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# Sanathana Sarathi



# Sanathana Sarathi

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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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*"If you put a seed in a tin and pour  
water over it, the seed will decay and  
the plant will not come out of it. For  
the seed to germinate, it has to be sown  
in soil. Similarly, if you sow the seed of  
spirituality in the soil of love, it will grow  
into a big tree and yield the fruit of bliss.  
The seed of spirituality will not grow in  
a heart bereft of love."*



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**Christmas 2013**

**The sacred festival of Christmas will be celebrated  
at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th December 2013.**

500

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सत्य साई बाबा SATHYA SAI BABA

Commemorative stamp released on the occasion of  
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 88th Birthday.

AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:  
22ND AUGUST 1996

# WORK WITH DISGRIMINATION, WORSHIP WITH AWARENESS

*Why do you search for God here and there when He is present in your heart?*

*Give service and receive love.*

*This is how you can know the principle of divinity.*

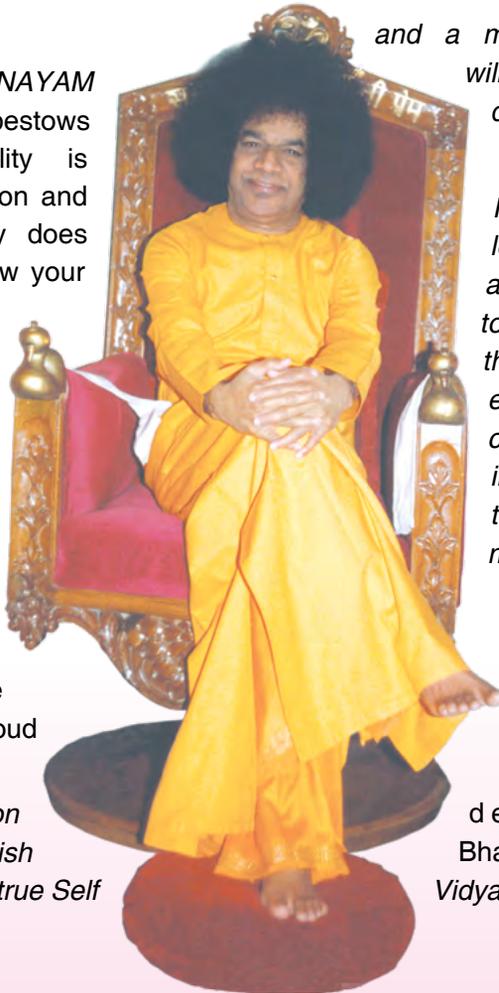
(Telugu Poem)

CONSIDER EVERY WORK AS WORSHIP TO GOD

*Students!*

**V** IDYA DADATI VINAYAM (education bestows humility). Humility is the hallmark of education and its very goal. Humility does not merely mean to bow your head and stand with folded arms. Humility means to perform actions without ego. He is a truly educated person who performs all actions without ego and attachment in his daily life. Don't become egoistic just because you are educated. Don't be proud of your intelligence.

*In spite of his education and intelligence, a foolish man will not know his true Self*



*and a mean-minded person will not give up his evil qualities.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring education which cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal.*

(Telugu Poem)

**Desire and Hatred  
Cover up your  
Innate Divinity**

Lord Krishna declared in the Bhagavadgita, *Adhyatma Vidya Vidyam* (spiritual

education is true education). “Out of all the types of knowledge, I am the spiritual knowledge,” He said. There is no other knowledge superior to this. Modern education gives only worldly and bookish knowledge. But spiritual education gives practical knowledge. Modern education deals with only physical, worldly, ephemeral and transient knowledge. It is not proper to call this even education. That which confers true knowledge is education. God is the embodiment of true knowledge. You say, you need God. I ask you, “Why do you need yourself?” You yourself are God. God is not separate from you. He is in you, with you, around you, above you and below you. Spiritual knowledge is that which gives you the realisation of this truth.

### *Students!*

How does spirituality grow? If you put a seed in a tin and pour water over it, the seed will decay and the plant will not come out of it. For the seed to germinate, it has to be sown in soil. Similarly, if you sow the seed of spirituality in the soil of love, it will grow into a big tree and yield the fruit of bliss. The seed of spirituality will not grow in a heart bereft of love.

Any task can be accomplished by practice. Practice is necessary for everything in life whether it is walking, talking, eating, reading or writing. When you are a child, your mother teaches you words like Amma, Appa (mother, father). All these come only by practice. You say, you want peace. For that also you need to put in some effort. All of you are squatting

***Whatever be the circumstances you are confronted with, you should not get excited or agitated. You should allow time for the nobler feelings to well up from inside you and manifest themselves. By practising patience and forbearance you will be able to acquire all the other important spiritual qualities, such as mind control, faith, renunciation, endurance and concentration. This will bring a state of inner purity and fill you with abiding peace.***



on the floor. Without practice, you cannot even sit in cross-legged posture. If you want to perform a small drama, you start practising at least ten days in advance. World is like a stage. All are actors. God is the director. You need practice for everything in this drama of life.

Divinity can be attained only by following the spiritual path. There is fire of wisdom in every human being. As you neglect this fire of wisdom, it gets covered by the ash of ego, attachment and hatred. Where does the ash come from? It comes only from the fire and ultimately covers the fire itself. Similarly, there is divinity in every human being. The same was described by Plato in three words: truth, goodness and beauty. The ancients in India called them Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram. Everyone is endowed with goodness which is the attribute of divinity. There is nobody in this



world who is devoid of goodness. But this goodness is covered by Raga and Dwesha (desire and hatred). If you want to visualise your innate divinity, you have to first of all remove the ash of ego, attachment and hatred.

*Students!*

There is no path easier than spirituality. There is nothing easier than this in this world. There may be some effort involved in crushing the petal of a rose, but spirituality is much easier than this. What is the reason? The reason is divinity is within you. In fact, it is not different from you. Therefore, there is no need to search for divinity.

*Students!*

Do you search for yourself anywhere outside? No one will search for himself. One who says I am searching for myself will be considered a fool. You yourself are God. The Vice Chancellor quoted Ramakrishna Paramahansa explaining the principle of Jivatma and Paramatma. I wish to elaborate on this in a different way. There are three steps to divinity. *Aham Dehatma* (I am the body), *Aham Jivatma* (I am the individual soul) and *Aham Paramatma* (I am the universal Self). To say, I am the body is the sign of ignorance. This is Dvaita (dualism). To say, I am Jivatma is Visishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism). To say, I am Paramatma is Advaita (non-dualism). You are not one, but three; the one you think you are, the one others think you are and the one you really are. In the terms, Dehatma, Jivatma and

Paramatma, Atma is common. One should know the difference between these three to understand divinity. The terms Bhur, Bhuvah, Suvah in the Gayatri Mantra also convey the same meaning. Bhur refers to Bhuloka. What is Bhuloka? It consists of worldly matter. This can be described as materialisation which is represented by the human body. Bhuvah represents the life principle which makes the body move. Hence, it can be described as vibration. It is due to the presence of vibration within that the body is able to move. Therefore, the body is materialisation, the life principle is vibration and the Atma is radiation. All these three are very much present in you. Then where do you search for divinity? Why should you search for it? When you understand this truth, you will realise that you are everything.

### **Everyone has God as his Master**

Kabir was a poor weaver. The money that he earned by weaving cloth he used it for feeding the poor. He never worked to earn profit. He used to sell his cloth at a very cheap price without any consideration for profit. If any poor person came to him to buy cloth, he would give it to him free of cost and would starve on that day. He used to constantly chant the Name of Rama while weaving. That is why the cloth weaved by him acquired great value.

Some devotees from Greece have arrived today. They came by plane from Greece to Bengaluru. From Bengaluru, they came to Puttaparthi on foot, carrying their luggage on their back while chanting



the Mantra *Om Sri Sathya Sai Babaya Namah* at every step. I received them in the Mandir. I enquired if their feet were aching. They said, "No Swami, we are very happy, it is a great opportunity for us. We can walk even ten miles more. If we had travelled by car, we would not have had the good fortune of chanting Your Name all along." That is why our ancients said, *Kashte Phali* (hard work yields rich rewards). Only when you put in hard work, you can enjoy the fruit.

Kabir also used to chant the Name of Rama continuously while touring other places on foot. That is how the whole country came to know about the devotion of Kabir to Lord Rama. A king also came to know about his devotion to Lord Rama. He heard that Kabir was very poor and had nothing to depend upon for his livelihood. Considering him to be an Anatha (forlorn), the king sent to him money, clothes and food provisions in a palanquin. When Kabir returned home after taking bath in the river, he saw four people bringing the palanquin to his house. He was surprised to see this and asked the bearers, "Why have you brought this palanquin which is to be carried by four people? We are quite all right." What is it that is carried by four people? It is dead body. What Kabir meant to convey to the king was, he did not need a palanquin to be carried by four people as he was quite all right. Then the bearers replied, "Sir, the king has commanded us to give all these things to you as you are a poor Anatha." Then Kabir replied, "Oh, did the king say so! Did he say that these

things are to be given to me because I am Anatha? Well, I am not Anatha since I have Lord Rama as my Natha (master). In fact, Rama is Anatha because He has no master above Him. Therefore, you offer these things to Lord Rama."

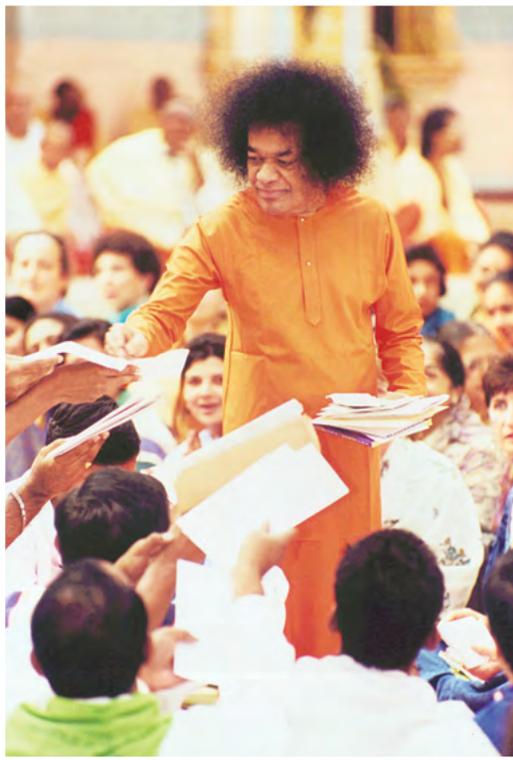
See, what a profound meaning is there in this statement of Kabir! There is none in this world who is Anatha because everybody has God as his master. If there is any Anatha, it is only God because He has no master above Him. In fact, God is neither a master nor a king; He is the king maker. Many devotees pray, "Swami, please don't make me an Anatha." I tell them, "My dear, you are not Anatha. In fact, I am Anatha." Unable to understand God's nature and His reality, devotees misunderstand Him and form wrong notions. One who has total faith in God will not lack anything.

### **Become Egoless like Me**

To light the lamp of divinity in you, you have to get rid of ego, attachment and hatred and develop love. I am the ideal example in this regard. How? During Darshan time, you remain seated where you are; I Myself come to you, bend My back, stretch My hand and take your letters. Instead, out of ego, I can as well sit at one place and tell you to come to Me and give your letters. You will certainly do that. I don't do like that because I don't have even a trace of ego. Just as I come to you and serve you, you also should go to others and serve them without ego. This is the ideal I want to demonstrate. All of you come to



Prasanthi Nilayam from far off places. Will it be difficult for you to walk a small distance and give your letters to Me If I sit at one place? You can very well do that. But I act in such egoless manner to set an ideal before you. I don't observe any difference like so and so is Mine and others are not. All of you are Mine. I am yours. Every devotee and every student should recognise this truth.



## Assimilate what you Hear or Read

Once a sculptor brought three dolls to the court of King Bhoja. All the three looked alike and beautiful. The emperor summoned the Prime Minister and asked him to decide which among the three dolls was the best. The Prime Minister brought an iron wire and put it in the ear of one of the dolls. The wire came out from the other ear. He then remarked, "This is

the worst doll." When he put the wire in the ear of the second doll, it came out from its mouth. He said, "This doll can be given second prize." When he put the wire in the ear of the third doll, it went inside and did not come out. The Prime Minister then declared, "This deserves the first prize." What does it mean? It means, the person who assimilates what he hears is the best person.

### *Mamatma Sarva*

*Bhutantaratma* (I am present as the Atma in all beings). The same Atmic principle is present in all. Then why is it not visible to everyone? You think as though some are close to Me and others are not. God is not the cause of this. Since you are overpowered by the worldly tendencies and attachments, you become distant from God. Moreover, modern youth are always in a state of excitement. They have a craze for all sorts of vulgar words, songs and dances. They are not interested in Bhajans, Discourses or talks about God. Some of them who come here hear Swami's words from one ear and leave them out from the other.

In this modern age, some people hear sacred teachings from one ear but immediately leave them out from the other ear. Some others repeat like parrots what they read in scriptures and what they hear from Swami. Only a few assimilate what



they hear and put them into practice. What is the reason? Where does the difference lie? The difference lies in the likes and dislikes of individuals. Where does these likes and dislikes come from? They come from the company you associate with.

### **You will be Happy when all are Happy**

People want their own well-being and the well-being of their family alone. How foolish it is to think like that! Oh simpleton! You aspire for your own well-being and the well-being of your family! But where do you live? On whom do you depend? You depend on your family and your family depends on society. Therefore, when society is safe and secure, your family will be safe and secure. And when your family is safe and secure, it will ensure your safety and security. So, it is necessary that you strive first and foremost for the well-being of society. That is what the Vedic prayer, *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!) teaches. When all are happy, you will also be happy. In this way, Vedanta propounds sacred and fundamental truths. Unfortunately, today there are few teachers who can impart such sacred teachings. As a result, people have lost interest in them. Where there is 'in trust' there is interest. What you need today is 'in trust.' But only 'in-rest' prevails today. It means people have become lazy. It is not a good sign.

### **Consider every Work as God's Work**

Always associate with good company. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.*

*It is God who makes your heart and pulse beat, fills your lungs with oxygen and supplies oxygen to all the limbs of the body. The entire mechanism and functioning of the body is ordained by God. Without the presence of divinity within, you cannot perform any task. Therefore, first of all you should try to know your innate divinity. Whether you believe it or not, God is doing all the work. However, you will experience bliss only when you develop faith in God. Work with discrimination, worship with awareness.*

*Satsangatwe Nissangatwam,  
Nissangatwe Nirmohatwam,  
Nirmohatwe Nischalatattwam,  
Nischalatattwe Jivanmukti.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Good company leads to detachment; detachment makes one free from delusion; freedom from delusion leads to steadiness of mind; steadiness of mind confers liberation.) What is meant by good company? Good company is that which makes you think more of God than the world. What does the world signify? It signifies coming and going, coming and going.

*Punarapi Jananam Punarapi  
Maranam,  
Punarapi Janani Jathare Sayanam,  
Iha Samsare Bahu Dustare,*



*Kripayapare Pahi Murare.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Oh Lord! I am caught up in this cycle of birth and death; time and again, I am experiencing the agony of staying in the mother's womb. It is very difficult to cross this ocean of worldly life. Please take me across this ocean and grant me liberation.)

There are two syllables in the term Jagat (world), Ja and Gat, that which comes and goes. There is nothing real in it. So, this is a big zero. It is said that every good work is God's work. How does it become God's work? There are four letters in the word good. When you remove one zero from the word good, it becomes God. If you give up your attachment to the world, you become divine. However, you don't need to renounce the world. You may look after your family, discharge your office duties, but do everything as an offering to God. Consider every work as God's work. Then your work will be transformed into worship. You cannot perform even an ordinary task properly unless you do it with a sense of worship. You have your office work. If you do not perform it with a spirit of worship, you will neglect it. Worship is not only limited to God. Every task you perform, every subject you deal with, consider it as worship. When you do it with this spirit, you will get the desired results. If you do not focus your mind on the work on hand, you will only spoil it. Every work you perform from morning to evening is, in fact, worship to God. You eat to satiate your hunger. That is also an act of worship. Whatever you eat, it reaches God within. Otherwise,

how will the food get digested? Before eating your food, you recite this prayer:

*Brahmarpanam Brahma Havir  
Brahmagnou Brahmanahutam  
Brahmaiva Thena Ganthavyam  
Brahma Karma Samadhina.*

(Brahman is the ladle as well as the oblation. He is the sacrificial fire as also the sacrificer. And finally, Brahman is the goal of one who is engaged in the act of sacrifice.)

When you pray in this manner before you partake of your food, God immediately responds thus:

*Aham Vaishvanaro Bhutva  
Praninam Dehamasrita  
Pranapana Samayukta  
Pachamyannam Chaturvidham.*

(I am present in all beings in the form of digestive fire. United with the Prana (exhalation) and Apana (inhalation), it is I who consume the four kinds of food.)

God says, "My dear, I am present in your stomach in the form of Vaishvanara. I digest the food you eat and supply its essence to all the limbs of your body. That is how you can lead a happy and healthy life."

Who is the one who grinds the food you eat and supplies its essence to all parts of the body? What effort do you make for this? Nothing whatsoever. What effort do you make for the beating of your heart? It is only the power of God that makes the heart beat. Some people out of ego think that they are the doers of everything. What



is the effort you make for the circulation of blood and beating of your pulse? It is all done by God. It is God who makes your heart and pulse beat, fills your lungs with oxygen and supplies oxygen to all the limbs of the body. The entire mechanism and functioning of the body is ordained by God. Without the presence of divinity within, you cannot perform any task. Therefore, first of all you should try to know your innate divinity. Whether you believe it or not, God is doing all the work. However, you will experience bliss only when you develop faith in God. Work with discrimination, worship with awareness. Whatever you do, you should do it with total awareness and understanding. When you know there is fire, you will not put your hand in it. On the other hand, if you put your hand in fire without knowledge, your hand will get burnt. That is why Thyagaraja sang, "Oh mind! Contemplate on the glory of Rama with full awareness. God pervades everything. Nothing happens without His Will:"

*Cheemalo      Brahmalo      Siva  
Kesavaadulalo      Prema Meera Velasi  
Unde Birudhu      Vahinchina Rama  
Nannu Brovara.*

*Meppulakai      Kannataavu      Nappu  
Badaka Virraveegi      Tappu Panulu Leka  
Yunde Thyagaraja Vinuta Sita.*

(Oh Rama! In Your pure and unsullied form of love, You indwell all beings from an ant to Brahma as also in Siva and Kesava. Please be my protector too.

Sita Rama! This Thyagaraja, who praises You, has not indulged in evil deeds aspiring

for acclaim, nor in his overweening pride forgot his origins.)

### **Develop Inner Vision**

When you constantly think of God, anything you do will become perfect. Education is required to acquire this knowledge. I am telling you all this at great length only to impress upon you the true meaning of education. Vid + Ya = Vidya. That which gives knowledge is education. What type of knowledge? Is it material knowledge? Material knowledge is associated with reaction, reflection and resound. Here is a table. This is a material object. When you hit it hard with your hand, your hand will also be hit hard. You say you have hit the table hard. This is not the full truth. The table has also hit you equally hard. Therefore, there is reaction, reflection and resound in this objective world. So, whatever you think, say and do will come back to you as reaction, reflection and resound. That is why it is necessary for you to think good, speak good, see good, do good and experience good.

The goal of human life is to do good. Having been born as a human being endowed with great intelligence and education and having attained high position, if you behave like birds and animals, then what is the use? Even an ant has hunger and fear like you. Even animals like dogs, monkeys, foxes and birds like crows and eagles have desires like you. If you also conduct yourself as they do, then in what way are you superior to them?

Once King Janaka called an assembly of great scholars and poets. Famous



learned men came from all over the realm. The assembly was composed of such giants that there was no room at all for ordinary people to enter in. The daily meetings were presided over by King Janaka himself. Only the most outstanding and accomplished scholars were given an opportunity to speak and present their views.

A person with a deformed body also came to this magnificent and august assembly of scholars. His name was Ashtavakra. On seeing the strange form of Ashtavakra, most of the great scholars who had gathered there began to laugh. Ashtavakra carefully looked around the hall, and then quite inexplicably started laughing even louder than the scholars who were seated there. This loud burst of laughter from Ashtavakra greatly surprised the scholars and also King Janaka. Then the king asked him, "The scholars gathered here laughed seeing your strange body. But what is the reason for your loud laughter?" Ashtavakra replied, "Well, sir, I entered this gathering thinking it to be a sacred assembly convened by you to discuss holy scriptures. If only I had known what kind of people were attending this assembly, I would not have bothered to come. I looked forward to being in the company of great scholars. But, alas, I find only Charmakaaras (cobblers) here, shoemakers, who stitch chappals and work with leather. That is the cause of my laughter."

Addressing the scholars, Ashtavakra said, "All of you are laughing at my skin

and have obviously decided that it is not worth much, but not even one of you has made any effort to know about my scholarship. Pandits should develop the vision to look inward, but you only seem to care about the outer covering. If you have not developed inner vision but are only concerned with the superficial outer vision, then you cannot be considered scholars at all. Then you are only Charmakaaras, shoemakers, cobblers, specialists in hides." The scholars hung their heads in shame on hearing these words of profound wisdom. King Janaka, who understood very well what Ashtavakra was saying, invited him to take a high seat in the assembly, and subsequently bestowed numerous honours upon him.

As was the case then, so is the case now throughout the world. However great you may be, you have developed only the external vision. You do not bother to cultivate the inner vision. When you look at a person, you pay attention only to his physical features, his wealth, his status, his education, his degrees, and so on. On the other hand, when God sees a person, He looks at the purity of his heart; He pays attention to the peace that is within him. It is such inner vision that you must develop.

Whatever be the circumstances you are confronted with, you should not get excited or agitated. You should allow time for the nobler feelings to well up from inside you and manifest themselves. By practising patience and forbearance, you will be able to acquire all the other



important spiritual qualities, such as mind control, faith, renunciation, endurance and concentration. This will bring a state of inner purity and fill you with abiding peace.

Inner purity is much more important than outer purity. The Lord is ever present both inside and outside. Therefore, both the inner and the outer, the entire place where the Lord is to be found, must be purified and sanctified. Then the indwelling God will protect you wherever you go.

### Attain Divine Proximity

Each one has his own way of looking at things. *Munde Munde Mathir Bhinnah* (opinions vary from person to person). Today man has perverted thoughts. First of all, he should purify his heart. Some people consider themselves to be great scholars and poets. But God does not see your scholarship or poetic talent. God sees your inner feelings, not the outward show. Some people feel proud that they offered food and clothes to thousands of people. Fie on them! Is it something to boast about? If you have offered food and clothes to thousands of people, you may give this statistical account to income tax authorities. God says, you don't need to tell Him all these details. What I see is the purity of your heart. If your heart is pure, that is enough. This is what Ashtavakra taught to those scholars in the court. He told them, "Don't see my physical frame, see the knowledge that I have."

Who is a true scholar? *Pandita Samadarshina* (A Pandit is one who is

equal-minded). A real scholar is one who is endowed with the quality of equal-mindedness. But do you possess the quality of equal-mindedness? You may wear thick gold bracelets, adorn yourself with a costly shawl and sit as though you are posing for a photograph. This is not the sign of true knowledge. Open your heart, understand the nature of the world and propagate the eternal teachings of divinity. That is the sign of true knowledge. This is the type of knowledge you should acquire, develop and propagate.

### Students!

I am happy if you study well, get 'O' grade and win a gold medal. Along with all this, you should develop faith in God. Without faith in God, you cannot achieve anything worthwhile in this world. What is the use of all your worldly possessions? In addition to all this, try to attain divine grace. Only then will you find fulfilment in life. In the absence of divine grace, all your worldly achievements are meaningless.

*When man emerges from the womb of his mother, one does not find any garland around his neck. There are no jewels made of pearls nor are there glittering gold ornaments. There are no necklaces studded with precious stones like emeralds and diamonds. But there is one garland around his neck. Brahma strings together the consequences of his past deeds into a heavy garland and puts it around his neck at the time of his birth.*

(Telugu Poem)



This invisible garland of Karma (action) is there around everybody's neck at the time of birth. Man should see to it that he wears a good and fragrant garland and not a garland which gives out foul smell. Therefore, keep your worldly desires under check as far as possible. Develop the sense of detachment. How is it possible? Many of our boys say, "Swami, there is always a desire in our mind to possess this and that. How to control it?" For this, it is essential to develop the spirit of detachment. Only when you have real knowledge, humanness and devotion to God can the spirit of detachment develop in you.

What is the true meaning of detachment? Do you feel like eating the food vomited by you? Just as you discard the food you vomited, you should give up the worldly desires. If any worldly desire arises in you, you should at once discard it, telling yourself, this is the food I vomited. You don't like even to look at the food vomited by you; then how can you eat it again? Therefore, true detachment lies in giving up wicked thoughts and wicked feelings, just as you discard the vomited food. When a worldly desire enters your mind, you should be cautious. At this age, students have a tendency to look at bad things and entertain bad thoughts. When such a thought arises in your mind, you should remind yourself, "This is the food I vomited, I don't want this again. This is

***Consider every work as God's work. Then your work will be transformed into worship. You cannot perform even an ordinary task properly unless you do it with a sense of worship. You have your office work. If you do not do it with a spirit of worship, you will neglect it. Worship is not only limited to God. Every task you perform, every subject you deal with, consider it as worship. When you do it with this spirit, you will get the desired results.***

full of foul smell. It is very bad." What your stomach rejects, you vomit it out. How can you desire for it again? To develop such firm resolve to discard worldly desires is the sign of true detachment. Only then will you be able to take to sacred path and become dear to God. God will be very pleased with you and make you sit close to Him. There is no wealth greater than proximity to God. In fact, that is the purpose of human life. Having come to this world, you should attain divine proximity and earn a good name.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Govinda Krishna Jai Gopala Krishna Jai...")

**– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall on 22nd August 1996.**



# BHAGAVAN'S 88TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

**B**HAGAVAN'S 88TH Birthday was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotion and solemnity on 23rd November 2013. In a glittering function held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Union Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Dr. (Smt.) Killi Kruparani released a commemorative postal stamp on Bhagavan. A variety of music, cultural and educational programmes spanning over a week formed part of these celebrations. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated for this important event. In fact, the entire Prasanthi Nilayam township bore a festive look with beautiful decorations. Colourful lights on the temples and office buildings at night, specially on Sai Kulwant Hall and Yajur Mandir presented a charming spectacle. There were special floral decorations on the Samadhi of Bhagavan during the period of these celebrations.

## SITA RAMA KALYANAM AND RATHOTSAVAM

The celebrations had a grand start with the sacred festivals of Sita Rama Kalyanam and Rathotsavam which were held on the morning of 18th November 2013. The programme on this day started in Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.00 a.m. with the ceremony of Sita Rama Kalyanam. A special stage was set up in the performing



*Celestial marriage of Sita and Rama.*

area of Sai Kulwant Hall to conduct this sacred ceremony. Worship of the idols of Rama and Sita placed on this platform started amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram by the musicians. After the preliminary rituals, garlands were exchanged between the idols of Rama and Sita and sweets, flowers and Arati were offered to the idols. The celestial wedding concluded with offering of Mangal Sutra to the idol of Sita amidst joyous notes of music, sacred chants of Vedic hymns and shower of flowers on the idols of Sita and Rama. The chief priest then explained the significance of this celestial wedding, calling it an event of great spiritual significance and auspiciousness for the peace and prosperity of the world. A Yajna was also performed on this occasion. As





*Chariot procession on its way to Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam.*

the ceremony of Sita Rama Kalyanam concluded, Poornahuti (final oblations) was offered in the Yajna. This was followed by a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam.

Meanwhile, the procession carrying the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman, and Lord Krishna led by groups of musicians and Veda chanting and Bhajan singing students started from Sai Kulwant Hall. After the arrival of this grand procession at the Gopuram gate, the idol of Lord Krishna was placed on a decorated Ratha (chariot) while the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman were carried in a palanquin. After breaking coconuts and offering Arati to the idols, the chariot proceeded towards Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttaparthi village. On the way, a large number of residents of Puttaparthi offered worship to the idols and broke coconuts before the chariot. Worship was offered to the idols on arrival at Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam. While the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman

were brought back to the Bhajan Mandir in Sai Kulwant Hall, the idol of Lord Krishna was placed in Venugopal Swamy temple in Puttaparthi village. With this, the grand festival of Rathotsavam came to a happy conclusion.

## LADIES DAY

One of the most significant features of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations is the Ladies Day which glorifies ideal womanhood and underlines the importance of women's role in family, society and nation. At Prasanthi Nilayam, ladies from all over the globe come to participate in this important event held on 19th November every year. As per the tradition established over the years, all programmes like Suprabhatam, Veda chanting, Bhajan singing, etc., are conducted on this day by ladies.

### Panel Discussion

On the morning of 19th November 2013, the programme in Sai Kulwant Hall started at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting by the students of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning followed by their brass band display which played some uplifting tunes dedicated to Mother Sai.

This was followed by a panel discussion on the topic "Bhagavan's Teachings with Reference to the Role of Women." Introducing the programme, Smt. Chetana Raju, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan,





*Panel discussion on Ladies Day.*

who, she said, had established a kingdom of love with love. She also briefed on the service projects initiated by Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust. The panelists drawn from various fields and professions then discussed the role of women in society today, the apparent conflict of women's role in ancient and modern times specially between career and motherhood and how to bring about balance in professional and spiritual life as Sai devotees. In conclusion, the panelists reiterated Bhagavan's axiom "Hands in society, head in the forest" meaning women could play active role in serving society while engaged in spiritual uplift. While thanking the panelists for their valuable inputs, the moderator, Smt. Chethana Raju, emphasised Sita as the role model of womanhood who led an ideal life. As a prelude to panel discussion, a video of Bhagavan's Discourses on earlier Ladies Days was screened.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust presented special gifts to about 500 selected children from Puttaparthi and surrounding villages and about 50 deserving women. The morning

programme came to an end with Arati at 10.20 a.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

### **Devotional Music by Priya Sisters**

The evening session on Ladies Day began at 4.00 p.m. with Vedic chants by Primary School students, after which carnatic classical singers famed as Priya Sisters, Shanmukha Priya and Hari Priya, presented a soul-stirring devotional music concert. After entralling the devotees with some of the finest classical compositions, the talented duo concluded their concert with "Jaya Maa Jaya Maa Jagadeeshwari Sai Maa" (hail Mother Sai), offering their heartfelt tributes to Bhagavan.

### **Primary School Dance Drama**

The next item of the programme was a dance drama, portraying Sai Katha (the story of Sai) presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. Bagpipers band of the school heralded the programme with



*A thrilling dance presentation by Primary School children.*

their scintillating tunes. While the story of Bhagavan's life was unfolded through sweet songs, the children enacted the scenes and performed dances in their colourful and dazzling costumes to win the hearts of all spectators. Excellent direction, perfect coordination of scenes, thrilling dances of the children, well-rendered selected lyrics made the entire presentation most enchanting. At the conclusion of the programme, gifts were presented to the children while Bhajans were led by a group of Primary school students. After distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati at 7.20 p.m.

## BHAGAVAN'S 88TH BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

Deep devotional fervour marked the celebration of Bhagavan's 88th Birthday on 23rd November 2013. The students of Bhagavan were the first to offer their musical tributes to Bhagavan on the morning of 23rd November after the regular Veda chanting. Beginning their presentation with a Telugu song portraying Bhagavan's Avataric glory "Manishini Madhavuni Cheye Mahine Swargamuga Marcha" (in order to make man divine and transform earth into heaven) the students next sang "Aao Sab Milkar Gayen" (come let us all sing together) followed by a carnatic classical composition, which was accompanied by video screening of Bhagavan's 50th Birthday celebrations, showing Bhagavan giving Darshan to devotees from a helicopter. They concluded their programme with the evergreen song of love "Humko Tumsey Pyar Kitna" (how

much we love You, Sai), saturating the entire milieu with love and devotion.

## Release of Commemorative Postal Stamp on Bhagavan

After this soulful musical presentation of the students, Sri Anil Kumar Kamaraju addressed the devotees in fully packed Sai Kulwant Hall and described the divine glory of Bhagavan, embellishing his narration with sweet lyrics. He then requested the Chief Guest of the function, Dr. (Smt.) Killi Kruparani, Union Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology to release the commemorative postal stamp on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in recognition of His momentous



*Union Minister of State, Dr. (Smt.) Killi Kruparani releasing the commemorative postal stamp on Bhagavan.*

work in the fields of education, healthcare and service to the underprivileged masses. The Minister then released the postal stamp amidst a thunderous applause of devotees. She also released the first day postal cover and Annual Report of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. The Minister handed over the postal stamp and postal



cover to Trustees of the Central Trust and copies of Central Trust's Annual Report to Andhra Pradesh Ministers, Dr. (Smt.) J. Geeta Reddy and Sri N. Raghuvveera Reddy.

Speaking on this occasion, Sri S.S. Naganand, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust highlighted the main points of the Annual Report. Giving detailed account of the activities of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust in various fields for the welfare of people, Sri Naganand also announced the partial commissioning of the ongoing water project. Referring to the free education, healthcare and other social welfare service projects of the Central Trust, Sri Naganand observed that all activities of the Central Trust were meant to help the poor and needy. Touching upon the global reach of the Sai Organisation, Sri Naganand described the work being done by Sathya Sai International Organisation. Chief Guest of the function, Union Minister of State, Dr. (Smt.) Killi Kruparani then addressed the audience. Speaking in chaste Telugu, Dr. Kruparani hailed Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba as an inexhaustible reservoir of love and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to release the commemorative stamp on Bhagavan Baba. Quoting Bhagavan's teachings in her power-packed speech, Dr. Kruparani appreciated the work being done by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.

The concluding item of the morning programme was the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, in which Bhagavan observed that it was the spiritual path which could help man realise his innate divinity and lead him to experience the truth of human life. The sacred culture of Bharat, He said, prompted mankind to develop spirituality and experience divinity in daily life. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Madhuvana Sanchari Shyama Murari."

There was a scintillating band music display after this by the band troupes of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, Anantapur Campus and Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, both boys and girls. Bhajans followed this. Meanwhile groups of students and devotees offered cakes at



*Band troupes of students offering their musical tributes to Bhagavan.*

the Samadhi of Bhagavan. The morning programme came to a close at 11.15 a.m. with Arati after distribution of Prasadam to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. Thereafter, free food was served to all devotees in the special Pandal behind North Block of Prasanthi Nilayam.



## Jhoola Mahotsava

On the evening of 23rd November Jhoola Mahotsava (swing festival) was held for which a decorated Jhoola with a beautiful photograph of Bhagavan was set



*Jhoola Mahotsava in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

up in the performing area of Sai Kulwant Hall. The movement of the swing was accompanied by sweet carnatic classical music compositions rendered first by talented vocalist Sri Bharat Sundar and then by renowned classical singers Malladi Brothers, Sri Sriram Prasad and Sri Ravi Kumar. The singers touched the hearts of one and all by their soul-stirring rendition of devotional songs and suffused the entire milieu with devotional fervour. At the conclusion of their concert, the singers and their accompanying artistes were felicitated. This was followed by Bhajans which concluded with the Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" sung

by Bhagavan. The programme which started with Veda chanting at 5.00 p.m. came to a close with Arati at 8.00 p.m. Earlier, Sai Organisations of all the States of India offered their Annual Reports at the Samadhi of Bhagavan to seek Bhagavan's blessings.

## MUSIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

The first item of the programme on 18th November 2013 was an enrapturing devotional music presentation by the whistle wizard of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, Sri Shiva Prasad who is endowed with extraordinary talent of producing music by whistling. Beginning his programme with the composition "Jai Ganaraya" (hail, the master of Ganas) dedicated to Lord Ganesh at 4.50 p.m. the renowned musician

kept the audience spellbound for more than one hour by his unique presentation which included a Thyagaraja composition, a classical piece and Bhajans, such as "Sadguru Brahma Sanathana Hey" (Brahman is the eternal Guru), "Vanamali Radha Ramana" (Krishna loved by Radha), "Shambho Siva Shambho" (Siva, the embodiment of auspiciousness) and brought his whistle concert to a close with the Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram" (chant the Name of Rama with heart full of love).

The next item of the programme was an elevating dance presentation "Bhakti Bhava Pravaham" (stream of devotion) by



Prasanthi Dance Group which showcased the significance of devotion to attain the ultimate goal of life, viz., God-realisation. The entire presentation consisting of a number of group dances was accompanied by an innovative introduction through mime and commentary which added value and charm to the programme. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. Meanwhile, the whistle wizard Sri Shiva Prasad and the artistes who provided instrumental support to him were felicitated. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.20 p.m.

As part of Bhagavan's 88th Birthday celebrations, a renowned and versatile classical singer Smt. Padmaja Phenany Joglekar offered a bouquet of devotional songs at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan on 20th November 2013. Beginning her concert at 5.00 p.m. with a prayer song "Mangala Charana Gajanana" (the auspicious feet of Lord Ganesh), this talented vocalist, who had the great good fortune to sing in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan 12 years ago, enthralled the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall with a variety of beautiful songs which included a Mira Bhajan, a couple of Marathi songs, evergreen Hindi songs like "Tera Mana Darpan Kahlaye" (your mind mirrors everything) and "Jyoti Kalash Chhalke" (the sun shines with effulgence) and brought her concert to a close with the Bhajan "Jaya Panduranga Prabho Vitthala" (hail, Lord Panduranga). The singer and the artistes who provided

instrumental support to her were felicitated at the conclusion of this enrapturing concert. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.30 p.m. after a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam.

A soul-stirring carnatic classical music presentation was made by a Chinese artiste Sri Chong Chiu Sen from Malaysia on 21st November 2013. Beginning his presentation at 4.50 p.m., the accomplished artiste offered a sumptuous feast of carnatic classical music with the melodious rendition of choicest classical songs in various Ragas. He followed it up with popular numbers which included "Hare Rama Hare Krishna," "Bho Shambho Siva Shambho Swayambho," (Lord Siva who is self-born) and concluded his concert with a song dedicated to goddess Lakshmi "Namō Lakshmi Padam" (salutations at the feet of goddess Lakshmi). The hour-long concert had a spellbinding effect on the listeners and each composition bore the stamp of perfection the Chinese artiste had acquired in carnatic classical music tradition. At the conclusion of his concert, the artiste was greeted with a loud prolonged applause and was honoured with a shawl and other gifts. The musicians who rendered instrumental support to him were also felicitated.

On the auspicious occasion of Bhagavan's 88th Birthday, Sathya Sai International Organisation organised Bhagavan's 88th Birthday concert which was presented by Sai Symphony Orchestra on 24th November 2013. Beginning





*Musical tributes to Bhagavan by overseas devotees.*

their presentation at 5.00 p.m., about 30 musicians from overseas countries and India enthralled the devotees with their fine rendition of the compositions of renowned musicians like W.A. Mozart, Johann Strauss, Leroy Anderson, Ottorino Respighi and Luigi Boccherini. They concluded their concert with three Bhajans, viz., “Govinda Krishna Jai” (hail, Lord Krishna), “Hari Om Namah Sivaya” (salutations to Siva) and “Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam.” All the musicians were felicitated at the conclusion of this beautiful concert.

On 25th November 2013, the concluding day of Bhagavan’s 88th Birthday celebrations, Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, Sathya Sai

International Organisation offered heartfelt tributes to Bhagavan. Referring to the profound revelations made by Bhagavan in His Discourse in the First World Conference held in 1968, the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagavan is Paripoorna Avatar (Avatar in His fully glory) and the embodiment of all gods and goddesses. It is our greatest good fortune that we attained the proximity of the Lord of the universe, he added. He

exhorted one and all to realise the Divinity of Bhagavan and redeem their life. Dr. Reddy’s speech was followed by Veena recital by Smt. Saraswati Rajagopalan, a noted carnatic music exponent. Besides classical carnatic music compositions, the talented artiste played Bhajans on Veena which enthralled the devotees for over one hour. Smt. Rajagopalan and her accompanying artistes were felicitated at the conclusion of this enrapturing concert. The programme which started at 5.00 p.m. after regular Veda chanting came to a close with Arati at 7.15 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to the entire assembly of devotees.

*See in Me yourself, for I see Myself in you all. You are My life, My breath, My soul. You are My Forms all. When I love you, I love Myself; when you love yourselves, you love Me! I have separated Myself from Myself so that I may love Myself. My beloved ones, you are My own Self.*

– Baba

## 32ND ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

**T**HE 32ND ANNUAL Convocation of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) was held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam at 10 a.m. on 22nd November 2013. The evening programme began with a ceremony to give away Sai Krishna Awards for Excellence in Research. This was followed by a drama staged by the students of the university on the occasion of the Convocation.

### The Annual Convocation

This year, the ceremonial procession entered Sai Kulwant Hall at 10.00 a.m. It included the Chief Guest, Sri Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations; Chancellor of SSSIHL, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India; Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad, Vice Chancellor; former Vice Chancellors of the university; Members of the Board of Trustees; Members of Board of Management and Academic Council. The procession was led by the university brass band followed by two students carrying the University Standards on either side of the Registrar, who carried the Ceremonial Mace.

The Vice Chancellor sought the blessings of the Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai

Baba, and the Registrar, Dr. Naren Ramji, formally welcomed the Chief Guest by garlanding him. The proceedings of the Convocation began with chanting of Vedic hymns by a group of students. Thereafter, the Vice Chancellor prayed to the Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, to declare the Convocation open. The Convocation was declared open in Bhagavan's voice.

### Vice Chancellor's Introductory Speech

The Vice Chancellor observed that Swami founded this university for imparting values-based Integral Education so that the graduates who left the portals of this hallowed Institution would become ambassadors of transformation of the individual in particular and society at large for creating a happy and peaceful world filled with love and harmony. He then introduced the Chief Guest, Sri Sam Pitroda and Chancellor of SSSIHL, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, and extended a warm welcome to them.

The Vice Chancellor thereafter highlighted the progress made by SSSIHL in the preceding academic year (2012/13). This included new infrastructure (extension buildings and hostel for students in the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus), new academic programmes (M.Tech. in



Nuclear Medicine and M.Ed.), forthcoming programme in M.C.A., a new Department of Music and the proposed Sri Sathya Sai Centre for Advanced Studies.

He also highlighted key statistical facts of the university such as the student teacher ratio at SSSIHL of 8:1 (compared to 30:1 for 'A' grade Institutions in India), year-on-year increase of research publications by 14%, increase of research scholars by 30%, increase of students qualifying in GATE, UGC-CSIR, NET examinations from 14% to 17% and the growing qualifications of the teaching faculty (over 60% of all teachers at SSSIHL now have a Ph.D.).

### **Degrees and Gold Medals to Graduands**

Following the Vice Chancellor's introductory speech, Sri G. S. Srirangarajan, Controller of Examinations, presented the graduands of the year to the Chancellor for admitting them to their respective degrees.



*Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad, administering the Convocation pledge to the graduands.*

The Vice Chancellor then administered the Convocation pledge to the graduands. This year, 391 students were awarded degrees, 24 students were awarded gold medals and 5 research scholars were awarded doctoral degrees.

### **Chief Guest's Convocation Address**

Delivering his Convocation Address, the Chief Guest, Sri Sam Pitroda, lauded the unbelievably peaceful, inspirational and overpowering ambience of the university. Sri Pitroda made a special mention of Sri Vikas Bagri, an alumnus of the 2008 M.B.A. of the university and a member of his team, who has demonstrated by his personal example the virtues that this university epitomises.

Sri Pitroda congratulated the graduands and urged them to make a substantial contribution to build a strong, secular and united India, transforming it into a world leader. Sri Pitroda narrated

his brief background, his travails, ups and downs and his passion for nation building. He emphasised the need for change from Perk, Privilege and Patronage to Productivity, Performance and Processes. He stressed on the need for innovation in sectors like governance, lifestyle, education and health

and urged the youth to give their long-term commitment to these causes.

He passionately spoke about the developmental work being undertaken currently in the country. He observed that the coming ten years were very crucial for the development of India and urged the youth to look beyond personal interests and focus on community interests and create hope for a better tomorrow.

### **The Chancellor's Address**

The Chancellor started his address by conveying his greetings to the graduands and wishing them a bright and prosperous future. He observed that we were living in times where knowledge was an energy source and universities were intellectual power houses. He stressed on the point that growth of true wisdom was essential with increase in human knowledge.

He emphasised that the key to survival in this world was competitiveness and innovation. He felt that we should have a meaningful integration of science and spirituality, education and enlightenment. He also felt that the objective of religious enthusiasm and scientific excellence should be only for achieving human excellence, which required great vision and sagacity.

He described SSSIHL as an enormous experiment in human engineering and man making which in addition to academic excellence had achieved high standards of moral and ethical values under the able leadership of the Vice Chancellor Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad. He described the

teachers in this university as Acharyas in the real sense, from whom the pupils imbibed the spirit of selflessness.

### **Revered Founder Chancellor's Benedictory Address**

This was followed by the Benedictory Address of the Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who described a man of knowledge as the one who understood the five aspects, i.e., what is education, what type of education should be acquired, what is the standard / yardstick of education, what is the type of education to uplift humanity and what is the use of present-day education? He emphasised that character and culture were essential for students, which could be achieved through practical knowledge and not by superficial knowledge. He stressed that practical knowledge could be acquired by 'educare,' i.e., by bringing forth the divinity immanent in man. This 'educare' has to be used for social welfare.

The Divine Benediction was followed by the National Anthem and Arati, marking the end of the 32nd Annual Convocation ceremony.

### **"Sai Krishna Award" for Excellence in Research**

The evening session commenced with the presentation of "Sai Krishna Award" for Excellence in Research, which had been instituted to recognise and honour the top researchers of SSSIHL. The award alternates between top researchers and top teachers every year. It consists of a certificate, a memento and a cash award of ₹ 25,000.



This year, the awards recognised excellence in research.

The winners of the awards for research in three categories this year were selected on the basis of evaluation of the research work of the applicants by eminent external experts. The experts used multiple rigorous criteria to evaluate the research work carried out by the applicants. They focused on the quality of the work and not merely the number of papers published or conferences attended. They also considered the number of citations for the papers of the researchers.

The Chancellor of the Institute, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, then gave away the awards. The awardees were:

Dr. Sai Sathish, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, for Excellence in Research in Sciences.

Dr. R. Prabhakar Rao, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics, for Excellence in Research in Management, Commerce, Economics and Education.

Prof. (Miss) Rajeshwari C. Patel, Professor and Head, Department of English Language and Literature, for Excellence in Research in Languages and Philosophy.

### **Sai Kathamrutam: Stepping Stones to God**

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning performed the Annual Convocation Drama on the evening of

22nd November 2013. Based on an episode from the life of Shirdi Sai Baba wherein a greedy rich man wanted instant Brahma Jnana, the drama conveyed the teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba that God-realisation was possible only by total detachment from the world and by developing the values of Sraddha and Saburi (steadfast faith and patience).



*A scene from the drama "Sai Kathamrutam: Stepping Stones to God."*

Well-selected stories interwoven in the drama aptly illustrated the theme of the drama. These included the story of God-realisation of a devout disciple who had total faith in the words of his Guru and that of a devotee of Lord Badrinath who attained the grace of the Lord by total surrender. The drama effectively conveyed the message that if a devotee took one step towards God, God would take hundred steps towards him. Sublime theme, good acting of the students, excellent dialogues and choreography made the drama an impressive presentation.

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## DEEPAVALI AND GUJARATI NEW YEAR

A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVOTEEES including Bal Vikas children came from Gujarat on a three-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 2nd to 4th November 2013 and celebrated Deepavali and Gujarati New Year in its sacred precincts. Excellent music and cultural programmes presented by them on this occasion marked the celebration of these important festivals.

The first item of the programme on 3rd November, the day of Deepavali festival, was a classical song "Sai Sur Malhar" which Sai Youth (girls) of Gujarat sang with great perfection in a classical Raga, offering their fervent prayer to Mother Sai. After this, the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat performed Garba dance, a folk dance of Gujarat, in their colourful costumes. What followed next was a drama entitled "Raah: Path to Sai's Abode." Enacted by the youth and Bal Vikas children of Gujarat in a theatrical setting of the court of Yama, the drama touched upon the truths of life and death, underlined the importance of righteous actions in man's life and highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan Baba which could lead him to the goal of liberation.

Another beautiful folk dance of Gujarat "Raasado" performed by the



*A folk dance of Gujarat.*

boys of Ahmedabad with bamboo sticks in hand followed this drama. There was a brief Bhajan session after this which was accompanied by a beautiful video presentation of Deepavali celebrations held in earlier years in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Meanwhile, the participants in the cultural programmes were offered clothes and gifts.

On 4th November 2013, the Gujarati New Year day, the programme began with a lively speech tinged with humour by Sri Yezdi Karanjia, Director, Parsi Theatre, Surat who reminded one and all that true religion of man was humanness and service to man was the best spiritual practice. A song "Sai Sathyam" showcasing the glory of Bhagavan as Sathyam Sivam Sundaram followed this. This song sung by Sai Youth (girls) of Gujarat was followed by two beautiful dances, "Shiv Shakti Upasana" by Bal Vikas girls of Ahmedabad and "Mari Mahisagar" by the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat.



The last item of the programme was a drama entitled “Apostles of Love” performed by the youth and students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Navsari. The drama depicted how in the world beset with ignorance, jealousy, greed, etc., devotees of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba were spreading Bhagavan’s message of love and performing selfless service like Grama Seva which gave a new ray of hope to mankind for love and peace in the world. Clothes and gifts were presented to the participants at the conclusion of the drama.



*Students and devotees participating in Akhanda Bhajan.*

## GLOBAL AKHANDA BHAJAN

The Akhanda (non-stop) Bhajan for 24 hours started by Bhagavan in the house of a devotee in Bengaluru way back in 1944 with nine families participating in it is now held in thousands of Sai Centres all over the world simultaneously at the scheduled hour based on various time zones, spreading peace and spiritual vibrations in the entire world. This bears out the truth contained in the declaration made by Bhagavan: “We are having non-stop 24-hour global devotional singing by Sai devotees all over the world. This is being done not for the sake of one individual, one nation or one community. It is for the welfare of humanity as a whole.”

Akhanda Bhajan at Prasanthi Nilayam has a special significance since Bhagavan

Himself presided over it for decades. This year also, it was conducted with great devotional fervour and a large gathering of devotees came to participate in it.

At the scheduled time of 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 9th November 2013, the Akhanda Bhajan was started, which was alternately led by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus and Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Later, students of other campuses and Sai educational institutions as also the groups of devotees from hospital and Ashram staff and overseas devotees took turns to lead Bhajans which continued non-stop for 24 hours culminating at 6.00 p.m. on 10th November 2013 with two Bhajans sung by Bhagavan “Govinda Krishna Jai” and “Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam.” At the conclusion of this grand Bhajan session, Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

*continued on page 28...*

From our Archives

# ALL ARE SPIRITUALLY ONE

ATMA TATTWA IS THE ESSENCE OF ALL RELIGIONS

*Embodiments of Divine Love!*

**I** N N U M E R A B L E waves arise from the vast ocean. The waves appear to differ in form from one another, but these multifarious waves are not different from the ocean. In all the waves, the nature and qualities of the ocean are immanent. Likewise, the innumerable beings which you see in this boundless cosmos appear to be different from one another, but all of them emerged from the same cosmic source whose form is Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence, Knowledge, Bliss).

**Religions are not Different from each other**

When rain pours down from the sky, pure water falls on the earth, mountains, rivers and sea. But the pure water acquires the colour and taste of the region or spot where it falls. Likewise, prophets and messiahs, coming down in different parts of the world at



different times, imparted their message in terms appropriate to the time, place and conditions of the people concerned. Religions cannot be considered different from each other for this reason.

It is a mark of ignorance to consider one religion as superior and another as inferior and develop religious differences on this basis. The teachings of all religions are sacred. The basic doctrines are founded on truth. Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self) is the essence of all religions, the message of all the scriptures and the basis of all metaphysics. The primary duty of human beings is to recognise that the paths indicated by different religions may vary but the goal is one.

No one should give room to religious differences. All are spiritually one.

## Jesus Gave the Message of Love and Service

In this context, it should be realised that from time to time prophets, messiahs and Avatars manifest themselves on earth to proclaim the glory of the human estate and make humanness blossom among mankind. Two thousand years ago, when Jesus was born, three kings came to his birthplace and gave expression to three different views about the newborn baby. One of them, looking at the infant, said: "This child looks like one who will be a lover of God." The second king said: "God will love this child." The third king declared: "Verily, this child is God Himself." The first one viewed the child from the physical point of view. The second saw the child from the mental viewpoint. The third saw from the Atmic (spiritual) point of view.

The three declarations indicate how one can progress from the human to the divine

*...continued from page 26*

## 22nd Anniversary of SSSIHMS

In a function held in Sai Kulwant Hall, the 22nd anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi was celebrated on 21st November 2013. Sharing his thoughts with devotees on this occasion, the Director of the Institute, Dr. Choudhary Voleti, described how he experienced the divine glory of Bhagavan and got transformed from a head-heavy cardiac surgeon of America to a devotee of Bhagavan. Dwelling on the uniqueness of the Institute, he observed that the dedication and commitment to provide best

level. What is needed is the destruction of the animal and demonic qualities in man. In all religions, birthdays of great personalities are celebrated but the ideals for which they lived are not remembered and followed. If you do not care to follow their teachings, the celebrations lose their meaning and become artificial observances.

Christ taught people to love all beings and serve all with compassion. It is only by practising these ideals that one can truly celebrate his birthday. The divinity within should be reflected in every action. The seat of truth is in your heart. Worship means loving others with your full heart. You must live in love and lead a life of selfless service based on love. This is the only right way of celebrating the birth of Christ.

– Excerpted from **Bhagavan's Christmas Discourses.**

medicare to the poor and needy free of cost that was seen in this Institute was hard to find anywhere in this world. Dr. Voleti's talk was followed by a video presentation on the functioning of the Institute which showcased the modern equipment and spirit of dedication of doctors, staff and Seva Dal volunteers that made this a unique temple of healing where all work was performed as work of God. There was a Bhajan session at the end of the function, wherein Bhajans were also led by the ladies and gents staff of the hospital. The Bhajan session concluded with the Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram" sung by Bhagavan.

## Evidence Different from the Reality

ONCE A BUSINESSMAN GAVE three diamonds to a friend and told him that he would take them back from him the next day. When he came to take back these from his friend the next day, his friend said, "I returned your diamonds at that very time. They are not with me." The businessman then filed a case against his friend in a court. When the judge asked

businessman," said the washerman to the judge. "How did the diamonds look like?" asked the judge. "They looked like the rock on which we wash clothes on the river bank," replied the washerman. Then the judge asked the barber, "Did you see those diamonds? Can you tell how they looked like?" "They were like the whetstone on which we sharpen razor, sir," said the barber. In the end, the judge asked the



*Three witnesses in the story gave three different versions of the diamonds.*

the businessman's friend whether he did return the diamonds to the businessman, he said, "Sir, I took those diamonds in my hand to see them but immediately returned them to the businessman." Then the judge asked the businessman's friend, "Is there any witness who saw you returning these diamonds to the businessman?" "Not one but three witnesses are there, sir. The first is the washerman, the second is the barber and the third is the potter," said the businessman's friend to the judge.

The judge then summoned these witnesses. He first asked the washerman, "Did you directly see the businessman's friend return the diamonds to the businessman with your own eyes?" "Sir, I saw clearly with my eyes. He saw the diamonds and instantly returned to the

potter, how these diamonds looked like. He said, "They were exactly like the round stone which we use to make earthen pots."

The judge then remarked, "Excellent! All of you spoke well! Now you can go." The judge understood that none of these three persons had seen the diamonds and ordered the businessman's friend to return the diamonds to the owner.

God is beyond the mind and speech. The followers of various religions say that God is like this and that and claim that their religion only describes God correctly. Their claim is like three different descriptions of the diamonds given by the three witnesses in this story. God is the embodiment of the essence of all religions.



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

## ADMISSIONS NOTICE

Admissions for the Academic year commencing from 2 June 2014 are open for the following Programmes:

### PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN

#### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- B.Sc. (Hons.) in: Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / Biosciences\*  
\* leading to M.Sc. in Biosciences
- B.Sc. in Food Science & Nutrition / Food Technology  
(leading to Postgraduate Programmes in respective subjects)
- B.Com. (Hons.)
  - B.A.
  - BBM

#### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- M.A. (English Language & Literature)
- M.Sc. (Biosciences)
- M.Sc. (Food Science & Nutrition / Food Technology)

#### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- B.Ed.
- M.Ed.

Application forms availability  
**1 Dec 2013 to 15 Feb 2014**

Applications deadline  
**28 Feb 2014**

Admissions tests & interviews  
**17-30 Apr 2014**

Academic year 2014/15 begins  
**2 June 2014**

### PROGRAMMES FOR MEN

#### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- B.Sc. (Hons.) in: Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / Biosciences  
(leading to Postgraduate Programmes in respective subjects)
- B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics
  - BBM
- B.A. (Hons.) in Economics
  - B.A.
- B.Com. (Hons.) (leading to Master of Financial Management)
- BCA (leading to MCA - Master in Computer Applications)

#### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- M.A. (Economics)
- M.Sc. (Mathematics)
  - M.Sc. (Physics)
- M.Sc. (Chemistry)
  - M.Sc. (Biosciences)
- M.Sc. (Nanoscience & Nanotechnology)

#### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- MBA
  - MBA (Finance)
- M.Tech. (Computer Science)
- M.Tech. (Nuclear Medicine)
- M.Tech. (Optoelectronics and Communications)
- M.Tech. (Analytical Methods and Chemical Instrumentation)

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**[sssihl.edu.in](http://sssihl.edu.in)**



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

## ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSIONS

**Note:** Certain courses have additional requirements apart from the ones listed below.

For complete details of Eligibility criteria for each programme, kindly go to the Admissions section of the **University website**.

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- Candidates should have completed 10 + 2 or 12 years of schooling of a recognized Board (e.g. CBSE), or equivalent thereof.
- Candidates should have passed or appeared for the Final / intermediate qualifying examination at the XII Standard level before the admissions test.
- At the XII Standard (X or XI Std. if the results of XII Std. are unpublished at the time of application), the candidate should have secured a minimum of 55% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined, including General English and languages.

### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- At the Bachelor's degree, candidates should have secured a minimum of 50% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined, including General English and languages. If final year results are unpublished at the time of application, the aggregate in all the preceding Years / Semesters will be considered.
- Candidates should have passed or appeared for the Final year/Semester qualifying examination of the Bachelor's degree before 30 May 2014.

### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- At the Bachelor's degree, candidates should have secured a minimum of 50% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined, including General English and languages. If final year results are unpublished at the time of application, the aggregate in all the preceding Years / Semesters will be considered.
- Candidates should have passed or appeared for the Final year/Semester qualifying examination of the Bachelor's degree before 30 May 2014.

### NOTE

- Candidates who wish to apply for more than one programme, need to submit a separate application form for each programme.
- Eligible candidates will be short-listed by the University based on the marks in the qualifying examinations and will be called for the Admissions Test.
- The University follows the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India and the UGC with regard to Reservation of seats for SC/ST candidates. Further, SC/ST candidates are entitled to a relaxation of 5% marks, in the eligibility criterion.

### Interested candidates may apply through either one of the following options:

- **WALK-IN:** Purchase applications (₹100) directly from the Office of the Registrar
- **POST:** Apply in writing to the Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur District, A.P., along with an IPO or Bank Draft for ₹100 in favour of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, payable at SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam/Puttaparthi. The name and complete postal address along with programmes for which application form is required should be clearly stated in BLOCK LETTERS on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also on the requisition letter.
- **ONLINE:** To apply online, visit: [sssihl.edu.in](http://sssihl.edu.in)

## SATHYA SAI MIRPURI COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

### ADMISSIONS NOTICE

#### FULL-TIME COURSES

FOUNDATION COURSE (2 years)	DIPLOMA COURSE (3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carnatic / Hindustani - Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar or Tabla</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carnatic / Hindustani - Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar or Tabla</li></ul>
<b>Eligibility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Schooling:</b> passed Std. VIII</li><li>• <b>Age:</b> between 14 to 18 years</li></ul>	<b>Eligibility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Schooling:</b> passed Std. X</li><li>• <b>Qualification:</b> Foundation Course (or equivalent) in Music from a recognized College / Institution</li><li>• <b>Age:</b> between 16 to 20 years</li></ul>

Applications: **1 January 2014 to 28 February 2014.**

Admissions Tests & Interviews: **April 2014** at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

Candidates may apply to the Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Anantapur District, A.P. along with an Indian Postal Order / Bank Draft for ₹50/- drawn in favour of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, payable at SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi. The name and complete postal address should be clearly stated in block letters on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also in the requisition letter.

Alternatively, candidates may email their request to [musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in](mailto:musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in) for the application form and Admissions Handbook.

+91 9441 911 381 / 391 | [musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in](mailto:musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in)

## SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL PRASANTHI NILAYAM - 515134, (A.P.)

### ADMISSION NOTICE 2014-2015

Admission to Class I (Boys & Girls) and Class XI (Boys & Girls), of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, Anantapur District., (A.P.), will take place in June 2014. It is an English Medium, wholly residential school. Prospectus and Admission Forms can be obtained from the Principal from 01-01-2014.

By paying ₹100/- either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch (code no: 2786) in favour of Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, with a self-addressed cover (size 15 cm x 24 cm).

Last date for issuing the forms is 15th February 2014 and the last date for receiving the filled in forms on or before 1st March 2014.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st std. in between 5 ½ years and 6 ½ years as on 30-09-2014.

Age limit for XI std. should be below 16 ½ years as on 30-09-2014.

Phone: 08555-289289, Email Address: [ssshss@gmail.com](mailto:ssshss@gmail.com), Website: [ssshss.org.in](http://ssshss.org.in)

Candidates can download the application from 01-01-2014 from our website.

– Principal

Note: Admissions for 1st std. will be under “RTE Act 2009” by Random method.

## NEW RELEASES

Code	Title	Sale Price *
12475	Book – Divine Transformation (English)	₹ 25.00
12478	Book – Sai Says (English)	₹ 60.00
12538	Book – Quest Eternal (English)	₹ 75.00
12539	Book – Between You And Me (English)	₹ 70.00
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12358	ACD A Bridge Across Time Vol. 20 & Vol. 21	₹ 120.00

\* Packing and Postage extra. Send enquiries by post / email to orders@ssspt.org.

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– Convener

## Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital

Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134

Email: [hrmgh@sssihms.org.in](mailto:hrmgh@sssihms.org.in), Phone 08555-287256, Fax 08555-289409

Applications are invited for the following posts:

Department of General Medicine : Post of Medical Officer:

Qualification: M.B.B.S. and preferably with minimum three years of experience in the Department of General Medicine.

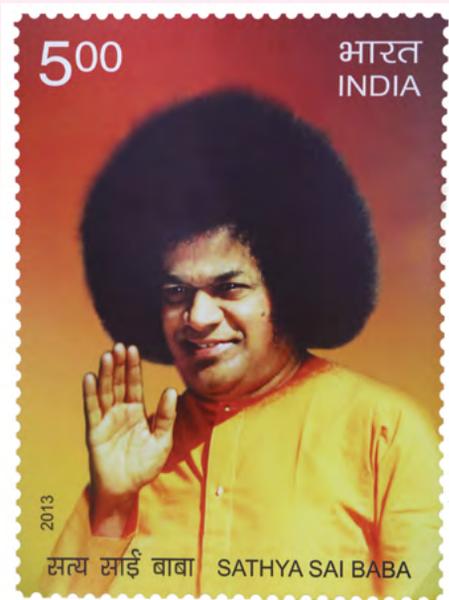
Department of Engineering: Post of an Engineer (Honorary / Regular Scale)

Qualification: B.Tech (Electrical / Electronics) and preferably with minimum three years of experience.

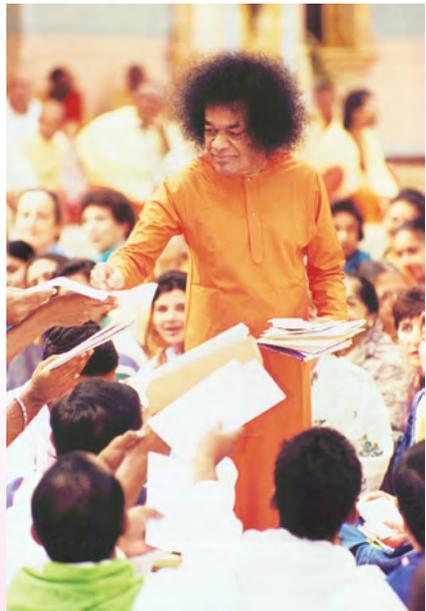
Apply to the Medical Superintendent, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam, with full Bio-data and a photograph immediately.

– Medical Superintendent

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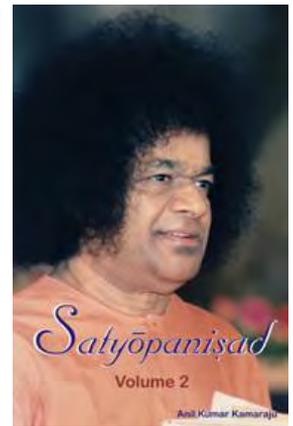
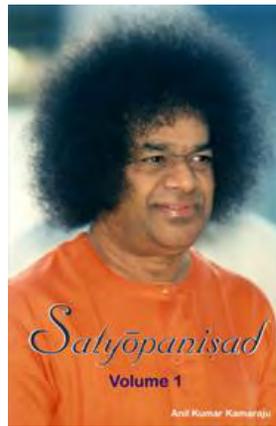
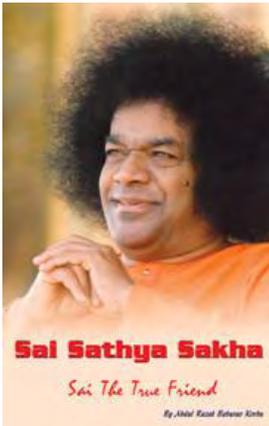
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### **Official Websites of Prasanthi Nilayam**

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust: [www.srisathyasai.org.in](http://www.srisathyasai.org.in)

Bhagavan's Photographs Online: [www.saireflections.org](http://www.saireflections.org)

Reporting Website from Prasanthi Nilayam: [www.theprasanthereporter.org](http://www.theprasanthereporter.org)

Short Videos of Programmes held at Prasanthi Nilayam:

<http://vimeo.com/sssdarshan>

Radio Sai Global Harmony: [www.radiosai.org](http://www.radiosai.org)

Sri Sathya Sai Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust: [www.ewwt.org.in](http://www.ewwt.org.in)

Bal Vikas Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, India: [www.sssbalvikas.org](http://www.sssbalvikas.org)

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Date of Publication: 6th December 2013



*First day postal cover released on Bhagavan's Birthday.*



*Devotional music by Priya Sisters.*



*Carnatic classical music by Sri Chong Chiu Sen.*

## *Spring of Love*

There is no living being without the spark of love; even a mad man loves something or somebody intensely. But you must recognise this love as a reflection of the Prema Swarupa (Embodiment of Love), that is your reality, of the God who is residing in your heart. Without that spring of love that bubbles in your heart, you will not be prompted to love at all. Recognise that spring, rely on it more and more, develop its possibilities.

*– Baba*

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