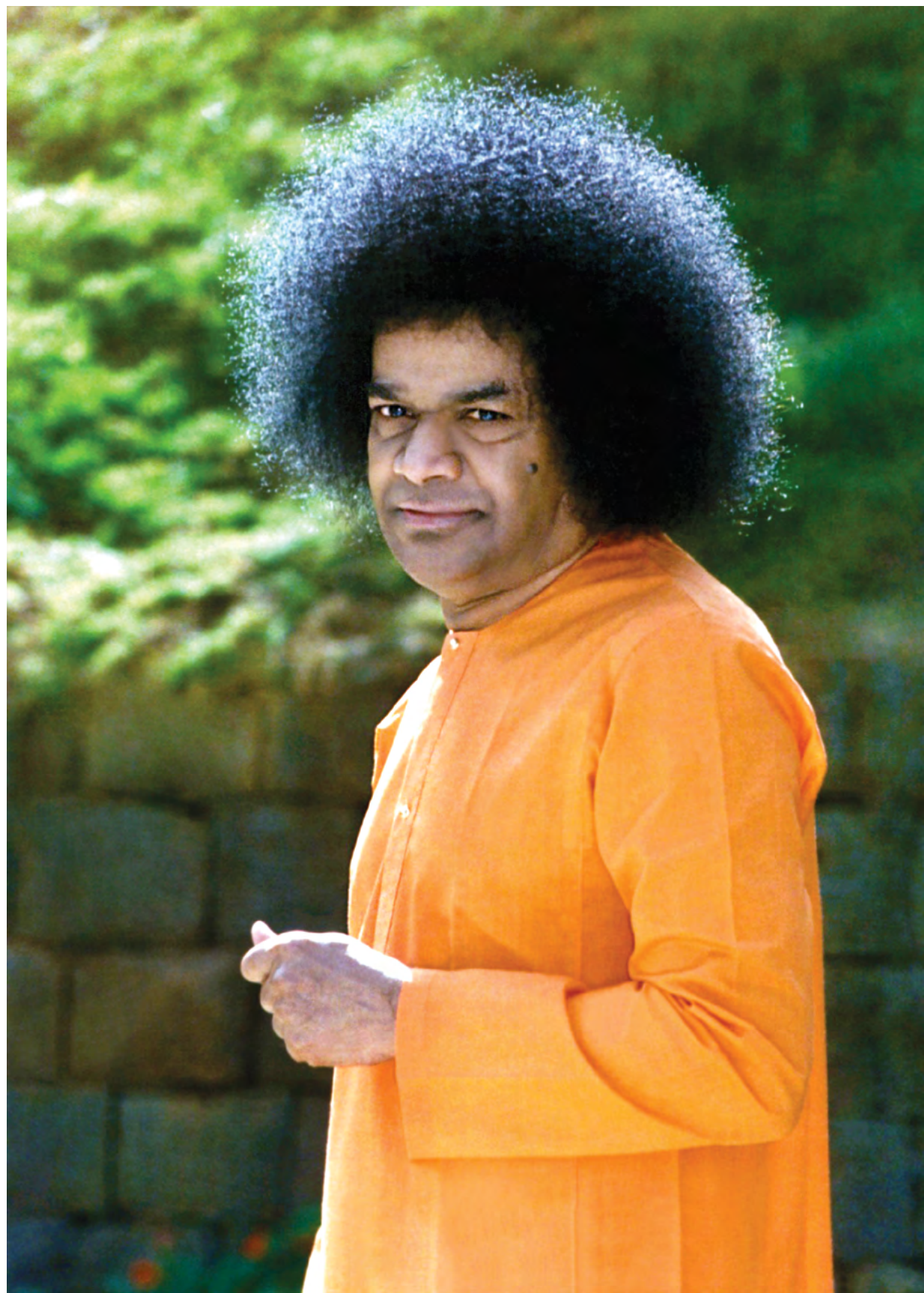




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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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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
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Telephone : 287375
Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Telefax : 287390

General enquiry : 287164

Sri Sathya Sai University -
Administrative Office : 287191 / 287239

Sri Sathya Sai Higher
Secondary School : 289289

Sri Sathya Sai
Primary School : 287237

SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram,

Puttaparthi : 287388

SSSIHMS, Whitefield,

Bengaluru : 080 28411500



"You have mountainous hopes for the future. But future is not certain. Then why do you bother about those things? Live in the present. It is not ordinary present; it is omnipresent. Past results are in the present. Future results are also in the present."

CONTENTS

- 4 **Get Rid of Selfishness and Tread the Path of Divinity**
Bhagavan's Discourse: 9th April 1993
- 11 **Sathya Sai World Youth Festival**
A Report
- 18 **Faith is the First Requisite to Recognise Divinity**
From our Archives
- 20 **Our Eternal Companion**
R.J. Rathnakar
- 24 **The Relevance of Sai Education to Business**
Alumni Forum
- 26 **Learning to Serve While Teaching in**
Swami's University
Prof. Peter Pruzan
- 30 **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**
A Report
- 33 **Coming of Sunderamma in Swami's Fold**
Effulgence of Divine Glory

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AVATAR VANI

GET RID OF SELFISHNESS AND TREAD THE PATH OF DIVINITY

All names and forms are the manifestations of the Supreme Being who is the embodiment of peace and auspiciousness. He is Existence, Knowledge, Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).

(Sanskrit Verse)

SANCTIFY YOUR VISION TO REALISE DIVINITY

Embodiments of Divine Atma!

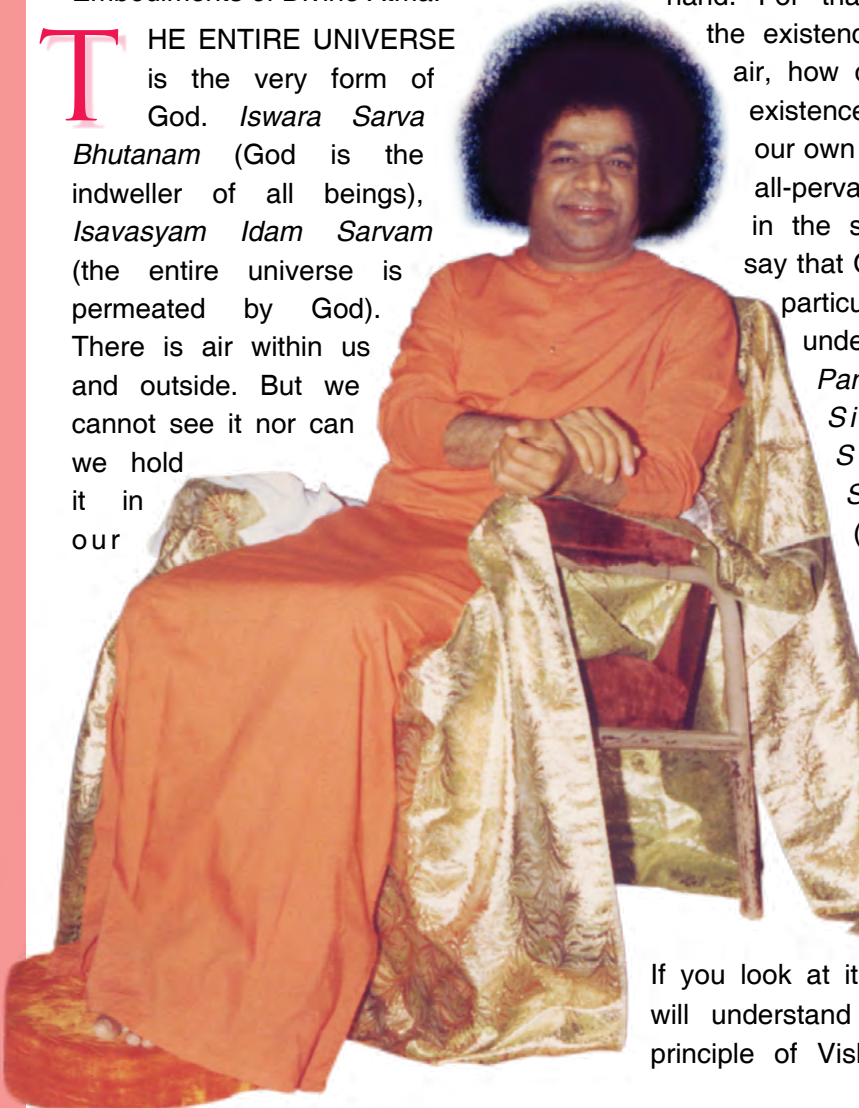
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE is the very form of God. *Iswara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings), *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam* (the entire universe is permeated by God). There is air within us and outside. But we cannot see it nor can we hold it in our

hand. For that reason, can we deny the existence of air? If there is no air, how can we live? Denying the existence of air amounts to denying our own existence. Like air, God is all-pervasive. Divinity is installed in the sacred heart of man. To say that God is present only at one particular place is incomplete understanding of truth. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah S r u t i m a l l o k e Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe).

Sanctify your Vision

The universe is the very form of Vishnu. You look at the universe with worldly outlook, not with divine feelings.

If you look at it with divine feelings, you will understand the all-pervading divine principle of Vishnu. When you keep in



view the divine form of Vishnu, you do not think of the universe. When you look at the universe with worldly feelings, you cannot think of Vishnu, the Lord. Therefore, understanding of divinity lies in the sanctity of your vision. The Netra (eye) is verily the Sastra (scripture). When you change your vision, the entire creation changes. The type of coloured glasses you put on, you will see the world in the same colour. Therefore, first and foremost, change your vision. You ask the question, "Where is God"? Wherever the mind dwells and moves about, there is God. There is no place in this world where the mind cannot go. That is why it is said, *Mano Moolam Idam Jagat* (mind is the basis of the entire world). The entire world is just a creation of the mind. Man sees the universe, but he says he has not seen Vishnu, the Lord. *Pashyannapicha Na Pashyati Moodho* (he is a fool who sees, yet does not recognise the reality). The universe is the very form of God. So, change your Bhava (feelings).

Here is an idol of Krishna. There are two aspects of the idol. One is the Swarupa (form) and the other is Swabhava (nature). When you keep the form of Krishna in view, you do not think of the metal, which it is made of. When you think of the metal, you cannot visualise the form of Krishna.

There commences grief when you focus your feelings on the world. When you think of Vishnu, the Lord, you will be happy. For pleasure or pain, your feelings are responsible. *Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man). The mind of man is responsible for his bondage and liberation. So, direct the mind on the right path. If the mind is directed on the right path, the mind itself will change

You are born in society, you grow up in society and you die in society. You can never be away from society even for a moment. Get a good name in society. When you are one with society, it is true unity. This unity will lead you to purity. This purity will in turn take you to divinity. Unity, purity and divinity. Where there is no unity, enmity enters there.

into divine principle. If the mind is focused on selfishness, you follow the narrow path. Make use of the mind to have broad feelings of love. There should be expansion of love, not contraction of love. But man today leads his life in contraction of love. Selfishness, selfishness everywhere. Whatever you do, behind that there is selfishness. Whomsoever you love, you don't love him for his sake, you love him for your own sake. Similarly, whatever object you love, you don't love for the object's sake, you love it for your sake. Man today has become a plaything in the hands of selfishness. He does not take even one step forward without selfishness. You can understand the divine Atmic principle only when you get rid of selfishness and tread the path of divinity.

Worldly Relations are Temporary

Worldly relations like father, mother, son, daughter are based on feelings only. Man develops attachment with them considering their name and form. Prior to birth, who is father and who is son? Prior to marriage, who is husband and who is wife? These relationships are temporary

like passing clouds. All come in between and then vanish. It is only the Atma which is true, eternal and changeless. The Vedas also declare: *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Suddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (It is attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). That is the Atma.

At one time, Sage Vyasa's son Sukadeva wanted to go away for undertaking penance leaving his father and home. The father could not bear the pangs of separation from his son and ran after him, saying, "Do not go to the forest. Stay at home and lead a family life". Suka said to his father, "You are not the father and I am not the son. Both you and I have come out of the same bliss. Hence, bliss is our source".

Everyone aspires to attain bliss. No one wants to live even for a moment without bliss in this world. Though man aspires for bliss, yet he does not practise that which can lead him to bliss. He should make earnest efforts for what he aspires.

*Punyasya Phalamichchanthi,
Punyam Nechchanthi Manava,
Na Papa Phalamichchanthi,
Papam Kurvanthu Yathnatha.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(People do not undertake meritorious deeds, but want to derive their fruits; they indulge in sinful activities, yet want to escape their consequences.)

Man wants the results of acts of merit, but he follows the path which is just opposite. He does not want the consequences of sinful deeds, but steps forward to indulge in sins. Therefore, perform good deeds if you desire good results. You aspire for one thing, you

practise something else and say something different. This is not the true objective of human life.

The proper study of mankind is man. Unity of thoughts, words and actions is true human life. Man is the very form of love, but he changes his love in several ways. The moment he is born, he has intense love for his mother. As a child he cannot live without his mother even for a moment. He wants to spend his entire life in the lap of his mother. As time passes and he enters school for studies, his love for his mother gradually becomes less, and his love for his friends becomes more due to the change of food and environment. He considers his friends his own self, his very life. How long do these friends remain with you? They will remain with you so long as there is money in your pocket and your father has a high position. Basing on these two considerations, you will be surrounded by hundreds of friends, who will say, hello, hello to you. But when your pocket becomes empty and your father has retired, they will leave you even without saying goodbye. So long as there is water in the tank, thousands of frogs gather in it. When the tank is dry, not even one frog will be there. This is worldly friendship.

But friendship with God is not like that. God is your real friend who will be always with you, above, below and all around you. Have friendship with such a true friend. Unable to understand this truth, the students today are enamoured of their worldly friends, who are only fair weather friends. That does not mean, you should hate your friends. How far should you enjoy this friendship? It should be limited to hello, hello, how are you, goodbye, goodbye. *Adveshta Sarva*



Bhutanam (bear no hatred against anyone). You don't need to hate anybody, but at the same time you should not have too much attachment because worldly friends change from moment to moment.

After completing their education, students get married. Thereafter, their love for friends declines. Then wife becomes life. They struggle hard and offer various gifts to please their wife. How long does this love last? It will start declining in a short time. Suppose, a husband and his wife go for a walk in the garden soon after their marriage. When the husband sees a thorn on the way, he catches hold of her hand in all anxiety and worry lest she should step on the thorn. He starts shouting, "Thorn, thorn"! He loves his wife like his life principle. After six months, they go out in another direction. That day also the husband notices the thorn. He says, "There is a thorn, be careful". Thus, the intensity of love becomes less. After one year, when they go on a different path, the husband again sees the thorn on the way and shouts at her, "Can't you see there is a thorn in the way? Come back"! In one year, there has occurred so much change in love.

Worldly love is sure to decline. After they beget one or two children, the father directs his love towards the children. He struggles to foster and educate them. But he forgets that his head, blood, money and everything are his parents' gift. Forgetting that truth, he becomes indifferent towards his father. Then differences crop up between the father and the son. When differences start, father exercises control over his money. So, this love is never permanent at any time. Therefore, man should make efforts to develop love for God.

The Same Divine Principle of Love is Present in All

Man's life is full of worries. Because he has money that does not mean he has no worries. Man cannot escape from worries in spite of his wealth and people around him. Man is bound by twelve worries.

To be born is a worry, to be on the earth is a worry; world is a cause of worry and death too; entire childhood is a worry and so is the old age; life is a worry, failure is a worry; all actions and difficulties cause worry; even happiness too is a mysterious worry. Devotion to Swami alone will put an end to all your worries. Oh people! Develop such devotion and love.

(Telugu Poem)

We live under the tree of worries and anxieties. Love for God is the panacea for all worries. Man should therefore develop love for God to get rid of all worries.

For every disease there is a prescribed medicine. But love for God will cure all ills of man. The same divinity is present in different forms that we see in this world. When we recognise all-pervading unity in the entire diversity, we can realise divinity. We prepare many sweets like Mysore Pak, Gulab Jamun, Barfi, Laddu, Jilebi, etc. All these sweets have a different taste but sugar is the same in all of them. Similarly, the same divinity is present in everyone. Names and forms may be different, thoughts and aspirations may be different but goal is one. Therefore, recognise unity in diversity. Do not see diversity in unity.

Jewels are many, gold is one. Jewels have different names, but they are made of the same gold. There are many beings but the breath in all of them is one. It is not that you have one breath and I have a different



breath. Nations are many, but earth is one. We should make earnest efforts to realise this unity in diversity. Though the names and forms are different, the same divine principle of love is present in all.

Understand the Importance of Speech

Speech is very important in the life of man. It can change the mind and melt the heart. So, speak nicely and sweetly. *You cannot always oblige, but you can speak always obligingly.* Have sacred feelings, sacred thoughts and speak well. Realise the importance of speech.

Never worry about the past and future. Present is very, very important. If you are happy in the present, future is also bound to be happy. What is the mistake of man today? He forgets the present and is worried about the past and future. So, he adds up to his worries, plus, plus. Never give scope to worry. What is the shape of worry? It is only mentally created fear. So, be happy always. Happiness is union with God, not with the world.

At one time in a Gurukula, a teacher was teaching Vedic doctrines to students. He told the students to recognise the divinity which is all-pervasive. An inspector visited the school and asked the teacher, "How can you transform the students by mere words? There is no meaning whatsoever in these words". But the teacher said, "The mystery

contained in the words is nowhere else present. Everything is within the word. It can burn the world into ashes. It can make you the master of a kingdom; it can also make you abdicate the kingdom. Word is most powerful". The inspector asked, "By this word will the mind change"? "Definitely!" said the teacher. But the officer said, "I do not believe". The teacher said, "I have full faith. If you have no faith, leave it. My faith is my faith. Your belief is your belief". When the teacher said so, the officer was very angry. He said, "Explain clearly and satisfy me".



The teacher asked the youngest student of the class to get up and tell the officer to get out! The little boy said, "Get out"! The officer was full of fury and anger. "What! This little boy asked me to get out." Then teacher said, "Sir, this little child has not beaten you. He only uttered one sentence, 'Get out'. Why are you so angry? Has your



mind not changed? One word made you full of agitation”.

Even one word can change a man. So, consider the words valuable and lead your life with humility and obedience. Education confers humility. Out of humility comes deservedness. Deservedness gives wealth. Wealth helps man to lead a righteous life. Humility will enrich your life here and hereafter. Hence, humility is most important. Without that human life will never shine in society. Therefore, talk softly and sweetly. The words melt the heart, change the mind and uplift you. So, in human life we should know the value of the word. That is what Jayadeva said:

Oh tongue, the knower of taste! You are very sacred. Speak the truth in the most pleasing manner. Chant the Divine Names of Govinda, Madhava and Damodara incessantly. This is your foremost duty. (Sanskrit Verse)

Oh tongue, the qualities of politeness, sacrifice, idealism and tolerance that you possess, no one else has these. While eating a good fruit, you do not have it yourself, you send it to the stomach so that it could be shared with all the limbs of the body. If it has bitter taste, you will spit it out.

Do you know what kind of tolerance does the tongue have? There are thirty-two teeth pointed at it like swords. If it is negligent, all the thirty-two teeth are sure to bite it. The teeth are so strong while the tongue is so soft. So, it moves between them very cautiously. In spite of all troubles, obstacles and anxieties it remains within the mouth and never comes out of it. Not only that, it has a lot of tolerance. It has the broad feeling that all are its own and all belong to it. So, it helps even those that harm it.

Supposing one is chewing a hard nut or any such food and the teeth bite the tongue, the tongue will never punish the teeth that bite it because it considers that they belong to it. The teeth may harm the tongue, but the tongue will never react.

When you meet a noble person, you praise him calling him good and godly. If he is wicked, you use harsh words, saying what a wicked person he is. You accuse him like that. The same tongue calls one person divine and another wicked. It is only the words. So, words are very important. Words originate from man's power of speech.

The source of power of speech is will power. It is the source of not only power of speech but the power of discrimination, the power of intelligence and the power of awareness – all powers originate out of will power. That will power is the chief energy in man. We should preserve that energy. We should not make use of it to fulfil our silly desires. Sacrifice is needed. If there is no Thyaga (sacrifice), we cannot enjoy yoga. We should renounce our petty cravings. There can be no communion with the Divine without renunciation.

When you don't renounce your bad habits in daily life, how will you practise detachment? You don't leave your habits of drinking coffee, tea, playing cards. You know fully well they are not good habits. Still you do not leave them. Then how do you expect to renounce attachment and hatred? *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice).

Strive for Permanent Bliss

Immortality lies in sacrifice. So, you should develop the spirit of sacrifice. If you want to learn swimming, you should push



backwards the water in front of you to move forward. Then only can you move ahead. You have to sacrifice everything. Past is past. Forget the past, it will never come back. You have mountainous hopes for the future. But future is not certain. Then why do you bother about those things? Live in the present. It is not ordinary present; it is omnipresent. Past results are in the present. Future results are also in the present.

The past and future are like trees. It is from the tree of past that the seed of present comes, and from this seed of present grows the seed of future. Therefore, both past and future results are there in the present. So, live in the present and be happy. Never worry about the past and future. Present is very, very important. If you are happy in the present, future is also bound to be happy. What is the mistake of man today? He forgets the present and is worried about the past and future. So, he adds up to his worries, plus, plus. Never give scope to worry. What is the shape of worry? It is only mentally created fear. So, be happy always. Happiness is union with God, not with the world. There is no happiness in the world. Worldly happiness is temporary. But bliss is permanent. There is a difference between bliss and happiness.

While happiness pertains to the head, bliss is related to the heart. So, you should follow the heart. Do not follow the head and all the thoughts that come out of it. The happiness that you get from these thoughts is temporary, but the bliss that comes out of the heart is permanent. How? You are hungry. You go to a hotel and eat two chapatis. Then you are happy. But how long this happiness lasts? Just for two or three hours. After three hours, you will be hungry again. This happiness is temporary. So, it

is called Santosha. What is the meaning of Santosha? Some-tosha – little happiness. Hence, do not strive for this little happiness. Strive for permanent bliss. It will never change at any time. Never forget this truth.

Embodiments of Love!

Recognise the spiritual path. It is important for you to purify your heart. Lead your life keeping in view three principles: love for God, fear of sin and morality in society. First and foremost, develop love for God. When there is love for God, automatically there will be fear of sin. When there is fear of sin, there will be morality in society as you will become good and will never do anything bad.

When you have no fear of sin, you will be negligent of morality. As a result, you will never earn respect in society. Society is very important. You are born in society, you grow up in society and you die in society. You can never be away from society even for a moment. Get a good name in society. When you are one with society, it is true unity. This unity will lead you to purity. This purity will in turn take you to divinity. Unity, purity and divinity. Where there is no unity, enmity enters there. Today there is no unity, no purity and no divinity in society. There is only enmity. So, there is need for unity. All are one, be alike to everyone.

There is only one caste, the caste of humanity. There is only one religion, the religion of love. There is only one language, the language of the heart. Develop this true feeling. Keep off all differences. Develop love. Develop Sahana (tolerance). Move together. Lead your life in unity.

– **Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 9th April 1993.**





SATHYA SAI World Youth Festival

LOVE IS THE SOURCE | LOVE IS THE PATH | LOVE IS THE GOAL



SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL Organisation organised Sathya Sai World Youth Festival 2016 at Prasanthi Nilayam from 12th to 14th July 2016, in which about 3,000 Sathya Sai Youth from over 70 countries came to celebrate the eternal joy of being a Sathya Sai Youth and to deliberate on the festival theme: “Love is the Source, Love is the Path, Love is the Goal”. Besides, this mega event attracted a large number of devotees from India as also many dignitaries graced the occasion by their presence. The Chief Guest of the function was Sri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (independent charge) of Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Government of India. Besides deliberating on the theme of the festival, the delegates presented a galaxy of devotional music and cultural programmes. The festival also included illuminating talks and Divine Messages of Bhagavan addressed to the youth. The Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi in a special message on this occasion expressed happiness on the celebration of this international event and urged the participants to take up further initiatives for a Swachh Bharat.

Sathya Sai World Youth Festival: Day 1

The programme began on the morning of 12th July 2016 with a colourful procession of youth delegates carrying flags of their countries. The procession presented a magnificent spectacle when two ladies



Procession of Sathya Sai Youth from 70 countries.

representing each of the 70 countries entered Sai Kulwant Hall from Gopuram Gate side donning the costume of their country as they greeted Bhagavan in the customary greeting of their country. The flag procession was followed by multifaith prayers by Sathya Sai Youth. In his inaugural address, Dr. Shivendra Kumar, International Youth Coordinator of the SSIO, reminded all delegates of the good fortune of being a Sathya Sai Youth. He set out four objectives of the festival, namely: to celebrate the joy of knowing Sathya Sai Baba at a young age; to celebrate His life and teachings; to preserve His message through new initiatives; and to interact with elders of the Sai Organisation to learn and grow. The festival theme song “Celebrate Love Celebrate Life” was thereafter presented.

In his address to the delegates, Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, commended the Sathya Sai Youth



for putting together a grand programme that was of the youth, for the youth, and by the youth. He elaborated on the uniqueness of this festival and made a special mention of Sai Ram City in Kazakhstan and Sai activities all over the world. He reiterated Sathya Sai Baba's divine instructions to the youth to follow the four ABC's in life: Always be Courageous, Always be Compassionate, Always be Calm and Always be Cheerful. Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of India who spoke next elaborated on the theme and stated that the true qualities of a Sathya Sai Youth were self-confidence and knowing that Sathya Sai Baba is the only friend. He reminded all Sathya Sai Youth that the greatest adventure they should embark on was to conquer the mind through love and service. Thereafter, Sathya Sai Youth from Venezuela offered a beautiful melodic outpouring of love through a newly written song titled *Mi Destino*, which means *My Destination*.

The Chief Guest, Sri Piyush Goyal, then addressed the gathering. He drew attention to Sathya Sai Baba's quintessential message that while the mind saw separateness, love saw unity. There was no greater happiness than making a difference to somebody who was less privileged than oneself, he observed. He shared his belief that these ideals could change the world. He commended the path of love and service chosen by Sathya Sai Youth the world over, and emphasised that there was no better teacher than Bhagavan Baba when it came to explaining service to society.

A video excerpt of Bhagavan Baba's Discourse was then screened, reminding all that truth was one and the same for the



Address by Sri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (independent charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines.

whole world. The best way to love God was to love all and serve all by transforming love into service, Bhagavan said. The morning session in Sai Kulwant Hall ended with Bhajans and Arati. Later in the morning, an exhibition titled "Ready, Steady... Goal" was inaugurated in the presence of senior leaders of the Sai Organisation and dignitaries. After a blissful morning programme, the first afternoon session of the Sathya Sai World Youth Festival began in Poornachandra Auditorium. The session emphasised connecting to the power house within to access love. An interactive and entertaining game show encouraged youth to refresh their knowledge on the life, work and teachings of Sathya Sai Baba.

The evening programme in Sai Kulwant Hall consisted of talks by three speakers and a multicultural musical dance presentation. First Ms. Olga Baranova from Russia shared her experiences of following Sathya Sai Baba's teachings and having unshakeable faith in Him. Sri Hari Ranjan Rao, an Indian youth, inspired the global youth by declaring that there would always be an opportunity for them to contribute to society and their respective countries. He encouraged the youth to



declare themselves as Sai's instruments and become part of His Divine Mission. The third speaker was Sri V.V.S. Laxman, the legendary Indian cricketer, and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan. He explained the teachings of the Bhagavadgita, specifically emphasising detachment from the results of one's actions and the importance of being guided by one's inner voice. He advised the youth to maintain their goodness using the power of Swami in spite of all negative influences all around them. His personal, loving anecdotes from his interactions with Swami touched the hearts of the audience.

Day 1 of the Sathya Sai World Youth Festival concluded with a vibrant and artistic cultural performance titled, "Dancing to the Divine Rhythm – the Sai Way". Youth from UAE, Nepal, Mauritius, Indonesia, Fiji and many States of India including Rajasthan, Manipur, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and



A dance presentation by Sathya Sai Youth.

Punjab thrilled the audience with their scintillating dances and acrobatics, showcasing a glimpse of world's varied cultures.

Sathya Sai World Youth Festival: Day 2

In the morning session held in Sai Kulwant Hall on 13th July 2016, three speakers shared their personal stories of transformation by the grace of Sri Sathya

Sai Baba: Ms. Saiusha Haridas, Youth Coordinator of Zone 4 (South East Asia), Dr. Chandinie, Sathya Sai Youth of India, and guest speaker, Ms. Alida Parkes, Chair of Zone 6 (Southern Europe).

Ms. Saiusha Haridas recounted her personal experiences with Bhagavan and said that with His love, one could reach great spiritual heights. Exhorting the youth to have Sai with them always, she observed that journey of life could become a celebration when they kept Sai with them. Speaking next, Dr. Chandinie underscored the fact that women were the embodiments of Shakti (Divine power) as they were descendents of the Divine Mother. She emphasised that they should practise love and sacrifice by following the example of Mother Sita. The final speaker of the morning, Ms. Alida Parkes, shared her journey with Swami and urged the youth to live up to His expectations, making Him a priority in their lives. She reminded the youth that they should constantly conduct themselves with the awareness that the Lord was watching, and they should offer the results of all actions to Him. The morning programme in Sai Kulwant Hall concluded with vibrant rendition of the Sathya Sai Youth Festival theme song in Telugu, followed by Bhajans and Arati.

The programme thereafter continued in Poornachandra Auditorium where the guest speaker Dr. Chandrasekhar Narayan, Director of Research, IBM, U.S.A. shared his ground breaking findings in environmental sustainability. Dr. Narayan reminded delegates of Sathya Sai Baba's teachings about respecting Nature and caring for Mother Earth. Other programmes in Poornachandra Auditorium were: Love is the Path by Sathya Sai Youth, presentation on service projects and workshops.



The evening session in Sai Kulwant Hall began with two inspiring talks. Speaking first, Sri Lorenzo Casadio, a Sathya Sai Youth from Italy, exhorted the audience to make friendship with God. Illustrating his talk with his personal experiences with Bhagavan, the speaker remarked that God was our best friend who would come to our help when all others deserted us. Speaking next, Sri R. Venkataramanan, Executive Director, Tata Foundation and an alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) reminded the youth to embrace adversity for their own good. He drew the attention of the youth to the teachings and exemplary life of Bhagavan in serving and inspiring others.

The Sathya Sai World Music Team then made a musical offering, “What it Means to be a Sai Youth”, consisting of six original



A musical offering by Sathya Sai World Music Team.

songs based on the real life experiences of the youth through different stages of life.

The last item of the evening session in Sai Kulwant Hall was a drama titled “Love is the Path to Transform the World” which was presented by the World Drama Team of SSIO. The drama depicted how unity between leaders of different faiths and political ideologies was the key to forming successful partnerships to change the



The drama “Love is the Path to Transform the World” by the World Drama Team of SSIO.

world. It underscored the value of love in transforming individuals, communities and nations. Simple story, powerful dialogues and excellent acting of the cast made the drama an impressive presentation. The programme concluded with Bhajans and Arati.

Sathya Sai World Youth Festival: Day 3

The morning session on 14th July 2016, the final day of the youth festival, commenced with an uplifting talk by Sri Brijesh Bamalwa, a Sathya Sai Youth from India. Referring to the gathering of about 3,000 youth from 70 countries of the world, the speaker stated that this world unity was not to be seen anywhere else except at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan Baba. He touched the hearts of the youth with divine stories of Bhagavan and encouraged them to embark on the path of transforming love into service. In an inspiring talk, Sri Julio Vivenes Villavicencio, the Zone Youth Coordinator from South America, stressed that the primary quality of a devotee was having firm faith in God. He related personal anecdotes about the grace of Bhagavan to emphasise the omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence of God. In his plenary address, Dr. Chandrasekhar Narayan, Director of Research, IBM, U.S.A., advised the youth not to judge others, attain their short-term



goals and put in their best efforts to make their life a success as there was no comfort zone in the journey of life. He explained how one could pursue a successful career through the implementation of human values. He concluded his educative talk with an exhortation to the youth to make excellence a habit. The morning session in Sai Kulwant Hall ended with the Hindi rendition of the Sathya Sai World Youth Festival theme song followed by Bhajans and Arati.

The programme then continued in Poornachandra Auditorium, where Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, gave an inspiring plenary address to the youth. He exhorted the youth to connect with Sai instead of internet because their life would become a celebration if they kept Sai in their heart at all times. He reminded them that every problem had a solution and that success was possible only with right attitude. Sri Rathnakar narrated some of his intimate, personal experiences with Bhagavan and shared with the youth the priceless pearls of His wisdom.

The morning programme concluded with youth from the Sathya Sai International Organisation grouping into their respective geographical zones to discuss issues pertinent to their area and to develop action plans to move forward with the global Sathya Sai Youth movement. In a parallel session, the youth of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation (SSSSO) of India participated in an uplifting presentation on Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Jyothi project on education.

The final session of Sathya Sai World Youth Festival was held on the afternoon of 14th July 2016 in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the outset, Dr. Shivendra Kumar, International

Youth Coordinator, addressed the gathering. Speaking about the event, he thanked the youth delegates, volunteers, programme facilitators, senior members of SSIO and the Radio Sai team for making the youth festival a grand success. He also presented the Resolutions of the Sathya Sai World Youth Festival which formed a blueprint for future actions by the youth.

In his address on this occasion, Sri Nimish Pandya advised the youth to offer all their actions to Bhagavan without taking ownership of their achievements. Through a beautiful story, he exhorted them to march on the path of service and devotion like lions.

Dr. Narendranath Reddy, who spoke next, congratulated the youth for their wonderful effort, enthusiasm, leadership and organisational ability which made the youth festival a momentous event. He advised the youth to develop loving relationship with Bhagavan Baba, put His teachings into practice and attain His love and grace. He reminded them that Swami's highest blessing was His love which they should treasure in their heart.

A short video clip of Bhagavan Baba's Discourse was then played, in which He advised the youth to control their senses, develop love and get rid of animal qualities and bad habits. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" (there can be no peace and happiness without contemplation of God).

The splendid finale of the youth festival was a sterling musical extravaganza "Symphony for Sai – Our Hearts Beat for You". Orchestrated by 65 youth members,





A sterling musical offering “Symphony for Sai” – Our Hearts Beat for You” by Sathya Sai Youth.

this soul-stirring devotional music offering of the youth transported the audience to a higher plane with its perfect synergy of rhythm, melody and devout rendition. A Bhajan session followed next and concluded with the Bhajan “Love is my Form Truth is My Breath” in the golden voice of Bhagavan. Arati at 7.30 p.m. marked the happy conclusion of this glorious World Youth Festival.

Graduation Ceremony of Sathya Sai Youth

Earlier, a graduation ceremony of 200 Sathya Sai Youth from 49 countries who completed their training in Sathya Sai International Youth Leadership Programme (SSIYLP) was organised in Sai Kulwant Hall on 11th July 2016. The SSIYLP was developed in 2014 to provide standardised leadership training to Sathya Sai Youth based on Bhagavan’s teachings. The course covers both foundational knowledge and practical application in society, through nine modules – six online sessions, and three residential sessions at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam. Areas of focus include Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s life and His teachings, overview and functions of the Sathya Sai International Organisation

(SSIO), Bhagavan Baba’s teachings on leadership; challenges faced by youth, loving communications, team dynamics and project management.

The programme in Sai Kulwant Hall began at 5.00 p.m. with the talks of two Sai Youth. The first speaker was Sri Deviesh Tankaria



Graduation ceremony of Sathya Sai International Youth Leadership Programme.

from the United Kingdom, who is the Chair of the SSIYLP Committee. He spoke on how the programme had inspired youth globally to implement Swami’s teachings and to take on leading roles in the SSIO. The second speaker was Ms. Selene Ricart, Youth Representative for Argentina and a graduate from the SSIYLP 2015. Speaking about the lessons she learnt and her experiences in the programme, she narrated how she had been practising with determination what she learnt. A short video on the overview of the Sathya Sai International Youth Leadership Programme was then played.

A touching music programme “Sevaks to Nayaks” (servants to leaders) showcasing the journey of the youth from ‘I’ to ‘We’ and from Sevaks to Nayaks followed next. Beginning with the song “Sathya Aur Dharma Ke Raah Pe” (we will march on the path of truth and righteousness), stating the resolve of the





Music programme “Sevaks to Nayaks”.

youth to follow Sathya and Dharma in life, the singers sang three other songs pregnant with deep spiritual truths. These were: “Vachanamrutam Premamrutam” (nectarine words suffused with the quintessence of love), “I am God” and “Ideal Sai Youth”. This soul-stirring music programme was followed by graduation ceremony, wherein the graduating youth in the Sathya Sai International Youth Leadership Programme were awarded certificates by the senior members of the Sai Organisation.

MUSIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

On the eve of Sathya Sai World Youth Festival, Sathya Sai Youth from Mauritius, South Africa and Australia presented devotional music and cultural programmes for four days from 7th to 10th July 2016.

The first devotional music programme entitled “Sai Charanam Pranamamyaham” (offer of salutations at the Lotus Feet of Sai) was presented by the devotees of South Africa on 7th July 2016. Beginning their presentation with the Stotra “Sayeeswara Shatakam”, they enthralled the devotees with soulful devotional songs which included “Kya Kare Sansar Tera Pyar To Hamara Hai” (what can the world do when we have Your love), “Bho Shambho Siva Shambho



Musical offering by the devotees of South Africa.

Swayambho” (Lord Siva who is self-born), “Hamko Tumse Pyar Kitna” (how much we love You), and concluded their excellent presentation with a spirited Bhajan medley.

The next musical offering was also made by the devotees of South Africa on 8th July 2016. They sang with verve and vigour an array of devotional songs and Bhajans which included “Manasa Bhajare Gurucharanam”, (Oh mind, worship the Lotus Feet of the Guru), “Bhola Sankara Bhola” (Siva, the guileless), “Tu Pyar Ka Sagar Hai” (You are the ocean of love) and concluded their offering with a Bhajan medley marked by simplicity and spontaneity.

On 9th July 2016, about 200 youth from Mauritius presented a soul-elevating



Musical offering “Mana Bangaru Sai” by Mauritius youth.

continued on page 32..



From our Archives

FAITH IS THE FIRST REQUISITE TO RECOGNISE DIVINITY

LORD'S NAME IS REDOLENT WITH DIVINE GLORY

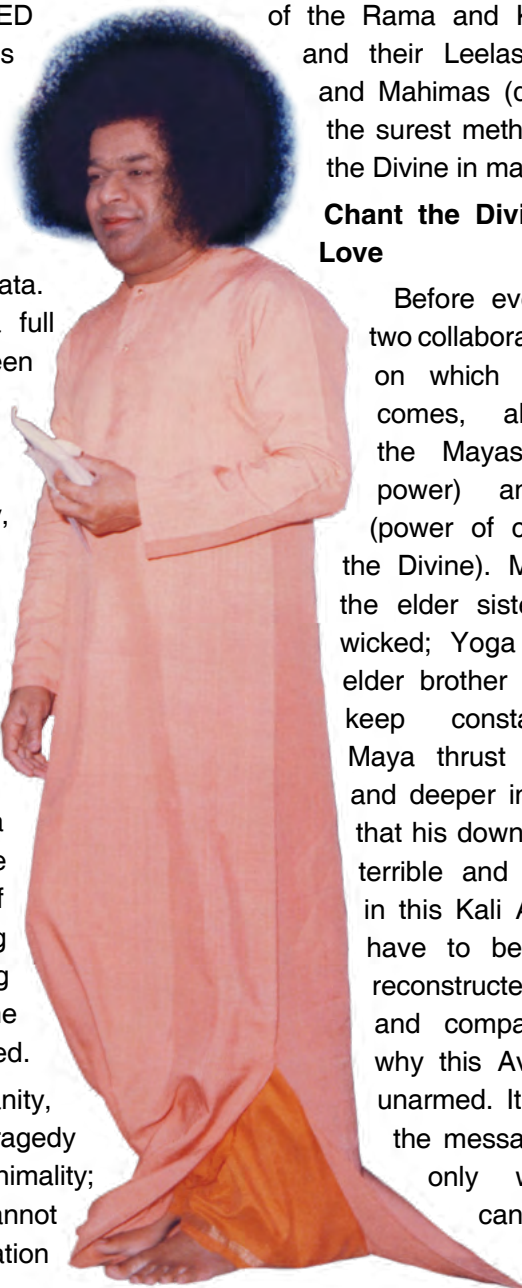
THIS IS A SACRED day, when devotees dwell upon the majesty and splendour of the Lord, and taste the sweetness of His Name, which is so dear to them, because it holds within itself the entire Bhagavata. The Avatar of Krishna was a full incarnation, with all the sixteen facets of glory. In the Avatar of Rama, out of the sixteen, the three brothers had one each and Parasurama, the contemporary, had one, until Rama met him and drew within Himself the fraction of the divine power that he had. Other incarnations were for ad hoc purposes, the suppression of evil represented by one evil person or group of persons. The Rama and Krishna Avatars were, however, for more general purposes, the mission of restoring Dharma and fostering virtuous living, besides punishing the wicked and teaching the world that vice would not succeed.

Man is an amalgam of humanity, animality and divinity. It is a tragedy if he cannot get rid of the animality; it is a greater tragedy if he cannot cultivate his divinity. Contemplation

of the Rama and Krishna Avatars and their Leelas (divine plays) and Mahimas (divine glories) is the surest method of cultivating the Divine in man.

Chant the Divine Name with Love

Before every incarnation, two collaborators for the task on which the incarnation comes, also appear – the Mayashakti (deluding power) and Yogashakti (power of communion with the Divine). Maya comes as the elder sister to warn the wicked; Yoga comes as the elder brother to enthuse and keep constant company. Maya thrust Kamsa deeper and deeper into perdition, so that his downfall will be more terrible and educative. But, in this Kali Age, the wicked have to be reformed and reconstructed through love and compassion. That is why this Avatar has come unarmed. It has come with the message of love. The only weapon which can transform the vile and the



vicious is the Name of the Lord uttered with love.

The Great Lesson of Kaliya Episode for Man

The Name is redolent with Divine Glory; so when it is turned over in the mind it transmutes it into an instrument for liberation from delusion. Take the Name, Navaneetachora (butter thief) that is used for Krishna. It does not mean a person who runs away with the butter that people have stored. It is not the stuff called butter that is got by churning curdled milk that He stole. It is the butter of faith, won by the churning process called 'yearning', from the curdled milk called, 'worldly experiences'. He covets only this 'butter'. When Yashoda chided the child Krishna for this 'theft', He replied, "But mother, they like me for stealing it; they are sorry if I do not; they churn it not; they churn it in the hope that I will steal it; when I steal, their hearts are illumined and they awake".

Among all the wondrous adventures that astounded people during His childhood, which revealed to them the Divinity that had come among them, the Kaliya episode is most meaningful. The serpent Kaliya was poisoning the waters of the Yamuna and the atmosphere over it, with its breath; all who approached that area, men or cattle, fell dead. But, Krishna, the Divine boy, jumped into the depths, forced the foul snake to rise above the level of the river, and leaping on its venomous range of hoods, He danced upon them with His tender Lotus Feet. The pressure of those soft silken soles was enough to force the deadly poison out from the fangs of the monstrous cobra and render it harmless forever.

Allow the Divine in you to Lord over the Mind

This is a great lesson for man. This Leela is quite unlike earlier incidents which

evidenced child Krishna's superhuman strength and wisdom. He was lifted away by the storm-demon, He was hit by the calf-demon, He was felled by the cart-demon, He was pecked at by the stork-demon, He was poisoned by the nurse-demon; but sceptics can easily ascribe these miracles to accident or coincidence or exaggeration. But, the Kaliya episode is a valuable lesson in spiritual Sadhana.

In the Manasarovar (the deep placid mind-lake) of every man, there lurks a poisonous cobra, with six hoods – lust, anger, greed, attachment, pride and hate – infesting the air and destroying all who near it. The Name of the Lord, when it dives into the depths, forces it to come up to the surface, so that it may be destroyed. So, allow the Divine in you, the Krishna, to Lord over the mind; let Him trample on the hissing hoods, and tame the vicious snake; let it vomit the venom, become Sattwic (pious) and sweet. This is the Sadhana the episode teaches, the duty it enjoins.

All Avatars teach, as the first step in the long road of Sadhana, the giving up of attachment. In the Treta Yuga, the Yoga Vasistha taught the same rule. In the Dwapara Yuga, Krishna taught Arjuna to give up Vishaya Vasana (attachment to the objective world).

Leelas of Krishna Teach Profound Lessons

People utter, with apparent faith, Krishna, Krishna, Krishna, but they never give up Trishna (craving for worldly goods or fame). In each Yuga, you have the Avatar of the Lord come to redeem, revive and rebuild. At the present time, Maha Shakti (super

continued on page 23...

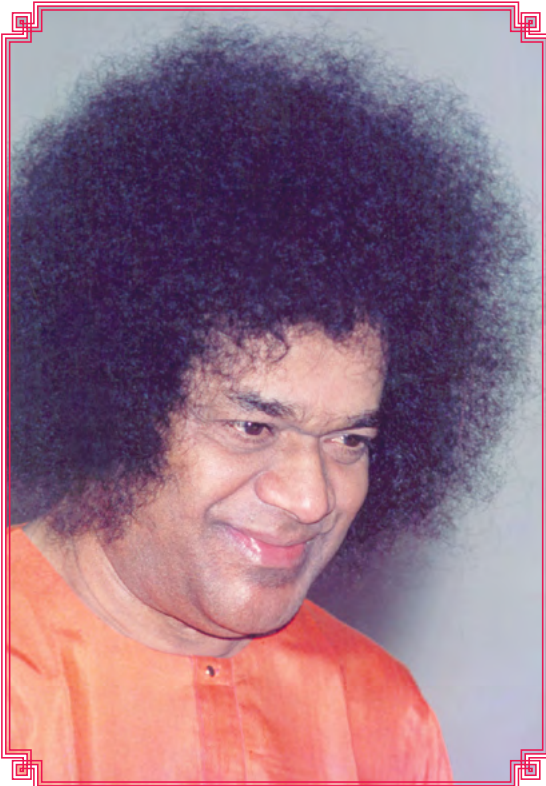
OUR ETERNAL COMPANION

R.J. Rathnakar

*Ye Yatha Maam Prapadyante
Taamstathaiva Bhajamyaham,
Mama Vartmanuvartante
Manushyah Partha Sarvasah.*

(Bhagavadgita Sloka 4.11)

(The way people seek Me, I respond to them accordingly.
Oh Arjuna! Everyone follows My path in all respects.)



DEVOTEES ATTRIBUTE VARIOUS names and forms to God and worship Him in different ways in accordance with their aspirations. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as are the

feelings, so is the result). God's response to aspirants is according to their feelings. As Bhagavan explains, God assumes the form of their choice to shower His grace on them.

Every Devotee has a Unique Way of Connecting with God

If we consider God as our friend, He will respond to us in the same manner. Gopalas (cowherds of Brindavan), considered Krishna as their dear friend, followed the path of Sakhya Bhakti (devotion as a friend) and redeemed their lives. Hanuman, the epitome of Dasya Bhakti (devotion of servitude), became immortal through his service to Lord Rama with total devotion. The story of child Dhruva, who attained exalted state through his incessant chanting of Lord Narayana's Name, continues to inspire us even today. There are many in this world who worship God, believing Him to be the formless and all-pervasive. They experience Him accordingly. As saint Thyagaraja sang, "*Enthamaatramuna Evvaru Thalachina Anthamaatrame Neevu.....*" God manifests Himself in accordance with the feelings of devotees.

Lakhs of devotees throng Prasanthi Nilayam to offer their prayers to Bhagavan, express their desires to Him and receive His blessings. He responds to the feelings of the devotees without any consideration of their nation, language, caste, religion or region. We may ask any devotee, each one has a unique way of connecting with Him and experiencing Him. Bhagavan becomes an integral and inseparable part of devotees' life



in such a way as though every devotee has Swami exclusively for himself, looking after him. That is why the effulgence of Swami's universal and divine love has spread in the whole world. Being the very form of love, Bhagavan showers His love and grace on all of us, His children, addressing us endearingly as "Embodiments of Love!" Here I would like to share with you some of my experiences of His divine grace.

There are many lessons that students can learn during their stay in Sri Sathya Sai Hostel. It is a centre of higher learning in itself, which educates students, hailing from different States of India, how to lead a disciplined life of unity, harmony and mutual cooperation. Life in the hostel is a glorious example of the Vedic dictum:

*Saha Navavatu,
Saha Nau Bhunaktu,
Saha Veeryam Karavavahai,
Tejaswinavadheetamastu,
Ma Vidvishavahai.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(May the Lord protect and nourish us!

May we grow in intelligence and valour working together!

May we live in friendship without any conflict!)

Mystery of the Unseen Hand

One of my roommates named Madan was suffering from a very rare and peculiar health problem. While sleeping at night, his breathing would stop all of a sudden. Exactly at that moment he would require our help, as he would be struggling for breath. But we were totally at a loss to know when such an emergency would arise. Even doctors could not find out the cause. It became a sort of challenge for us to help him in the middle of the night, when he would have

such an attack. It was not possible for us to anticipate such situations as we would be fast asleep at that time. Finding no other means to alleviate the suffering of this boy, one day I fervently prayed to Swami to show the way out.

The same night, I was woken up by an unseen hand, moments before Madan had an episode of breathlessness. Surprisingly and inexplicably, this rather strange experience of being woken up by the unseen hand continued for a few months and as a result, I could be by the side of Madan whenever he desperately needed help. But whose benevolent hand it was which shook me out of slumber at the right time, night after night, remained a mystery to me.

Having been witness to Madan's agony and realising that he was becoming more and more dejected and depressed day by day, some of us, his roommates, made a prayerful submission to Swami about his problem. Swami, out of His immense compassion, gave Vibhuti Prasadam for him, saying, "I know, don't worry, he will be alright". Miraculously from that day, the problem that afflicted him for so long started subsiding day by day, and by the time he completed his studies and left the hostel, he was completely cured of this ailment.

However, the answer to my question, regarding the unseen hand, continued to elude me. On the one hand, I was of the firm belief that it was none other than Swami, but on the other hand I had a strong desire to get it confirmed by Swami Himself. Therefore, I continued to pray for an answer from Swami.

Three years rolled by. During a summer vacation, Swami blessed me to accompany Him to Kodaikanal, along with a few students,



teachers and devotees. One morning, He looked at me and said, "Be ready to give a talk to the students in the evening".

Swami's command sent a shiver down my spine, because I was used to only listening to talks of others but had never myself given one. I started sweating profusely even in the chilly climate of Kodaikanal. I spent the whole day in great tension, thinking about my talk scheduled for the evening. Having noticed my predicament, Swami came to me in the evening and said, "You are not prepared for your speech. Isn't it? Prepare well tonight and speak tomorrow morning".

As I started thinking deeply about the topic of my speech, the question that remained unanswered for three years suddenly flashed in my mind. I thought it was a golden opportunity to place my question before Swami and get the answer from Him. Therefore, I put in all my efforts to get ready for the speech.

Next morning, as indicated earlier, Swami told me to speak. It was my first speech in the Divine Presence, and therefore naturally I was a little nervous. But, as I was well prepared for it, my talk went on quite smoothly. During the course of my talk, I made a mention of my experience with the unseen hand and said till that day it remained a mystery to me as to whose hand it was that woke me up every time just in time, so that I could lend a helping hand to that boy. As I completed this sentence, Swami looked at me with a smile and said, "Don't you know it was I who woke you up every time"?

Embodiment of Divine Love

On hearing the confirmation from Swami Himself that it was indeed His unseen hand, I was overcome with emotion and sat down without uttering a word more, with tears

streaming down my cheeks. Swami Himself lovingly gave me water to drink and asked me to continue. I don't remember what I spoke thereafter but concluded my speech quickly.

In the afternoon, Swami asked some of the guests, "How was Rathnakar's speech in the morning? Every word he uttered came from his heart". Bhagavan's appreciative remark gave me immense confidence and immeasurable strength. Swami, in His infinite mercy, always comes to the rescue of His devotees. "What work does God have if there are no devotees," I have heard Swami saying this a number of times.

Why should we be afraid of anything, when we have the all-powerful and all-merciful Lord as our refuge, who always fills our heart with courage and confidence? He is our only true friend and the eternal saviour. There may be none who will be with us or come to our help in times of need, but we have to remember that Swami is always with us, guiding and guarding us.

Once I happened to travel to Paris. After alighting from the plane I came out of the airport, praying to Swami to be with me. As I stood outside the airport, I noticed a car crossing me and stopping just a few feet away from me. It had a picture of Swami in white robe, with both His hands raised in blessing posture, stuck on the rear window. I cannot describe my joy when I saw this picture of Bhagavan with His loving assurance, "Why fear when I am here"?

Everyday thousands of cars move in and out of Paris airport. No car will stop there for more than ten seconds. Such being the case, when I came out of the airport, exactly at that moment this car came with Swami's picture on it and stopped in front of me. Was it not a sign of His Divine Grace?



“I am always in you, with you, around you, above you and below you”, declared Bhagavan. How true is this divine assurance! The sweetness of Swami’s love can only be experienced.

Nowhere else can you find the wealth that can match the wealth of Sai. If you ask what is the wealth of Sai, it is truly the selfless, pure and eternal love.

(Telugu Poem)

Our thirst for His love can never be satiated by speaking or writing about it in any number of ways.

Swami, the Avatar of Love, took us to the heights of divine ecstasy and filled our hearts with bliss through His Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation). He chose Prasanthi Mandir as His divine abode while He moved amidst us in His physical form. But He is always firmly installed in our Hridaya Mandir (temple of our heart). I pray to Swami to be our eternal companion and lead us to the divine destination, holding our hands in this journey of life.

Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu

– The author, Sri R.J. Rathnakar, is a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.

...continued from page 19

power), Maya Shakti (power of illusion) and Yoga Shakti (power of communion with God) have come, all together, in one Human Form; your endeavour should be to draw near and earn grace therefrom.

Avatars teach mankind lessons about how to realise God. Humanity needs divine teachers to redeem it from its troubles. This is the purpose of Avatars, who come down to show mankind the ways of realising the Divine. You must recognise this truth. The Divine does not make the descent as an Avatar without a purpose. The purpose is to ennoble human nature. To be born as human beings is a rare blessing. The Avatar instructs humanity how to redeem human existence.

The essence of Krishna’s life is that He proclaimed the Truth to the world, propagated the eternal verities and delighted the world by His Leelas. When Balarama told Yashoda that he had found Krishna eating mud, Yashoda questioned Him about it. In reply, Krishna said: “Oh mother, am I a

child, a miscreant or a madcap to eat mud? See for yourself whether there is any mud in my mouth”. And when He opened His mouth, Yashoda was awe-struck to see the fourteen worlds of the cosmos in that Divine mouth. She could not believe her eyes and exclaimed: “Is this a dream? Or is it the Maya of Vishnu? Is it an illusion produced by someone? Is it true? Am I Yashoda or someone else? I am totally bewildered”. Yashoda had no faith in herself and hence could not recognise Krishna’s divinity. Confidence in one’s self is the prerequisite for the recognition of Divinity. The reason in Yashoda’s case is that she always looked upon Krishna as her son and the maternal attachment clouded her understanding.

Every episode connected with Krishna is a marvel. That was why Vyasa declared that all the stories relating to the Avatars of Vishnu are full of wonder and beauty.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan’s Sri Krishna Janmashtami Discourses.





PROF. S. RAGHUNATH

THE RELEVANCE OF SAI EDUCATION TO BUSINESS

SAI EDUCATION ENTAILS A TWO level education process – level one pertains to knowledge about the material world and level two focuses on discovering the richness of one's inner being. The most visible contexts of education are the graduate and postgraduate programmes but the underlying theme of education is the formation of habits of the mind and the heart that focus on a life dedicated to the awareness of God and help one to connect one's inner self with the love of God while serving others. A student participating in the Sai education system lives a life cast in austerity and Sadhana. The deeper layers of self-reflection and self-exploration come when students spend time in Bhajans, in sitting quietly awaiting Swami's Darshan and in the acts of service performed as part of hostel and college community.

Students as Seekers of Truth

In the formative years, students of the Institute have the opportunity to keep away from self-indulgence and immediate or short-term gratification. The Sai educational experience puts the student through a laboratory of physical, mental, intellectual, emotional and spiritual experiences, where at the end of it, young students strive for self-discipline, dedication, responsibility and the resilience to take the rough with the smooth.

The attitude to problem-solving is positive as there is an intense awareness of Divine Will. So, there always exists a way forward in every challenge that comes up in life. The motivation of students in Sai education is to please Swami. Hence, they begin to practise the tenets 'Work is Worship', 'Duty is God' to please Him. When they are enrolled in various undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, their learning is an offering to God.

Students enrolled in Sai education system develop an orientation towards daily life – a healthy balance between studying, spiritual practices and service to the community. Thus, students in the system learn the virtue of commitment to self and others and learn to understand the world in which they live. Some of them have the valued personal goal of experiencing Swami every moment of their life. They act in ways that the rest of the society admires; they lead their student lives as a Jignasu (seeker of truth), absorbed in learning not just their academic subjects but also the secrets of life.

Students lead a life of learning, loving God and serving others. Given this reality, it is not surprising to find that the students' sense of self-esteem often becomes equated with the ability to live a life of austerity, God consciousness and being of service to the community rather than just getting good grades or marks. Learning in the Sai education system is not merely an ability game but process of self-discipline. The focus of such education is in terms of goals that are intrinsic in nature. The student is set on a path of becoming more effective as a human being. Learning is valued for what it can do to enhance one's effectiveness or to help others. When the student lives in God



consciousness, the act of learning becomes its own reward. Put differently, the process of learning does not depend as much on external inducements such as marks or grades as it does on satisfying the need to lead a life of a seeker of truth.

Values-based Management in Corporate World

Moral development continues into adulthood. Particularly dramatic changes can occur in young adulthood in the context of education. Students in the postgraduate stage are at a critical stage in the development of their perception about organisational excellence, corporate purpose, leadership and the appropriate resolution of ethical dilemmas in business. They need time to develop into tough-minded individuals with the courage to act in the face of sometimes conflicting responsibilities. Economics and ethics, realism and idealism, provide perspectives that a company needs to perform successfully in today's world.

Sai education is based on the tenet, 'The End of Education is Character'. The character of a set of individuals identified as representatives of a business organisation has effect on the bottom line of business. The character of individuals who are seen as key decision makers enhances profitability because it may attract customers, investors to its equity shares and employees to the jobs that are offered.

The strong need today in business management is to do well in business and to do good to society simultaneously. This requires a dual emphasis on profit and social purpose and a strong urge to make the world a better place. A change in perspective of owners and managers of business is required to measure their

success not in terms of profit, efficiency and market share alone but also in terms of how business contributes to social justice, environmental sustainability and the values by which we choose to live. The corporate sector has the potential to lead a revolution that will change the world for the better by serving the poor, promoting human rights and generating economic activity in the places where it is needed the most. Sai students have their role cut out as catalysts that will build the community, usher in knowledge sharing, linking people to one another and enhancing the ability to connect, energise and inspire people.

Students living a life dedicated to learning and spirituality develop a rare degree of self-confidence. The belief in one's capacity is enhanced by the belief in Divine support; the reasons for being involved are based on values and an emotional component of how one feels about executing a particular task based on the tenet 'Hands in Society and Head in the Forest'.

Business as it is done the world over is all about competition and collaboration for competitive advantage. The human contribution to business is measured largely in terms of one's ability to achieve competitively. However, Sai education brings a fresh perspective on collaboration for success. Each of us is an individual; our identity is defined by our relationship with others and with God. Generally, management education orients students towards honing their analytical and rational decision making abilities, but students of the Management Programme in Sai education system in addition to their course work have

continued on page 29...



LEARNING TO SERVE WHILE TEACHING IN SWAMI'S UNIVERSITY

Prof. Peter Pruzan

I HAVE HAD three homes in three parts of the world. My first home was in the US, where I was born (in 1936) and raised. My second home became Denmark. Originally, I visited that beautiful country in Northern Europe to perform research but was so fascinated by its culture and respect for human values that I settled there in the mid-1960s. My third home is India, which I visited for the first time in 1974 in connection with a project I led for the World Bank in Bangladesh. Since 1989, together with my wife, I have travelled to India more than 40 times, mainly in connection with my teaching at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. On many of these visits we used the opportunity to travel extensively throughout India; often I gave guest lectures at leading Indian universities or was keynote speaker at international conferences. We have come to truly love this marvellous, inspiring, confusing and challenging country. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on a number of occasions clearly indicated that India was our home and in 2003 He provided a flat to my wife and me in connection with my teaching at His University.



Teaching Research Methodology to Students

With an atheistic background and an academic career steeped in rational scientific thinking, it never ceases to amaze me that for the last 27 years, since my first visit to Prasanthi Nilayam, my values, my goals in life and my daily behaviour have been moulded by the teachings of Bhagavan; He is always with me. And if anybody had told me before my first meeting with Swami in 1989 that I later on would spend a full semester, roughly five months, each year teaching and guiding students preparing for Ph.D. at Swami's University, I would have considered him to be suffering from sunstroke or delirium! Yet in fact this has been my blessing. Roughly a year and a half after I retired from my professorship at the Copenhagen Business School in



Denmark in 2003, I began teaching courses in Research Methodology at SSSIHL for a full semester, and only recently stepped down as the teacher of the courses.

I had always given guest lectures at the University during the regular month-long visits my wife and I paid to Prasanthi Nilayam each year in the period 1990-2002. However, things really started to change around the year 2000. At one point, there were four Ph.D. students carrying out research in management and in economics and I began to meet them informally to discuss their projects and to offer assistance. On a few occasions in the years that followed, the then Vice Chancellor, Sri S.V. Giri, would interact with me about their work and seek my opinion about the quality of their research. I was at times a bit critical of their progress and mentioned that they had not had the benefit of a course in Research Methodology.

In spite of these conversations, I was greatly surprised when on the afternoon of 9th June 2004 Swami told the Vice Chancellor to give a talk. In his presentation, Sri Giri spoke about the University's plans to start an M.Phil. programme, an advanced postgraduate degree programme, to serve as a preliminary stage for enrolling into a Ph.D. programme. Emphasis would be placed on Research Methodology, the subject I had been discussing with him for some time. A week or so later I by chance met the Vice Chancellor, congratulated him on the new programme, and asked him who would teach the course. He paused, looked at me lovingly with a smile on his lips, and replied: "Hopefully, you will".

The course turned out to be two courses since the world views, the vocabularies,

and the subject matters of the natural and social sciences differ greatly. It is one thing to do research on, for example, business leadership, the relationship of inflation to economic growth or corporate social responsibility, and quite another thing to study, for example, quantum mechanics, the creation of chemical compounds or molecular biology.

So, in a matter of a few months, I found myself strongly challenged. Of course, I could not turn down the request to develop and teach the courses. Yet, in spite of the fact that I had had a long academic career, having been professor at the Technical University of Denmark, the University of Copenhagen and the Copenhagen Business School, and had played a leading role in the development of several international research organisations, I had never taught Research Methodology. I felt greatly challenged and humbled.

To make a long story short, I made a major effort, drawing upon the traditions and literature in the natural and the social sciences and my own experience as well as advice from several of my international colleagues, to develop the first version of the course. By January 2005, I had developed the first teaching notes and given the first series of lectures. The notes continued to be improved over the years, including examples based on recent developments in the sciences, and the teaching notes in the natural sciences and Swami's ever-present inspiration formed the basis for my latest book: "Research Methodology: The Aims, Practices and Ethics of Science", published internationally on my 80th birthday in March this year.

Over the period 2005-2014, I taught almost all the students who enrolled for



a Ph.D. programme at the University. I stopped teaching when I was approaching the age of 80 and felt that there was a need for others to be able to take over the course.

I sometimes smile when I reflect on my metamorphosis – this transformation of a strict rationalist to a spiritually seeking devotee of Bhagavan, teaching at His University and guiding His most precious property, His students. This often happens when I sit amongst the faculty in Sai Kulwant Hall and realise that for many years I, who prior to coming to Swami, knew nothing about Him or His mission or His University, was the only Visiting Professor of non-Indian origin who taught a full semester each year. With my white skin and my white hair (what's left of it!) and my white beard (in fact Swami once referred to me to a number of Ph.D. students as “White Beard”), I tended to stick out from the crowd.

With this background, the following are some reflections from a Westerner teaching at SSSIHL on my (His) students and on the (His) University. Actually, my referring to myself as a ‘Westerner’ can be challenged. At one point of time, Swami asked me nine days running: “Where do you come from?” Each time I replied: “From Denmark”, but He did not appear to be satisfied with my answer. In fact, later on He told me four times “This is your home”. So, perhaps the white skin and the data on my birth certificate are misleading – when Swami tells me that Prasanthi is my home, it is my home!

His Students

I have often been asked by my former M.Phil. and Ph.D. students how they match up with the many students I have taught and guided in the West. My response has been that the question is more complex

I have degrees from several of the world's most highly respected universities: Princeton (B.Sc.), Harvard (MBA), Case-Western (Ph.D.) and the University of Copenhagen (Sc.D.). I am deeply appreciative of the magnificent educational opportunities they provided. But nowhere have I experienced the opportunity to learn, to serve and to grow as a human being as I have at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning!

than they realise, for there are many criteria one can choose to evaluate a student. As emphasised by Bhagavan Baba, “The teaching of the university curricula is only the means employed for the end, namely, spiritual uplift, self-discovery and social service through love and detachment”. In contrast, based upon my personal experience at a number of leading universities in the United States and Europe, the students at those universities are primarily motivated by scholastic achievement and the prospects of developing a high economic standard of living. So, if one focuses solely on the criteria of academic achievement and financial success, then my former students in the West are more oriented towards these measures of success than the students I have mentored at SSSIHL. But from the broader and more inclusive perspective that characterises the core purpose of SSSIHL – imparting ideal education that can mould students as ideal citizens wedded to the service of society – my (His) students excel



compared to the students I have taught and guided in the West. The focus on values-based Integral Education and on character development at SSSIHL has contributed to the students developing a combination of the intellectual, physical, social, cultural, devotional, communication and service-oriented aspects of their personality that are superior to most of what I have observed in the West.

His University

Just as I often have been asked by my students at SSSIHL about how their performance compares with that I have observed amongst students in the West, my former colleagues in Denmark and abroad have often enquired about Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Why would I, getting on in years, travel to far away India, spend almost half a year each year teaching and guiding students, without receiving any pay while having to cover my and my wife's costs of transportation and our living costs? And why would I look forward to living far away from our children and grandchildren in a tiny flat in the Ashram when I otherwise have a lovely town house as well as a beautiful small farm as a vacation home in Denmark? Why would I risk acquiring a 'Delhi belly' (diarrhoea) and temperatures that could reach 40 degrees towards the end of our stay in March / April? Of course for the first many years, one answer was sufficient: the presence of the Teacher of teachers,

the Revered Founder Chancellor of the University, our Beloved Swami. But then later on my friends and former colleagues would enquire why we would return after Swami had left His body? The answer here is similar to the answer regarding why we with great enthusiasm and joy would return to Prasanthi when Swami was still with us physically: it is still the presence of the Teacher of teachers, though now on a non-physical plane. And it is because the University He established and designed to blend secular and spiritual knowledge continues to provide divine inspiration to its students, alumni and faculty (including guest faculty). Prasanthi is my home and I continue to feel a love and a responsibility for the University and its students that enabled me to serve and to teach what I have to learn.

I have degrees from several of the world's most highly respected universities: Princeton (B.Sc.), Harvard (MBA), Case-Western (Ph.D.) and the University of Copenhagen (Sc.D.). I am deeply appreciative of the magnificent educational opportunities they provided. But nowhere have I experienced the opportunity to learn, to serve and to grow as a human being as I have at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning!

– The author is Professor Emeritus, Sc.D. and Ph.D., Department of Management, Politics and Philosophy, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

...continued from page 25

the opportunity to realise that they share a deep link with God, their parents, their family, company and community. Business then is best understood as a network of relationships connecting shareholders, owners, managers, workers, customers,

suppliers, all of them interdependent and serving mutually beneficial goals.

– The author, a former M.Com student of Swami's College, is Professor of Corporate Strategy and Policy at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB).

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

ASHADI EKADASI

THE FESTIVAL OF ASHADI Ekadasi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotion and enthusiasm. The festivities held for two days began on the holy Ekadasi day on 15th July 2016 in Sai Kulwant Hall which reverberated with the chants of "Jai Jai Rama Krishna Hari" when the traditional Dindi procession led by Varkaris entered the hall amidst chanting and dancing by Varkaris and youth at 8.30 a.m. About 1,000 Varkaris had earlier brought the Vitthala palanquin from Dharmavaram, walking on foot a distance of about 40 km to offer their salutations at the Samadhi of Bhagavan.

Sri Ramesh Sawant, State President of Maharashtra and Goa, thereafter addressed the gathering. Describing Maharashtra as the land of great saints like Namdev, Tukaram, Janabai, Eknath, Sri Sawant explained the significance of this great festival of Maharashtra and also mentioned the Seva projects like mobile hospitals and water harvesting in villages undertaken by the Sai Organisation of the States of Maharashtra and Goa.

This was followed by a devotional music presentation by Kumari Mugdha Vaishampayan, who had the great good fortune of singing in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan earlier on two occasions. The singer enthralled the devotees for nearly one hour with her fine rendition of Hindi and Marathi devotional songs which included "Baje Muraliya Baje" (Krishna plays on the flute), "Itni Shakti Hamen Dena Baba" (Oh

Baba, give us power that do not lose our faith), "Swami Kripa Kabhi Karna" (Swami, shower Your grace on me). Bhajans followed next and ended with Arati.

In the evening, Bal Vikas children from Yavatmal district of Maharashtra offered a drama based on the life and teachings of Savata Mali, a famous saint of Maharashtra. Delineating the life story of Savata Mali,



Drama "Savata Mali" by the Bal Vikas children of Yavatmal district of Maharashtra.

the drama depicted how he won the grace of Lord Vitthala by the power of his true devotion so that the Lord Himself came to meet this humble devotee of his as he was not able to come to Pandharpur because of his poverty. Absorbing story, elevating theme and excellent acting of the children made the drama a touching presentation.

A lively violin concert was presented by a noted violinist Sri Milind Raikar on the morning of 16th July 2016 as part of Ashadi Ekadasi celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Beginning his concert at 8.45 a.m., the talented musician played some absorbing numbers and Bhajans which included "Payoji Meine Ram Ratan Dhana Payo" (I

have found the jewel of the Name of Rama), “Hey Siva Sankara Namami Sankara” (I offer salutations to Lord Siva). Earlier the session began at 8.30 a.m. with a beautiful dance offering by Sri Kaustub Joshi from Nashik.

The last programme of Ashadi Ekadasi was an excellent devotional music concert performed by a renowned vocalist Ms. Padmaja Talwalkar who sang an array of Kabir and Mira Bhajans and concluded her presentation with a lively Kirtan “Jai Jai Ram Krishna Hari”, which provided a befitting conclusion of Ashadi Ekadasi celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

GURU PURNIMA

Deep devotion and reverence marked the celebration of Guru Purnima festival at Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th July 2016. The morning programme began with Nadaswaram and percussion teams of the students playing devotional numbers dedicated to Bhagavan Baba, the Sadguru of millions of people from across the world.

A devotional music offering comprising Stotras and devotional songs by students

Besides Stotras and devotional songs, a dance number was performed by the students which added to the richness of the programme.

Addressing the devotees on this occasion, Sri V. Srinivasan, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, advised one and all to rise above the mundane activities of the world and get connected to God as part of their Sadhana. He exhorted the devotees to perform all Seva work with the recognition of Bhagavan’s presence in their heart and considering Him as the only Doer. Then service would be transformed into worship, he added.

A video clip of Bhagavan’s Discourse was played next, in which He advised the devotees to develop Daiva Preeti and Papa Bheeti (love for God and fear of sin). Then only could there be Sangha Neeti (morality in society); there could be no morality in society when both these were absent in the heart of man, said Bhagavan. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram”. Bhajans followed next and concluded with Arati.

The programme in the afternoon began with an erudite talk of George Bebedelis from Greece. Quoting the Vedic prayer “Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya” (lead me from unreality to reality, from darkness to light, from death to immortality), the learned speaker reminded the devotees that they should recognise their divinity which was the truth of human life. Narrating his experiences with Bhagavan, Sri George offered his grateful salutations to Him, who showed him the path of truth and reality as a Sadguru. In conclusion, he sang the Bhajan



A devotional music offering by the students to their Sadguru Bhagavan Baba.

followed next. Some of the Stotras and songs were: “Sadguru Sai Stotram”, “Sadguru Ashtakam”, “Daras Dikhao Sai Daras Dikhao” (Oh Sai! Give Darshan).

“Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma”, which devotees followed in chorus with great devotion.

This was followed by an exhilarating flute recital by Ms. Shantala Subramanyam from Chennai who provided a feast for the soul of classical music which enthralled the devotees for more than one and a half hours. Bhajans continued after this and concluded with Arati.

Sadguru Sandesham: A Drama

On the eve of the sacred festival of Guru Purnima, the postgraduate students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam presented a drama “Sadguru Sandesham” (the message of the Master) on 17th July 2016. The drama depicted relevant incidents from the lives of Shirdi Sai Baba and Kakasahib Dixit, Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Naren



A scene from the drama “Sadguru Sandesham”.

(Swami Vivekananda), Sri Yukteshwar Giri and Swami Yogananda and Buddha and Ananda to convey the message of great spiritual significance that the disciple should engrave the message of the Master in his heart and put his teachings into practice. Good script, excellent acting of the students, fabulous sets and quick stage management made the drama an impressive presentation.

...continued from page 17

devotional musical programme entitled “Mana Bangaru Sai”. Commencing their programme with a prayer song dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the singers and musicians kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour by a superbly rendered musical presentation which included “Wonderful is Your Unfailing Love”, “Madhura Mohana Ghana Shyama”, “Oh Sai Baba Hamaar”, and concluded it with “Sai Medley”, saturating the entire milieu with love and devotion.

A group of 80 Sai Youth, both boys and girls, from Australia presented a devotional music programme entitled “The Call has Come” on 10th July 2016. Starting their programme at 5.00 p.m. with a welcome



Devotional music presentation “The Call has Come” by Sai Youth of Australia.

song “Swagatam Suswagatam”, they concluded their excellent presentation with a popular Qawali “Adhuri Hai Yeh Zindagi” (this life is useless without You). Their other songs were: “Open your Heart”, “Madhura Mohana Ghana Shyama” followed by a Bhajan medley.



Effulgence of Divine Glory

COMING OF SUNDERAMMA IN SWAMI'S FOLD

H

OW DID SUNDERAMMA come to know Sri Sathya Sai Baba? She said that one day

Sucharita was playing, she heard young Sathya Sai Baba (then sixteen years old) say to her grandmother, "This girl's mother is not at all well and her life is in danger. She is pregnant and wants a son as she already has three daughters. Her mother will indeed give birth to a boy. Her father, too, is unwell and has eczema all over the body".

Sucharita's presence went unnoticed by her elders. Later, she went to the Bhajan session and marvelled at how a handsome youth was worshipped like a god.

When she came back to Bengaluru, Sucharita told her mother (Sunderamma): "Sai Baba, who they all say is God, said your life is in danger". Sunderamma's mother was disturbed because she had not wanted her daughter to know this. And after hearing what Sri Sathya Sai Baba had said, Sunderamma's mind was in great turmoil. A few days later, she heard

long ago, her mother and her daughter, Sucharita, who was six at the time, went to Puttaparthi to see a relative of theirs called Karanam Subbamma. This lady, Karanam Subbamma, figures prominently in Sri Sathya Sai Baba's early life since it was she who, believing Him to be someone 'special', helped to organise Bhajans for Him. While

that Sri Sathya Sai Baba was in Bengaluru (in Chamarajpet) and urged her husband Sri Sharma to take her to Him. Her husband did not have much faith in Sadhus and Sannyasis and so, although he took her there, he remained outside in the street. He told his wife to see Sri Sathya Sai Baba and come away as soon as she could.



Sunderamma went in and found that her pregnancy made the other waiting women give way to her and as a result, she was the first one to go in to see Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He looked at her and said, "Yes, I know your little daughter who has been to Puttaparthi". Then He blessed her. He slipped away without anyone being aware that He was gone, but returned to sing Bhajans.

Later Sunderamma's husband told her an astounding story. As he was strolling about in the street waiting for his wife to leave the house, that boy with the curly mop on His head approached him and said, "Are you not the husband of the lady who has come to see Me? You are not at all well. You have eczema all over". He waved His hand and materialised a banana which he gave him, saying, "Eat it with the skin on it. Your disease will vanish and you will be well". Sri Sharma said that the boy then disappeared as suddenly as He had appeared leaving him stunned. But he ate the banana as directed and rushed off home to fetch his mother and his daughter to join in singing Bhajans.

This then was the advent of Sri Sathya Sai Baba into Sunderamma's life in 1942. The family has had the continuing good fortune of close association with Sri Sathya Sai Baba ever since then. Her sister Sharadamma explained that there had been danger to Sunderamma's life during her confinement and that Sri Sathya Sai Baba had saved her. She had a son as predicted by Him.

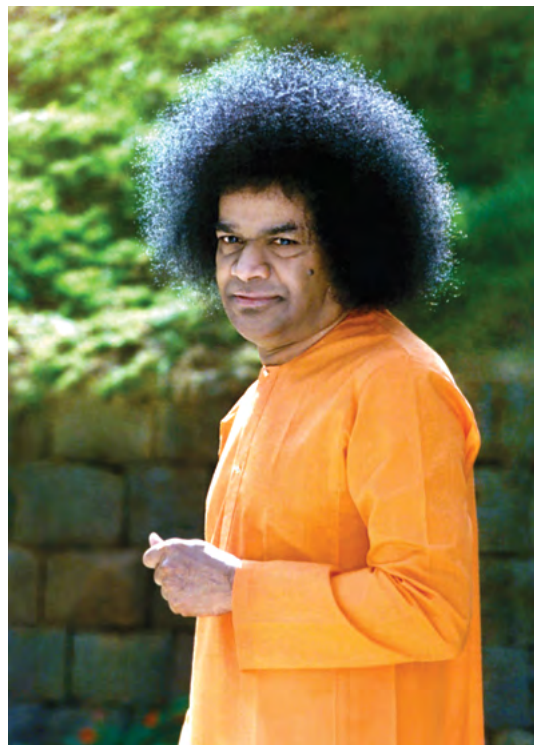
Sunderamma's father Seshagiri Rao objected when she and her widowed sister wanted to go to Puttaparthi. In the end, he had to give in to their persistence and he took them to the station to see them safely away.

He returned home and sat in meditation before a picture of Shirdi Sai Baba. When he opened his eyes, he was astounded to see that in the picture before him Sri Sathya Sai Baba was installed in the heart of Shirdi Sai Baba. Seshagiri Rao could not believe his eyes. He kept looking at it and staring at it but the image in the heart remained bright and clear. How could this be? he asked himself. Was it possible that this boy was the reincarnation of Shirdi Sai Baba? What else could explain the sudden appearance of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Shirdi Sai Baba's heart? This wondrous event kindled faith in Seshagiri Rao. The very next time his daughters went to Puttaparthi, he went with them. And a very short while after that trip, he became one of the staunchest devotees of the young Sai Baba.

Sunderamma recalled how once in Puttaparthi, her father went into a trance for three days. For days after that he was in such delirious ecstasy that Sri Sathya Sai Baba avoided direct contact with him until he had calmed down. Something marvellous had happened to Seshagiri Rao. Sri Sathya Sai Baba had granted him a divine vision; He had shown him the third eye of Siva on His own face. This had put him into the trance, and after that experience, he felt as though he never wanted to leave Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He settled in Puttaparthi and formulated regular modes of worship for Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Other members of his family also tried to be with Swami as often as possible, and for His part Sri Sathya Sai Baba showered such devotees with His grace for the deep and strong devotion they displayed towards Him.

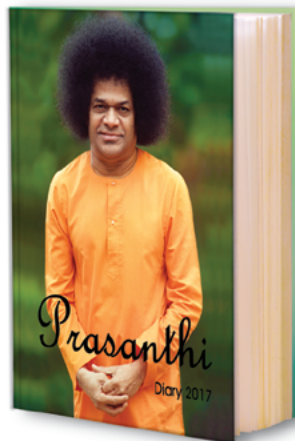
– Excerpted from "Living Divinity" by Shakuntala Balu.





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We are happy to announce that the eagerly awaited Bhagavan's diary 'Prasanthi 2017' is available for sale. It contains information on Bhagavan's divine life and His Mission apart from many significant aspects of Prasanthi Nilayam, the Abode of Peace. **Specifications:** size 14.7 x 20.6 cms, shrink wrapped, multicolour wrapper with gold foiling, art work, spot lamination and knurling, with curved stitch-binding. Total pages 422; 34 pages are in imported art paper in multicolour with beautiful photos of Bhagavan, Mandir, Maha Samadhi. The 2 colour diary pages have a treasure of over 300 sayings of Bhagavan. **Sale Price Rs 120/- (Packing and postage are extra).**



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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, educational software etc 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 Bhagawan 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, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers' - for free distribution.
- 4) Organising and conducting seminars and conferences on spirituality, religion, education, and human values.
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Earnestness in Speaking

If you talk of anything you do not know, it is a matter of ridicule. If you talk about anything you have not experienced, it is reprehensible, for you are cheating your listeners. If you learn the art of public speaking and talk enchantingly using all the skills and frills recommended in the textbooks or borrowed from others, it is cheating, nevertheless. Be sincere, be simple, be honest. That is the best recipe for successful speaking.

– Baba

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