smt. Sachi Devi being a very god-fearing, good-hearted woman would offer prayers in a special Puja room with all of us to keep us safe and happy. When I was about six years old, my father used to tell me how he would teach his European friends and deliver lectures on the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Upanishads. During his stay in England, my father educated my mother in India through Postal Courses in English as she could read and write only in Telugu. He had instructed her to engage a tutor who could teach her English well. No wonder my mother passed her Senior Cambridge exam successfully! My dad knew, the mother is the first and best teacher for her child. He always held women in great esteem and treated them with utmost respect. With the transformation of my mother from a simple Telugu speaking innocent woman into an

English speaking intelligent lady, and my father's broad outlook on human values and life, we were brought up with a mixture of East and West culture. Some good aspects were inculcated from the Colonial Kingdom like table manners, punctuality, discipline and hygiene. Our daily prayers continued in our Puja room with incense and Arati. In addition, we prayed at the dining table before every meal, of course in Queen's English.

At the age of six or seven years, I was curious to know why there were so many pictures in the Puja room like Rama, Krishna, Balaji, Lakshmi, Parvati and many more. One day I asked my mother, "Amma! We pray to all these pictures and you say they are all gods and goddesses but where are they now? Will we ever see them"? She sweetly said, "Yes, they are all gods, but we may not be able to see them as we are human beings". I was not convinced by her reply. I told my mother that I will see God one day! My urge to see God was growing along with me.

As there were very few experts who had specialised in Paper Technology both handmade and millmade, my father was in great demand. When he was working in Rajahmundry (now Rajamahendravaram) in Andhra Paper Mills, I was twelve years old. My younger sister Krishna Kumari and me studied in Government Girl's High School for about two years. We had to leave school and go with our parents to Madras (Chennai) in the year 1944. My dad worked for Madras Government till 1947. We were admitted to Durgabai Deshmukh Andhra Mahila Sabha to study for Matric. Prior to moving to Dalmia Nagar, Bihar Paper Mills, we were in Bengal where father was with Titagarh Paper Mills. So, this was our plight



when it came to schooling for me and my two younger sisters. During our stay in Chennai, I had an opportunity to participate in Telugu Radio Plays. I loved reading scripts written by many famous authors. Very soon I was declared as an 'A' grade Radio Star. I would get a cheque for twenty rupees and I used to deposit my cheque in my own bank account. Any member in our family needed money, there I was to give them. That was indeed gratifying being of some use when needed! From that day onwards, I realised that there was great pleasure in giving than taking. Well, my experience with All India Radio was important in many ways. I had learnt the art of using my voice to impress the listeners, with my modulation and diction. Voice culture and accent, I always put life into my lines while expressing. This study went a long way in my long years in films. Incidentally, Bhagavan made me speak many a time in His Divine Presence. I could see His appreciation when He listened intently!

Going back in time, in the year 1945-46, I had a unique opportunity to serve Mahatma Gandhiji as a special volunteer. Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh made me and my classmate Kanda Kalpakam wear Khadi Sari and sent us to Hindi Pracharak Sabha in Thyagaraya Nagar to serve the Mahatma for two days. These were great moments in my life, but I was hoping to see God.

In the Film Industry

An early marriage at 15, becoming a mother at 17+, joining the tinsel world for survival at 18, my life took a different turn altogether. But at the back of my mind this quest for God was there. You may call Him Guru or God, I was in search of some power to guide me in the right path. I was in need to move on with a sense of direction as it was a chequered life at that point of time.

My mother strongly believed that Sri Shirdi Sai Baba has taken rebirth as one Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Andhra Pradesh. My parents were ardent devotees of Shirdi Baba. When once I heard from my mother that Sri Sathya Sai Baba was coming to Chennai and that Baba will be staying in the house of Venkatagiri Raja and with Gogineni family, I was keen on meeting the incarnation of Shirdi Baba, according to my mother. The year was 1965. I went with mixed feelings, not with any great expectations. The moment I entered the room where Baba was seated, something happened to me. I was spellbound. That inexplicable radiance, that smile, that brilliance! God! He is my God. He is my Guru. He is my everything. He looked straight into my eyes and smilingly said in His mesmerising voice "Raa Kurcho" (come sit down). I went and bowed down to Him and touched His Feet. That very moment, my quest to see God in person vanished. From that day, I said to myself I must go and meet Sri Sathya Sai Baba again and again, as often as possible. Every time I came to Karnataka to work in Kannada movies, I would rush to Whitefield eagerly longing for Swami's Darshan. To my dismay, I would find the railway gate endlessly closed. Nobody knew when the passenger train would go, when the goods train would pass at snail speed and when the guy would open the gate. By the time, I would cross the railway gate and enter Baba's Mandir, Swami would have taken His Arati and gone into His divine abode. Well, it is not that easy to see Swami. You may have a strong urge, pining to have His Darshan but you should have His Sankalpa and grace to be fortunate. He made me wait. He was testing me. It took me twenty long years to cross all the hurdles to reach Swami.



One fine morning, I came and sat right in front of the stage where Bhagavan was seated. With one glance at me He came down straight to me, gave His Divine Lotus Feet, gracefully lifting His robe to let me place both my palms on them. I broke down, *Ennala Kichavayya Naakee Adristam!* (after a long time, You have blessed me with such good fortune!). After those glorious moments, there was no looking back; my life had changed. I felt strong and believed that my life has a purpose. After my role as a teacher who brings the Bal Vikas children to Puttaparthi and have Bhagavan's Darshan, Swami endearingly called me for an interview. I was thrilled when He praised my performance and blessed me profusely with a gift. Then He looked at me and said, "Janaki, your health is not okay". Confused I uttered, "But Swami! I am alright, I don't feel that I am not well". Smilingly, He placed His Divine Hand on my head and said, "Don't worry, I will take care". He created a lot of Vibhuti and blessed me again. After a couple of months, I was working at Hyderabad in two Telugu films. I was going back to Chennai, finishing my work. I was walking towards the plane when I felt an excruciating, unbearable pain in my chest. I knew it was something to do with my heart. I called Swami in a loud tone and boarded the plane. Somehow, I reached home with all that pain. Next day, I was admitted in the hospital by my eldest daughter. Dr. Girinath was surprised as to how I had survived such a massive heart attack looking at all the tests done. My other daughter and my only son were summoned from California as I had to go through an emergency open heart surgery. Baba had sent my brother's son-in-law, Sri Sai Surendranath who teaches in Swami's college and is with Swami all the time. He drove the whole night from Parthi,

reached in time to give me the Vibhuti. By then I was in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). I heard Baba calling me "Janaki". I could see a clear figure with that orange robe stretching His hand towards me with an envelope in pink colour, on top of it a brilliant diamond like ball rotating. That's it, the orange robe figure disappeared. After a six hour operation, I had survived with the Divine blessings of Swami.

The Power of Vibhuti

Here I am today to narrate two more such incredible miracles Bhagavan performed in my family. Swami blessed me with one son and two daughters. I got a call from my son who lives in California, saying that his wife is very sick, she has cancer very close to the brain and it is not operable. Totally upset, I did not know what I should do. All I could think of was going to Puttaparthi to see Baba. As I live in Bengaluru, it took me three and a half hours to reach there. I wrote what was told by my son in a small piece of paper and I was sitting in the front row, holding the folded chit in my closed hand. I never liked getting up, rushing towards Swami and start telling my problems as I never liked to impose myself and trouble Swami. The Sarvantaryami (indweller of all) need not be told or asked. He stopped in front of me and said, "Ivru" (give). I opened my fist and gave the chit to Him. "When do you want to go?" He asked kindly. "Swami, if You permit me I can go immediately because the doctors say, she may not live." "I will tell you, I will see you." Saying these words, He moved on. Two days passed; Swami did not say anything. I was sitting in the same place anxiously waiting for Swami's orders. The third day, He called me and said, "Okay come, I will talk to you". After some time, Smt. Shourie asked me to follow her to Swami's interview room. I was



sitting at His Divine Feet, wondering what Swami would say about my daughter-in-law. Will she make it, will she live? He said, "They are unnecessarily drugging her too much". I hastened to ask Swami, "Should I call my son and tell him to stop all the drugs, Swami?" "No, that is not needed, you can go, I will come with you. *Anandamga Velli Raa*" (go happy and come back). Saying so, He created a lot of Vibhuti to give it to her. When I reached my son's home along with him from Los Angeles airport, I felt sad to see such a healthy woman sitting in a sofa like a doll. She was losing sight, memory, walk, everything. My son married a Kutch Gujarati girl. I said, "Ragini! Swami sent me to you. Here is the Vibhuti He gave. You just take it everyday and keep on praying, Sai Ram, Sai Ram, Sai Ram. That's it".

I was staying with my younger daughter. I relish Gujarati food, but I would always get into the kitchen, I cook my own food, especially after my stress-related heart surgery. Perhaps for living, acting is my profession, cooking is my passion. On the third day of my arrival, the phone was ringing, I was in the kitchen, my daughter Sachi answered and called me, "Amma, your son is calling". I ran to find out what had happened. He said, "Maa! Something happened". "What! What happened?" I asked. He replied, "We went for a second check-up this morning, they cannot find even one cancer cell in her! Some miracle has happened. Baba has done it. Yes, Swami has done this miracle". My joy knew no bounds. The doctors said they are baffled. Immediately, I sent a fax to Bhagavan for saving Ragini's life: "You have done this miracle because she deserved Your love and grace. My grateful thanks to You, my Swami." But some people may question why only some selected ones enjoy His grace –

why not all? The answer is very simple. What was your bank balance in your previous Janma (birth)? What were your good deeds? What did you carry forward? What are you doing now? To be blessed by Bhagavan, to deserve His grace, you need to be truthful to yourself. God is watching you all the time. Follow His path of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema (truth, righteousness, peace, love). God is with you.

The second miracle Swami performed on my son Venkata Ramana in September 2010. He cured him of his Colon Cancer after a surgery. Now after five years, he has been given a 'clean chit' as Bhagavan promised me before my leaving to the U.S. for his surgery.

Miracles of Swami Demonstrate His Omnipresence

Even after His departure from His physical form, miracles are happening more and more. Recently, I was in the U.S.A. There is one lady in a place called "Ann Arbor". She is Smt. Jayanthi, a great devotee of Bhagavan. Swami's Vibhuti is materialising all over the house, on His holy images. She and her family live in a three-storeyed building. Holy Vibhuti, turmeric, Kumkum and many beautiful idols. All this is documented by an American gentleman. God! It is amazing, beyond description or imagination. It is on You Tube. He is materialising things to make us feel His presence, to say I am with you, I have not gone. We are still trying to come to terms with ourselves that Swami is not there, we are missing His physical proximity. He has not left us even for a moment. Wish you all a very happy Ladies Day and many purposeful years to come to all of us. Om Sri Sai Ram.

– **The author, Smt. Sowcar Janaki, is a renowned actor and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.**



MY JOURNEY TO SAI

Jeanie Boo

I FIRST CAME TO KNOW ABOUT SAI Baba from Sri Jegadeesan's book, "Journey to God". Later, in the year 1983, a journalist friend of my husband



gave us a stack of Sai Baba books that was left untouched for quite a long time.

How Swami Came into my Life

Then, late one evening, out of curiosity, I pulled out one of the books and it was the book I just mentioned. I flipped through it and started to read it and was in awe of the many miraculous stories in it. I was instantly

endeared to this person called Sathya Sai Baba. That night, my husband and I shared reading that book and finished it at almost 4 a.m.! That was it! I had to find a Sai Baba Centre. How lucky I was that the telephone number of the Sai Centre in my hometown was listed in the back pages of that book! I called the number the next morning and the lady who answered told me that the Centre had since moved to the Tamil School. She gave me some instructions and further information which I was so eager to receive. I was so excited! I started attending Bhajans and have not looked back since. My journey to God had just begun, my journey with Bhagavan Baba.

When I am with Children, I am a Child

My family soon made a trip to Sri Jegadeesan's house in Kuala Lumpur. He was very kind and warm and gave us many items concerning Baba. One of them was a framed photo of Baba with the third eye. This picture, I kept in my upstairs back room on a table, leaning against the wall. One day, my older son, Ernest, who was then three years old, came running to me and very excitedly exclaimed, "Mummy, Mummy, Sai Baba has a very nice smell"! I asked him how he knew that. He said Baba spoke to him. "Are you sure Baba spoke to you?" I asked, "Where"? He took my hand and led me to the back room. "Here," he said, pointing to the picture leaning against the wall. "From this picture," he said, "but his voice was all



over the room” as he gestured to the ceiling! He said, “I am very happy because Baba called me Ernest. I don’t like to be called Ah Boy”. He said Baba told him, “Ernest, share your marbles”. He had a small tin of marbles kept in his bed drawer which he did not allow his younger brother to play with. In the days that followed, I would playfully ask him about this episode and each time he would give the same answers. He was only three years plus but remained consistent with his account. I thought to myself that Sai Baba coming to a child to tell him to share his marbles reminds me of what Baba Himself has said, “When I am with children, I am a child”. Baba comes to tell children kid’s stuff but even then, He gives value lessons there. In this instance, He taught Ernest to share.

About three weeks after this incident, I decided that I would buy the Indian type of incense sticks for my prayers instead. So, I went to an Indian shop in town and bought a pack of jasmine-scented incense sticks and the first time I lit it, Ernest exclaimed, “Mummy, Sai Baba is this smell”! Oh wow, it’s three weeks after and he could still remember the smell! Those of us who are familiar with early stories of Baba would have read about Him smelling of jasmine! Swami had indeed come to my son and talked to him.

A Dream before my First Trip to Puttaparthi

It was the year 1985. I had made plans to go to Puttaparthi to see Swami. It was to be my very first time to India. Two weeks before my trip, I had a dream. In the dream, I was in a big house that had a big central staircase in the middle of the hall. To the right of the staircase, where I was standing, I saw that a Bhajan was about to take place. Then I saw

a man in a grey colour robe standing facing me. I looked at him and in my mind in the dream, I said to myself, “This is Lord Rama”, even though I had no idea how Lord Rama looked like. Then, as we were both slowly getting to sit down, he looked straight into my eyes. There and then, I knew he was Sai Baba! As he continued to look into my eyes, he said, “I can recognise you. You are my old devotee”. With those words, I felt a big smack on my chest. I was awakened by that smack! The pain was real for it was still there when I woke up. It lingered for some time before it disappeared. I quickly woke my husband up and related the dream to him.

Two weeks later, I was in Puttaparthi. It was Swami’s 60th Birthday celebration. My father and my sister-in-law came with me. On the evening of Swami’s Birthday, 23rd November, as my sister-in-law and I were rushing to the Western Canteen to have our dinner, we bumped into a Sai friend from back home who excitedly told us that he had just come from the Delegate’s Conference and Swami had announced: “Whoever is here today is the same congregation of people gathered during Lord Rama’s Coronation Day”! When I heard that, my dream suddenly had meaning! No wonder that man in my dream looked like Lord Rama and yet was Sai Baba! I was so excited that when we reached the Western Canteen, I could hardly eat!

Our stay of ten days at Prasanthi Nilayam was such a blessed experience. That trip was the start of many more to follow.

Swami always Plans in Advance for His Devotees

One night, quite a number of years after we had come to know Swami, my husband



and I were driving back to our hometown from Kuala Lumpur after attending my husband's Sydney University Alumni gathering. It was past midnight when my husband decided that he needed to take a break to refresh. He was feeling tired and sleepy. We chose a lit-up area under a highway street lamp. As my husband was refreshing himself, I sat there staring out the front windshield. Suddenly, I saw smoke coming out from under the bonnet! I alerted my husband and we got down to investigate. We found that our radiator had run out of water. And we had not brought any water with us during the travel. We both stood there wondering what to do. We had no water, we had no way of contacting anyone. That was not the era of mobile phones yet, at least not for us. And there was no way we could hail a taxi at that hour.

I suddenly remembered to call out to Swami for help. I had with me a small packet of Vibhuti. I opened it and sprinkled some on the bonnet and continued praying to Swami for help. We knew it was dangerous to be stranded on the highway at that hour. A few moments went by and then a car drove past us very fast. But it stopped at some distance and started to reverse. As it stopped about 20 metres from where we were standing, a man came out from the driver's side and walked towards us. When I saw him, I said to my husband, "He looks like our friend, Michael Lim!" But as he came nearer, I saw that he was my own brother! He told us that our car number plate was blocked from his view but he thought the two people standing there looked like us and that's why he stopped to check. He soon learned of our problem and suggested that we walk to the nearby highway interchange to get help while he stood guard. We did that and the man manning the interchange called for a

tow truck for us. We walked back to wait near our car. Within a few minutes, a tow truck came and towed our car to the nearest town. My husband and I got into my brother's car and asked him what he was doing driving at that hour. My brother worked in Penang in the northern part of the peninsula which is about 5 to 6 hours drive to Kuala Lumpur. He said that after finishing work at around five o'clock that afternoon, he felt a strong urge to come back to Muar, our hometown, in the southern part of the peninsula. He had no plans to come home but felt the need to. When I heard that, I knew immediately that it was Swami who was urging him to make the trip home. Swami knew we would be needing help at precisely that time. The miracle of this incident was in the timing! Had my brother passed by that place earlier, he would not have encountered us and had our car broken down later, we would not have him drive past us. Swami had planned it all so perfectly! He knows our every move even before it takes place.

In Conclusion . . .

My family has known Swami for 34 years now. We have been listening to His Discourses and studying His literature. In all this, one of Swami's teachings that most appeal to me is, "Be Good, Do Good, See Good. This is the way to God". This, I feel, encompasses all that is needed for our spiritual journey. Even "Love All, Serve All" is enshrined within these three seemingly 'simple' divine directives. My family and I feel so blessed that Swami chose to come into our lives. Thank you so much, my dear Swami. We love you, always.

– From the talk of Ms. Jeanie Boo from Malaysia on 23rd February 2018 on the occasion of Chinese New Year celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.



Effulgence of Divine Glory

DIVINE LEELAS ON CHITRAVATHI SANDS

*I*T WAS DURING EARLY DAYS OF 1946 to 1949 that a few devotees of our Lord had the unique opportunity of witnessing His Leelas on the banks of the river Chitravathi in the evenings.



By 3 p.m., we would get ready, just like children in Madras (Chennai) waiting for their parents to take them to the Marina Beach! By 4 p.m., Swami would lead us. In the cool sweeping breeze, we trekked and followed our Lord who walked in flowing robes, bright like sunlight in a serene atmosphere, surrounded by golden brown hillocks topped by a dark streak here and there. Our steps, with the feet plunging in the sands of the Chitravathi, were a great contrast to the gliding Lotus Feet of our Lord on the sands. We would walk for about half-an-hour. Swami would ask us where we could sit. We would select a spot; Swami would sit at the place chosen by us! With

Swami in the centre we sat in a circle around Him.

Soon He would say, "Let us talk something", and there would be a question from one of the devotees about Lord Rama or Lord Krishna. Swami would narrate hitherto unknown and unrecorded incidents in the lives of Rama and Krishna. He would then ask the lucky few who had a melodious voice to sing. It could be Mira Bhajans or Thyagaraja Kirtans or Purandaradasa Kirtans. Swami would call one of the devotees and ask him to sit near Him. He would then pull out a Panchaloha idol from the sand. That would always be the Ishta Devata (chosen deity) of that devotee! He would be in Ananda Bhashpa (tears of joy) and Swami would give him that idol and ask him to do Puja (worship). The idols may be that of Ganesh, Rama, Krishna, Panduranga, Narasimha, Padmanabha, Devi, Hanuman, Saraswati, Shirdi Sai, Kumaraswami and so on. After this special blessing, there would be a general blessing by way of Prasad to all. Swami would produce Laddus from the sand and distribute them Himself. One single Laddu in His palm would be distributed by Him to everybody there (about 30 to 40 devotees) with more than half of it to each! His palm itself was the Akshaya Patra (inexhaustible

continued on page 29...





NITIN MAGAL

WHY FEAR WHEN SWAMI IS HERE

I WAS BLESSED TO STUDY IN Sathya Sai educational institutions for one decade. In the year 2009, I applied for B.Com (Hons) course at Brindavan. But I was doubtful and thought, "Will an



ordinary student with 60% marks get into His fold"? But with Swami's Will I got through all the rounds of tests and interview and was admitted.

Time rolled on at Brindavan. We were getting ready to take part in events for

the Sports Meet. Previous to this, I had performed two dramas in Swami's presence and was keen to be in the drama team. I was a main character artist in both the earlier performances and loved to be one among them as students get chance to go near Bhagavan on this pretext.

My name was included, and I was given the role of a soldier. It was a play on Bhakta Tukaram and his journey. I had no clue and was wondering when would be my dialogue delivery. Soon, our Warden juggled a few characters and I was given the role of a disciple of Sant Tukaram. Days passed by and the team was scouting for a person who could enact the role of Lord Vitthala, who could stand in the shrine. Lo and behold! My name was picked. My happiness knew no bounds.

We were ready for the programme and on the day of performance, we were introduced to Swami on our roles in the Bhajan Hall. Swami who knew all came gliding towards me and the Warden introduced me, saying, "Swami, this is Vitthala and he will be standing in the shrine", and Swami questioned with His usual spontaneity, "Will you bless Me, too"? I was shocked and I had no thoughts except His form stuck in my mind. With lot of courage I spoke, "Swami..."!!! One single word was all that I could utter at that moment. He smiled and glided further.

The play began and Swami was there all through our performance. He was seated right opposite to me. He never moved, nor did He go to the interview room. He was in the middle of the dais and staring at me and watching the performance. At the end of the play, we had planned to have photo session with Swami. We had in our minds that He would come to the allocated spot which we had planned. But His choice made me get Him right next to me. At that time, a thought passed my mind that Swami was physically

getting old. So, I held the Lord's hand as softly as possible thinking of His age. But in return, He pressed my palm and held it tight and firm. He then asked me, "What is your name"? I replied, "Swami, Nitin Magal", to which he replied, good, in Telugu. He did not leave my hand nor did I imagine leaving Him. The tightness, firmness grew stronger and as time passed by, He had held me for nothing less than twenty minutes. I felt the assurance given by our Sai Maa that come what may, He will never leave us. He may delay but never deny: "Why fear when I am here. I am always there with you forever, everywhere, at all time".

The play came to an end. As He showered His love in plenty on us, we were

all delighted. From this incident, I learnt that Swami would give us things which we would not have asked for, but if we deserved it He would give it bountiful even without asking. We constantly keep asking Him to bless us, but He has never forgotten to bless us and love us. Our Swami is right here, next to us but we off and on forget Him.

He has His divine plan for each one of us. All that we need to do is to remind ourselves that Swami is right next to us and He is watching.

– The author passed his B.Com (Hons) from Brindavan Campus of the Institute in the year 2012.

...continued from page 27

vessel). Sometimes, it would be Doodhpeda (milk sweet) or Kesari or sweet Pongal. Whenever we looked tired, Swami would manifest Badam Halwa (almond pudding) and give it to us.

One day, at this Leela Sthal (place of divine play), Swami brought out from His Sai Stores, idols and pendants in ivory and sandalwood. Sometimes, He gave photographs of the deities to His chosen devotees. When Swami asked a devotee, well-versed in Bhagavadgita, whether he possessed a copy of the Gita and he replied that he had only an old copy with the pages torn, he levelled the sand as usual and pulled out a new copy of the Gita in Telugu and gave it him. Overjoyed he read it with tears.

The Second World War was raging, and film rolls were not easily available. I had an ordinary Agfa box camera. Swami manifested roll films No.120 and gave them to me to take group photos of devotees with Him. He asked me to send the photo, with the negative to the devotees by post. Once

on the banks of Chitravathi, Swami wanted me to read a book written by His school master, Sri Kondappa on Baba's life. When the portion "Shirdi Sai Baba is now reborn as Sri Sathya Sai Baba" was read, Swami's form changed to that of Shirdi Sai Baba. From among the crowd my father rose, shouting 'Hey! Sai! Hey Sai!' and rushed towards Baba and hugged Him tight. Swami found it very difficult to release Himself from my father's embrace till the form changed back to that of Sathya Sai!

One day, while we were proceeding to the banks of the Chitravathi, Swami asked us all to run and catch Him. He ran fast and sat at a distance. We also ran, and when we were about to touch Him, He appeared elsewhere. We then rushed there. When we were almost near Him, we found Him seated exactly opposite to us! Finally, we surrendered at His Lotus Feet, admitting our defeat. Thus, he revealed His omnipresence.

– Excerpted from the book "Lokanatha Sai" by M.L. Leela.

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

U. S. A.

THE INSTITUTE OF SATHYA Sai Education (ISSE) of the U.S.A., with support from the SSIO, initiated a new community outreach effort, Human Values Fest, a family-centred festival expanding awareness of the five cardinal human values and the practice of love and service in the community. The First Annual Human Values Fest took place in Austin, Texas, on 4th November 2017, at



*The First Annual Human Values Fest,
Austin (Texas), U.S.A.*

the Don Tew Performing Arts Center. The event, supported by local partner schools, drew about 500 people, including hundreds of local families. It featured a human values art, music and creative writing exhibition displaying 150 pieces by children in primary and elementary schools, various values-based activities and crafts for children, an art and music contest, and a display highlighting community work by local service organisations. The day was capped by an exhilarating evening concert by International Rhythm Masters. The delightful concert ended with an evening awards ceremony.

recognising the efforts of all participating children and artists. The first-ever Human Values Fest was so well-received by the community that many individuals, schools, and service organisations expressed interest in participating in next year's event in 2018. Public responses to the event included "unique", "moved to tears", and "very impactful".

UNITED KINGDOM

On 10th December 2017, members of the SSIO of UK from South West England and Wales participated in annual National Christmas Celebrations at Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies College. The event, themed "Harmony: the Hallmark of Humanness", opened with a welcome address by the President of the SSIO of UK, followed by a Christmas service on



National Christmas Celebrations, U.K.

traditional lines of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Christmas carols. Readings from the Holy Bible were beautifully intertwined with the carols, together relating the joyful story of the holy advent of Lord Jesus. The magical and uplifting ambience



in the hall during the service crescendoed into the final carol, "O Come, All Ye Faithful". The service concluded with a Christmas sermon delivered by Anne Ryan of Taunton, Somerset, inspiring all with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

RUSSIA AND ADJOINING COUNTRIES

More than 630 people attended a series of public meetings organised by 250 Sai community volunteers from 50 Sathya Sai Centres in Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Azerbaijan, between 26th October and 11th November 2017. These meetings addressed a broad range of topics, including the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, SSIO programmes and conservation of the environment.



92nd Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Baba by devotees from Russia.

In Kazakhstan, volunteers shared their experiences in planting and caring for trees in cities and removing plastic waste from the sea. In Kyrgyzstan, volunteers spoke about the importance of spiritual development and the role of spiritual teachers, followed by devotional singing, filling everyone with love, joy and gratitude. SSIO members in Ukraine presented a film stressing the importance of human values, respect for elders and

maintaining family traditions, culture and spirituality. Volunteers in Belarus organised a "Sai Café", an interesting group activity wherein participants discuss the role of language in controlling emotions.

More than 500 Sai community members from 27 Centres and 58 Groups from Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan participated in the 92nd Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. SSIO members enthusiastically joined in concerts, devotional singing and sharing of their experiences of Sathya Sai. They also viewed videos on Bhagavan Baba and a film of a performance of a Russian choir in Prasanthi Nilayam.

NEPAL

On 16th December 2017, 15 young adults from Narayangarh, Nepal, travelled to remote villages of Sapreni, Jaithali and Kol Bhanjyang, and lovingly served hot food to more than 60 families. Despite difficulty



Warm clothing to needy families in a remote region in Nepal.

in accessing these remote locations, the volunteers happily gifted about 100 items of warm clothing and blankets to the needy families.

THAILAND

On 16th December 2017, SSE students from Thailand gave a presentation on the



Serve the Planet project to 41 people, including 19 SSIO members. The children spoke about the need to conserve water, electricity and food, while taking care of Mother Earth. They also emphasised the need to keep our thoughts pure.

On 17th December 2017, 21 members of the SSIO of Thailand and 17 guests brought Christmas cheer to upwards of 100 residents of the Good Shepherd Sisters Home by serving sumptuous dinner to all the residents. On 24th December, another programme was organised by the SSIO which included devotional songs, Christmas



Christmas celebrations in Thailand.

carols and dances presented by young children. At midnight, a priest from a nearby church led the guests in prayer, welcoming Christmas Day.

HUNGARY

On 25th November 2017, 110 devotees from the SSIO in Hungary celebrated the 92nd Birthday of Sri Sathya Sai Baba with a national meeting which focused on the importance of the environment and included a drama depicting the selfless love offered by Nature and all life on earth. The next day, 14 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Budapest visited a nursing home to entertain the senior residents, bringing holiday cheer by singing heart-warming Hungarian songs



Serving senior citizens, Hungary.

and reciting poems and short stories. The volunteers also served delicious homemade desserts and fresh fruits to the elderly, who expressed heartfelt gratitude for the loving service.

AZERBAIJAN

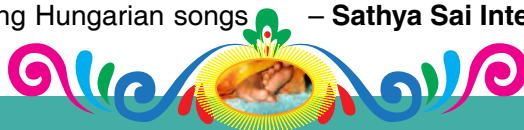
On 17th December 2017, seven volunteers from three Sathya Sai Centres in Azerbaijan distributed gift bags to 36 children at an orphanage, each bag containing oranges, tangerines, pomegranates, apples, bananas, eight types of sweets, kozinaks (a sweet made from nuts and seeds), cookies, waffles, biscuits, nuts, a toy, and a New Year's mask. The volunteers also helped the younger children prepare gifts for their



Visit to an orphanage, Azerbaijan.

friends. The older children enthusiastically participated in a lesson on appreciating the beauty of Nature and seeing the inner beauty in each person.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation



BHARAT

Gujarat: The Annual Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat was held on 27th and 28th January 2018 at Vadnagar, Gujarat. Vadnagar village has its own unique identity because it is the birthplace and hometown of Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. A Sadhana Camp for office bearers of the Sai Organisation was also conducted as part of this conference.

The Sadhana Camp for State office bearers and district presidents was organised on 27th January 2018. The main focus of this camp was Nine-Point Code of Conduct given by our Beloved Bhagavan. Nine speakers from the State gave talks on each of the points. This was followed by discussion which focused on the inculcation



Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana visited Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd March 2018 and offered his salutations at the Samadhi of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

A press conference was also organised on this occasion, wherein media persons were briefed about the Seva activities of the Sai Organisation. A spiritual exhibition was also held on this occasion which made pictorial depiction of Sai Avatar's Mission, right from His birth. It included teachings and Seva activities of the Sai Organisation both at National and State level to carry forward the Avatar's Mission. The inauguration of the exhibition was done by Sri Somabhai D. Modi, elder brother of Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi in the presence of State President, Vice State President and District Presidents of various districts. This Exhibition was visited

by many dignitaries and local people. In the evening, a 70 minutes video show was screened regarding Sai Avatar's Mission.

The Annual Conference of SSSSO, Gujarat was held at Hatkeshwer Mahadev Temple, Vadnagar on 28th January 2018. The theme of the conference was



Sadhana Camp on Nine Point Code of Conduct.

of the Nine-Points in day-to-day life to lead a spiritual life and become worthy instruments of Bhagavan's Divine Mission as office bearers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. The Sadhana Camp was attended by about 40 office bearers and district presidents of Gujarat State.





Annual Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat.

“Spirituality, the Heartbeat of SSSSO”. The guest speakers were Dr. Deepak Anand, Assistant Professor, SSSIHL, Puttaparthi and Dr. Shashank Shah, visiting faculty of Harvard University, U.S.A. In his Inaugural Address, Sri Manohar Trikanad, State President of SSSSO, Gujarat explained the theme of the Conference.

The first talk was given by Dr. Deepak Anand, who quoted several instances in which he had direct interaction with Beloved Bhagavan in close proximity and which gave him opportunity to seek answers from Bhagavan on several questions on spirituality. His experiences with Bhagavan brought surprise coupled with thrill among the audience present which included several non-devotees.

The speaker in the post-lunch session was Dr. Shashank Shah, who in his 90 minutes speech explained the word “Spirituality” letter by letter, interspersed with several quotes of Bhagavan and his experiences with Bhagavan.

In his Valedictory Address, Sri Manohar Trikanad briefed about the upcoming activities of the Sai Organisation. He then happily said that both the speakers had

very lucidly explained the meaning of spirituality and its importance in Sai Organisation as per Swami’s views. He concluded his valedictory speech by asking all present to take oath along with him to be worthy instruments of Swami in carrying His Mission forward selflessly.

Kerala: Realising the dangers caused by the use of pesticides in growing vegetables and fruits, SSSSO of Alappuzha district of Kerala has started an innovative



An innovative initiative of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala.

project “Sai Agri Varsh”, wherein devotees are encouraged to cultivate organic vegetables at home as kitchen garden or on the open terrace. The devotees use the vegetables cultivated for food preparation at home instead of buying from the market. If any surplus vegetables are there, devotees can bring these to the Sai Samithi for use in Narayana Seva. This project implemented in SSSVIP villages and devotees houses is running extremely well and will be extended to other districts soon. SSSVIP team is also conducting regular classes and seminar to educate and inspire everyone to grow organic vegetables.



Book Review

LOVE SMILE NOW – A STUDENT’S TALE OF TRANSFORMATION



LOVE SMILE NOW - A STUDENT'S TALE OF TRANSFORMATION

Dr. Deepak Anand

₹ 100.00 shipping charges extra,
Code No. 15438 pp. 306

GOD’S UNFATHOMABLE LOVE IS the Truth of all Creation. The Smile of blissful awakening is the purpose of human life. The everlasting Now is the right arena for Divine aspirations. This book ‘Love Smile Now...’ is an eloquent and deeply devotional narration of the transformation of the author Dr. Deepak Anand in the privileged proximity of Bhagavan Baba. The contents and style of narration keep the reader totally absorbed from start to finish. Its impact is most resounding wherever Swami-students interactions are involved.

In between the accounts of enthralling experiences with Bhagavan, the book reveals the depths of Vedic philosophy of non-dualism, explained in unique style of the author. The insights from each experience are indeed valuable lessons conducive to inner voyage.

“The vision of oneness is the essence of spiritual life. It is the fusion of rivers

of Dharma into the ocean of love. Love transcends every Dharma, because every action performed with pure love is by default Dharma. Selfless love for God is the greatest Dharma, and we frequently experience it in Bhagavan’s presence... Given the innumerable human limitations, God evaluates on the touchstone of Dharma, more from the intentional point of view than by our actions per se,” says the author.

The author beautifully corroborates the significance of chanting sacred names and hymns with the results of experiments made by a Japanese scientist. The author has deftly dealt with valid pairs of opposites in life such as unity-diversity, breath-mind control, mental calmness-body health, etc., straddling on which is an art of spirituality. “I was often wonderstruck how the Lord draws upon both our dream and waking states as verily His playgrounds, to accomplish His Mission of transformation of the human heart,” he states.

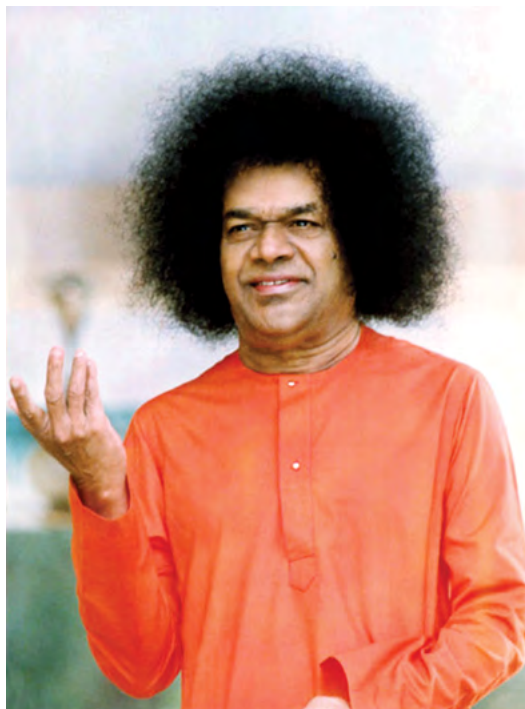
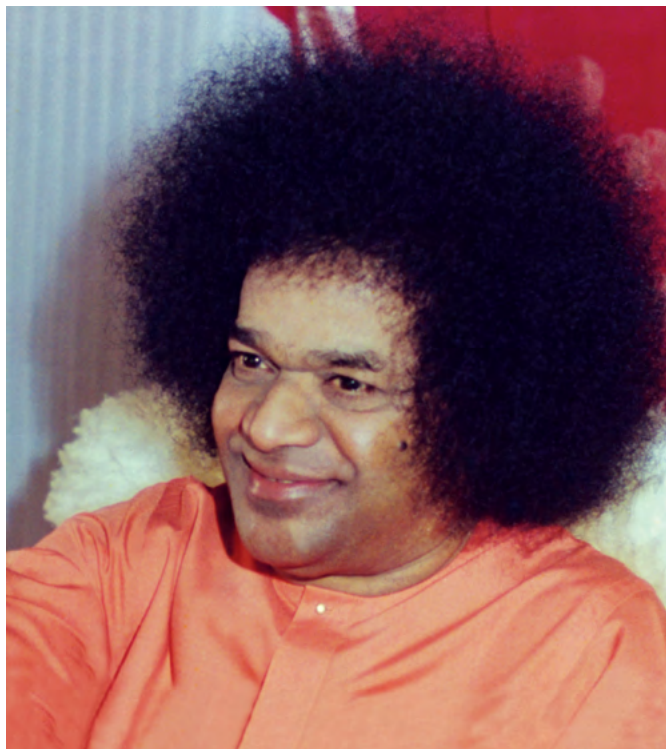
“He (Baba) continuously sacrificed for others. Even in His last days in the hospital, He took upon His body all the Karmic balances of devotees He had lovingly accepted in His lifetime,” says the author.

Based on author’s first-hand experiences of Bhagavan’s Divinity, the book gives inner interpretations for a spiritual life as it contains invaluable lessons learnt by him in close interaction with Bhagavan.

– P.P.S. Sarma



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About Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust Publications Division (SSSSTPD)

On 1st January, 2009, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust (SSSST) commenced operations with four divisions; the Bhakta Sahayak divisions (one in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi and another in Brindavan, Bangalore), the Publications division, and the Media division.

The Publications Division (SSSSTPD) caters to:

- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries for the benefit of visiting pilgrims and devotees all over the world. All the literature and publications are based on the teachings, philosophy, message, and values of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- 2) The publication and distribution of Bhagavan Baba's monthly spiritual journal - Sanathana Sarathi - in English and Telugu languages. Since 2011, e-version of the magazine is also released simultaneously and is available in the popular Interactive PDF format on www.sanathanasarathi.org.
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel www.theprasanthireporter.org, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers' - for free distribution.
- 4) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of books written by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and books on Bhagavan besides various spiritual and religious books.

Get Sanathana Sarathi

On Sanathana Sarathi official website – www.sanathanasarathi.org – subscribe for paperback and e-versions. Single monthly editions are also downloadable in English and Telugu languages at <http://bit.ly/sarathienglish> and <http://bit.ly/sarathitelugu>.

Other Books By SSSSTPD (In English)

1. Sai Sathya Sakha
2. Summer Showers In Brindavan, 1972
3. Satyopanisad I
4. Satyopanisad II
5. Gurudev
6. Namasmarana
7. Bhakthi And Health
8. Life Is Love, Enjoy It!
9. Life Is A Challenge, Meet It!
10. Life Is A Dream, Realize It!
11. Bhagawan And Bhakta
12. Body And Mind
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15. Silence
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18. Atma
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25. Memoirs Of A Sai Student
26. A Journey To Self-Peace
27. Dharma
28. Guru



29. Karma
30. Life
31. Meditation
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33. Simple Truths
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2. Sanathana Sarathi – www.sanathanasarathi.org
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4. The Prasanthi Reporter – www.theprasanthireporter.org



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Panchanga Sravanam on Ugadi Day.



Devotional music presentation by the Sivam Bhajan Group of Hyderabad.



A dance number from the drama "Prema Saramu" by Bal Vikas children of Adilabad district.

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Get Rid of Desire, Anger and Greed

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

– Baba

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Editor: G.L. ANAND