



MARCH 2013

Sanathana Sarathi



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

Vol.: 56 Issue No. 3 Date of Publication: 1st March

March 2013

© Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division
Prasanthi Nilayam

Printed by **K.S. RAJAN**
Published by **K.S. RAJAN**

On behalf of the owner, Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division,
Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur
District (A.P.)

And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises,
136, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town,
Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru 560044,
Karnataka

And Published at Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division,
Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur
Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

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Annual Subscription
acceptable for 1, 2 or 3 years.

English India: (12 issues) ₹ 75

Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka ₹ 600

Other Countries: ₹ 850

or US \$19 or UK £13 or €13 or

CAN \$22, AUS \$26

Telugu India: ₹ 60 (12 issues)

Other Countries: ₹ 550 or £9

or US \$13 or €9, CAN \$15 or

AUS \$17

Note: Please do not send currency

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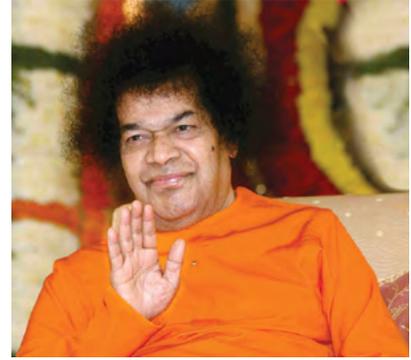
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Division, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515

134, Anantapur district, Andhra

Pradesh, India.

"Whatever you may do, you should
always remember two things. God is
truth and death is certain. Nobody
can escape death. Then, what is it that
you should always keep in your mind?
Never look at the faults of others.
Treat the big defects of others as small
and consider your own small defects
as big. Then you will not commit big
mistakes."



CONTENTS

- 2 **Love is the True Form of God**
Bhagavan's Discourse: 29th July 1996
- 12 **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**
A Report
- 16 **Conquer the Mind by Intense Sadhana**
From our Archives
- 20 **Islam Teaches Respect for all Religions**
Prof. Akhtarul Wasey
- 24 **An Extraordinary Journey**
Effulgence of Divine Glory
- 26 **Experiencing is Important, not mere Listening**
Chinna Katha
- 27 **News from Sai Centres**

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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
29TH JULY 1996

LOVE IS THE TRUE FORM OF GOD

*Asthiram Jivanam Loke,
Asthiram Yauvanam Dhanam,
Asthiram Dara Putradi,
Sathyam Kirti Dwyam Sthiram.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Life in the world is impermanent. So are youth and wealth. Wife and children are also not permanent. Only truth and good name are permanent.)

NEVER LOOK AT THE FAULTS OF OTHERS

HUMAN LIFE IS MOMENTARY like a water bubble. Youth and wealth are also temporary like passing clouds. Even the worldly relations are not permanent. The only things that are permanent in this world are truth, righteousness and good reputation.

Nobody brings any wealth with him when he is born from the womb of his mother nor does the wealth go with him when he departs from the world. Even a millionaire has to eat normal food; he cannot eat gold. One may amass wealth and feel proud about it, but the amassed wealth will not go with him at the time of death. If you go on hiding your wealth and putting it in banks without performing acts of charity, who knows what will happen to it when you leave this world? (Telugu Poem)

Try to experience divinity even in matters of daily life. There are two things which you should forget: First, you should forget the harm done to you by others. If you don't forget it and take it to heart, you will develop revengeful attitude. Secondly, you should forget the good you have done to others. Otherwise, you will develop the expectation of a favour from those whom you have helped. Therefore, it is necessary to forget the harm that others have done to you and the good you have done to others. Only then will you develop the purity to experience the Atma and attain God's grace.



Virtues are your Best Decorations

Right from birth to death, man undertakes many endeavours in order to derive happiness out of them, but ultimately he departs from this world empty-handed. As unrighteousness, injustice and improper conduct are on the rise, the world is facing many troubles. In fact, the world is on the verge of a catastrophe due to the rise of demonic tendencies. At this juncture, it is only the students who have the capacity to restore peace and order in the world. Only they are capable of ensuring peace and security not only in India but also in the entire world. Due to the influence of Kali Yuga, Dharma (righteousness) is declining in Bharat. I hope that young men and women would resolve to drive away the evil forces of Kali, uphold truth and righteousness and revive the ancient traditions of Bharat, which at one time was the repository of great spiritual wealth.

Students!

When you lag behind in studies, your parents feel sad. But your Mother India will feel thousand times more sad when you do not progress on the path of morality, ethics and spirituality.



When your desires go on increasing, your happiness goes on decreasing. Therefore, reduce your desires and develop love for God. As your love for God increases, your happiness also increases. As much you have love for God, so much will be your happiness. In the same way, if your love for God decreases, your happiness also declines. True happiness does not lie in the pursuit of worldly desires.



You should remember this always. All the people whom you consider as elders and leaders were also students like you once upon a time. Today's students are tomorrow's citizens, elders and leaders. Just as you would expect your elders and leaders to be ideal, you should also conduct yourself in an ideal manner and realise your dreams and aspirations. But modern young men and women are imitating foreign culture. When you observe their speech, their behaviour and their dress, it looks as though they are trying to decorate themselves with borrowed jewellery. How long can you experience happiness by decorating yourself with borrowed jewellery? Instead, you should strive to acquire the jewels of virtues and derive happiness by decorating yourself with them.

Students!

In the name of fashion, you are behaving in a perverted manner. You are blindly following the whims and fancies of your fickle mind. This is not the culture of Bharat. How long can you follow the traditions and manners borrowed from other countries? Do not rely on imported culture. Follow the sacred culture of Bharat which is *Punya Bhumi*, *Yoga Bhumi* and *Karma Bhumi* (land of merit, spirituality and righteous action). It is your good fortune that many noble souls and Avatars took birth in this sacred land to safeguard and foster its pristine culture. Since ancient times, Bharat has been known as the birthplace of charity and sacrifice. It is reputed for the virtues of love, compassion and sacrifice.

Forbearance and empathy have been the main objectives of the people of Bharat. But where have all these noble qualities gone from this land of Bharat today?

Selfishness Causes Conflicts and Dissensions

During the 14-year exile of the Pandavas in the forest, one day Krishna visited their hermitage. Not finding the other four brothers in the hermitage, he asked Dharmaraja, "Where are your brothers?" Dharmaraja's heart was always filled with the feelings of righteousness. At all times and in all situations, his mind was focused on God. In fact, all the Pandavas were the embodiments of peace and righteousness. Such noble-hearted Pandavas were insulted by the wicked Kauravas in many ways. But unmindful of all the wickedness of the Kauravas, the Pandavas continued to follow the path of truth and righteousness. Replying to the question of Krishna, Dharmaraja said, "Krishna! My one hundred brothers are in Hastinapur and four others have gone into the forest for some work."

Pretending to be surprised at the reply of Dharmaraja, Krishna said, "Are you out of your senses? Is it not true that you are only five brothers? Your saying that your one hundred brothers are in Hastinapur is absolutely meaningless." Then Dharmaraja said, "Aren't the Kauravas my brothers? So long as there is unity, love, forbearance and empathy among us, we are 105 brothers. All of us stand united when we have to face an outside enemy. But, when some differences crop up amongst us, we five are separate and they are separate."



You should understand the inner meaning of this statement in relation to the situation prevailing in society today. Due to lack of unity and rise of conflicts and dissensions in today's world, every party and community stands fragmented. Each one follows his own selfish interest. As a result, there are many factions within a single party and many divisions within a single community. Individuals are different but the divine Atmic principle is the same in all. Due to the lack of unity in society, this Kali Yuga has become Kalaha Yuga (age of conflicts). Conflicts are on the rise day by day. There is utter lack of empathy and forbearance among individuals. There is hatred between man and man, village and village, district and district and State and State. In such a situation, how can there be peace and security in the world? There are so many differences even in a family today. How much strength is there in unity! But, unfortunately, people are destroying unity. As a result, there is total lack of humanness in man.

Tulasidas Propounded the Principle of Unity

While composing the "Ramayana," Tulasidas was totally lost in the contemplation of Rama and wrote the sentence, *Hetu Krisanu Bhanu Himakar Ko* (the sacred Name Rama represents the fire, the sun and the moon). In fact, he did not write it. When he opened his eyes, he found that it was already written. 'Krisanu' mean fire, 'Bhanu' means sun and 'Himakar' means moon. The meaning

of this statement is, "Oh Rama! You are the embodiment of the fire, the sun and the moon."

Without the sun, the moon and the fire, the world cannot exist. Be he a theist, an atheist, a theistic-atheist, an atheistic-theist, a mendicant, a pleasure seeker or a renunciant, none can deny this. In fact, the fire, the sun and the moon are the direct manifestations of Divinity. What do they do? There are three main reasons for the birth of man. One is ignorance, second is sin and the third is afflictions. The fire of knowledge is necessary to dispel the darkness of ignorance. Not only that, the fire of knowledge reduces all your sins to ashes. The sun destroys the darkness of delusion and sorrow. When the sun shines, darkness disappears. The moon cools down the agony caused by afflictions. It even destroys your sins.

Apparently, there is a lot of difference between the sun and the moon, but there is also an intimate relationship between them. The moon does not shine with its own light; it shines with the light of the sun. While the sunlight is bright and hot, moonlight is cool and not so bright. The light is the same; while at one place it is hot and at another place it is cool. Our intellect symbolises the sun and the mind symbolises the moon. That is why the Vedas proclaim, *Chandrama Manaso Jata Chaksho Suryo Ajayata* (the moon was born out of the mind and the sun out of the eyes of the Supreme Being). The mind is the reflection of the moon and the moon is the reflection of the mind. The sun is the source of power of light in our eyes and it symbolises the power of our intellect.

Where is the fire? It is present in our stomach in the form of Jatharagni (digestive fire). It is also present as Tapagni and Papagni (the fire of affliction and sin). Students know this very well. They chant the Sloka “*Brahmarpanam Brahma Havir*” before partaking of food. Most of them do not know where Brahman resides. They mechanically chant the Sloka as they consider it a routine practice in the hostel. But God gives a reply from within: “*Aham Vaishvanaro Bhutva Pranimam Dehamasrita* (I am present in all beings in the form of digestive fire). You don’t need to doubt where I actually reside. I am present in your stomach in the form of digestive power and digest the food that you partake of and give the necessary nourishment.”

There is another example to explain the meaning of this statement of Tulasidas, *Hetu Krisanu Bhanu Himakar Ko*. In the Divine Name Rama, Ra stands for Tat, Aa for Asi and Ma for Twam. When Tat, Twam and Asi come together, we get the Vedic Mahavakya, *Tattwamasī* (That thou Art). It means you and I are one. This is the principle of oneness Tulasidas taught to the world. Many noble souls were born in this land of Bharat to teach this principle of oneness and install divinity in the heart of everyone. In order to understand this exalted principle, you have to imbibe non-violence in your heart. When you develop the spirit of non-violence, you will visualise the entire world as the manifestation of Rama.

Get Rid of your Evil Qualities and Realise the Atmic Principle

Do not waste your life ignoring God for

Truth and love are true divine powers. Truth is God, love is God, live in love. Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma (God is one without a second). When the electric current of truth flows through the wire of righteousness and enters the bulb of peace, you get the light of love. The unity of truth, righteousness and peace results in the light of love. Love is the true form of God. Mere physical relationship cannot be called love.



the sake of momentary pleasures. What is the reason that you are unable to realise this truth? Every student and every man is endowed with knowledge. But they are not using their power of discrimination to put their knowledge to proper use. That is why man today is in a miserable state. He is wasting his sacred, long and noble life in pursuit of momentary pleasures. Adi Sankara therefore cautioned one and all:

*Ma Kuru Dhana Jana Yauvana Garvam,
Harathi Nimeshath Kalah Sarvam.*

(Do not be proud of your wealth, progeny and youth; the tide of time may destroy them in a moment.)

Body undergoes change constantly and life principle may ebb away from the body any moment. Why do you develop attachment to such a momentary body and waste your life? Get rid of your evil qualities, wicked thoughts and bad



intentions. Practise Ahimsa (non-violence). What is the meaning of non-violence? Ahimsa means not to hurt others by thoughts, words and deeds. Never leave the unity of thoughts, words and deeds even for a moment. It is only when you observe the unity of thoughts, words and deeds in all your endeavours will the divine feelings manifest in you. The principle of non-violence is very subtle. Most people do not understand the correct meaning of non-violence. Even eating food more than necessary constitutes violence. Why? You hurt yourself by excessive eating. Even unnecessary talking also amounts to indulging in violence. Talk only to the extent necessary. That is Ahimsa. When you misuse the faculties given by God, all your wealth, power and position will become meaningless. Since you are caught up in the mire of trivial worldly pursuits, you are unable to realise the infinite Atmic principle.

None can Escape the Consequences of his Actions

Ravana had no dearth of wealth. In fact, the entire Lanka was made of gold. He did not lack anything in the world. He was endowed with physical strength, the power of wealth and a big army. He also acquired great power by performing penance. In spite of all this, he lost everything due to his carnal cravings. Hanuman got himself bound by demons to enter the court of Ravana to teach him a lesson. When the demons questioned him, "Who are you?" He replied in the most humble and pleasant manner, *Dasoham Kosalendrasya* (I am the servant of Rama).

Prior to this, the demons had not seen any monkey in Lanka. In fact, no monkey had ever entered Lanka till then. That is why out of curiosity, demons started coming out of their houses to see Hanuman. Hanuman was highly virtuous and valorous, yet he got himself bound by the demons in order to show the path of goodness to Ravana. He thought to himself, "It is not possible for me to enter the court of Ravana unless the demons capture me and take me to him. When I come face to face with Ravana, I will be able to directly talk to him and show him the right path."

The demons tied the hands and legs of Hanuman with ropes and took him to the court of Ravana. Hanuman observed that Ravana was seated on a high platform while he was standing down. He thought it was an insult to Lord Rama that His servant should be at a lower place and His opponent at a higher place. Therefore, he made a seat for himself higher than that of Ravana by lengthening his tail and coiling it up. Ravana questioned him, "Oh monkey! You have destroyed our garden. Why have you come here?" Then Hanuman said to Ravana: "I allowed your son Indrajit to capture me with a purpose and that purpose is to teach you a lesson. Oh wicked one! Having been blinded by lust, you are causing untold suffering to Sita, who is the mother of the universe. You are ruining your life due to your evil thoughts. What happened to all your power of penance? What is the use of your life if you cannot control your mind and senses? How should a king be? One who has no



control over his senses cannot be called a king. A true king should be ideal and earn a good name. You have committed the worst of sins.” Unable to bear the insult, Ravana flew into a rage. He commanded his soldiers to set fire to the tail of Hanuman as tail is so dear to a monkey. Demons are usually foolish and ignoramuses. They cannot foresee the consequences of their actions. Then Hanuman said to Ravana:

Oh wicked Ravana! I want to teach you a lesson.

This Lanka does not belong to you any more.

Listen to my words with full attention.

You have not used your power of discrimination and committed a sin,

Therefore, you are going to die soon.

Oh wicked Ravana! I want to teach you a lesson...

Sita is the mother of the universe and she is your mother also.

You have abducted the mother of the universe and committed a great sin.

Lord Rama will cut off all your heads with one arrow.

Oh wicked Ravana! I want to teach you a lesson...

Did you not know that this was a sinful deed which you should have desisted from.

Your soldiers have set fire to my tail with which I am going to set all the palatial buildings of Lanka ablaze and quietly go my way.

Oh wicked Ravana! I want to teach you a lesson...

I allowed Indrajit to capture me because

I wanted to see your court and your ten heads.

Why should I tell you again and again?

You have lost your right to live.

Oh wicked Ravana! I want to teach you a lesson... (Telugu Song)

Nobody can escape the consequences of his actions.

Everyone has to face the consequences of his actions, whoever he may be.

No one can know what lies ahead for him in future.

But this much is sure that everybody has to reap the consequences of his actions.

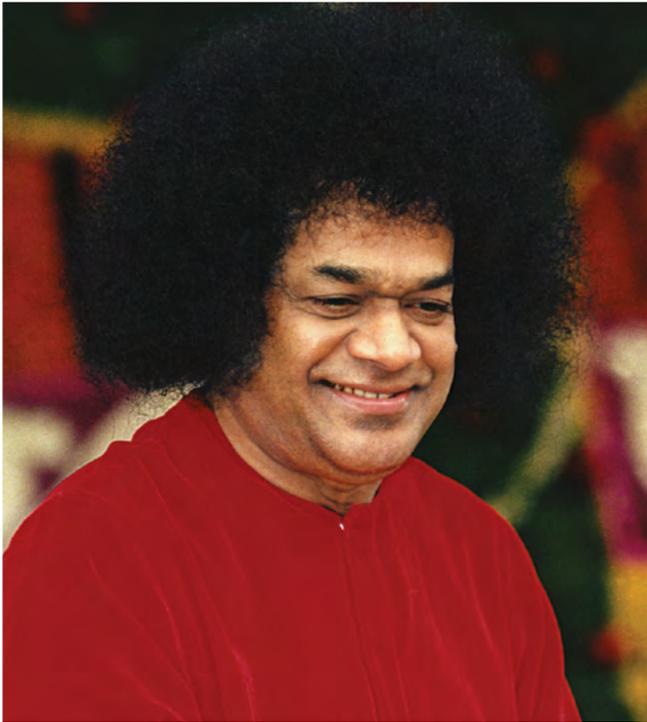
Even the mighty Rama suffered the pain of separation from His consort Sita and cried like an ordinary person.

Even the mighty Pandavas had to go into exile and live in forest.

(Telugu Song)

Good actions bear good fruits and bad actions result in bad fruits. Therefore, one should always perform good actions. As is the action, so is the result, as is the food, so is the belch, as is the flour, so is the bread. Some actions yield immediate results, whereas some others will take a few days or a few months or a few years or even a few Yugas to give results. For example, when your finger is cut with a knife, immediately blood starts oozing out. Here action and its result are simultaneous. Similarly, if you slip and fall while climbing a staircase, you suffer a fracture immediately. The fall and the fracture occur at the same time. However, the food you partake of takes at least two to three hours to get digested.





Today's students are tomorrow's citizens, elders and leaders. Just as you would expect your elders and leaders to be ideal, you should also conduct yourself in an ideal manner and realise your dreams and aspirations. But modern young men and women are imitating foreign culture. When you observe their speech, their behaviour and their dress, it looks as though they are trying to decorate themselves with borrowed jewellery. How long can you experience happiness by decorating yourself with borrowed jewellery? Instead, you should strive to acquire the jewels of virtues and derive happiness by decorating yourself with them.



Here there is a gap of two to three hours between the action and the result. When you sow a seed in the soil, it will not grow into a sapling immediately; it will take two to three days. Then it will take the sapling a few years to grow into a tree and yield fruits. You cannot get the fruit immediately after sowing the seed; it will take a few years. Likewise, every action of man is bound to yield a result either in a few moments or a few hours or a few days or a few years or even a few Yugas. But there is a way to escape from the consequences of actions. When you develop true love for God, you can escape from any type of suffering. In order to earn the love of God, you should understand that God is the indweller of all beings and act accordingly.

God Resides in the Hearts of all

Man should realise the truth that God is *Sarva Hridayavasi* (indweller of all hearts). There might be differences in names and forms of individuals, but the five elements are common in all. You should firmly imprint this truth on your heart. To understand this principle of oneness, you should conduct proper enquiry. Do not think

that there are many gods. In the same way, do not observe differences between individuals. All are one, God is one. *Ek Prabhu Ke Anek Naam* (one God has many names). The same God manifests in different names and forms. God is the light. In order to experience this light of Brahma Jnana (knowledge of Brahman), you have to undertake various practices. Here is a bulb. What is required for a bulb to give light? You should connect it to an electric wire. But merely connecting it to the wire is not enough; you should let electricity pass through it and make the bulb shine. Truth and love are true divine powers. *Truth is God, love is God, live in love. Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). When the electric current of truth flows through the wire of righteousness and enters the bulb of peace, you get the light of love (*loud applause*). The unity of truth, righteousness and peace results in the light of love. Love is the true form of God. Mere physical relationship cannot be called love. True love manifests from the heart.

Embodiments of Love!

Whatever you may do, you should always remember two things. God is truth and death is certain. Nobody can escape death. Then, what is it that you should always keep in your mind? Never look at the faults of others. Treat the big defects of others as small and consider your own small defects as big. Then you will not commit big mistakes.

Students!

It is necessary for you to follow a noble path in life. Try to experience divinity even in matters of daily life. There are two things which you should forget: First, you should forget the harm done to you by others. If you don't forget it and take it to heart, you will develop revengeful attitude. Secondly, you should forget the good you have done to others. Otherwise, you will develop the expectation of a favour from those whom you have helped. Therefore, it is necessary to forget the harm that others have done to you and the good you have done to others. Only then will you develop the purity to experience the Atma and attain God's grace.

Guideposts on the Spiritual Path

You think you are performing some great spiritual practices by doing Dhyana (meditation), Tapa (penance) and yoga. But all these are related only to the body and the mind, which are not permanent. Then how can the result of these practices be permanent? It is also impermanent. You may ask, "What for have these spiritual practices been prescribed?" These spiritual practices are like guideposts on your spiritual journey which show you the right path. When you proceed on a journey, you find guideposts on the way which indicate, this is the way to Dharmavaram, this path leads to Penukonda, Bengaluru is in this direction, so on and so forth. Similarly, Japa, Dhyana, Tapa, yoga, etc., only show you the way, but they are not the destination. When you see a board, you are not to sit there; you have to walk in the direction



shown to you on the board. With the help of these 'guideposts,' you should perform your journey towards God. Where is God? *Sarvatah Panipadam...* (His hands and feet are everywhere...) Wherever you see, He is there. When you go on performing these spiritual practices, you will ultimately realise this truth. Your body attachment is a big hurdle that comes in the way of realising this truth. Body attachment leads to many other attachments. Therefore, gradually reduce your body attachment and desires. This is how Hanuman became a dear servant of Lord Rama. Ultimately, he realised his oneness with Rama. Every pore of his body was filled with the Divine Name of Rama. He realised that he was not different from Rama and Rama was not different from him.

Once Rama questioned Hanuman, "In what way do you relate to Me?" Hanuman replied, "Swami, I am Your servant at the physical level, Your reflection at the mental level, but at the Atmic level, You and I are one. It is only my body and the mind that come in the way of realising my oneness with You." You can very well understand this. You build a mansion with a bedroom, a bathroom, a kitchen, a drawing room, a dining hall and a storeroom. All these rooms look separate from each other. Why? Because there are many walls in between them. When you remove all the walls, you will have one spacious hall. Similarly, due to the walls of body attachment, you find diversity all around. When you give up body attachment, everything becomes one.

The human body is like a fort surrounded by seven walls. In the centre of it is a garden. One who has outer vision does not know how to enter this garden, which symbolises the Atmic principle. The only way to enter the garden is through Namasmara, which dispels the darkness of ignorance and shows the right path.

The light of Atma shines with the wick of truth and the oil of righteousness. When this light ebbs away, your wealth, your relations and the worldly possessions will not follow you.

The worldly life is like a tree and man's craving for the sensual pleasures are the ropes that bind man to the tree. Man will be released from this bondage when he develops a sense of detachment and starts leading a spiritual life. (Telugu Song)

Develop the Desire to Love God

When your desires go on increasing, your happiness goes on decreasing. Therefore, reduce your desires and develop love for God. As your love for God increases, your happiness also increases. As much you have love for God, so much will be your happiness. In the same way, if your love for God decreases, your happiness also declines. True happiness does not lie in the pursuit of worldly desires. Here is a small example. You can start practising this either from tonight itself or tomorrow morning. If you drink six cups of tea and smoke twenty cigarettes in a day,

continued on page 19...

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

A KUCHIPUDI DANCE PRESENTATION

A THRILLING KUCHIPUDI dance was presented by renowned Kuchipudi exponent, Sri Kalaimamani Madhavapeddi Murthy in Sai Kulwant Hall on 25th January 2013. Beginning his performance at 5.00 p.m. with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the versatile dancer kept the devotees spellbound for nearly one



An exhilarating Kuchipudi dance.

hour by his presentation which included the compositions “Bhaje Viswanatham” (I worship Lord Siva), “Bhaja Govindam” (worship Govinda), Annamacharya’s “Brahmamokkate” (God is one) and a famous composition of C. Rajagopalachari “Kurai Ondrum Illai” (no regrets have I). The presentation also included a dance by Sri Murthy on a brass plate in true Kuchipudi style. A group of students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher

Learning forming Prasanthi Dance Troupe also participated in the programme and performed admirably. The programme came to a close with the composition “Sai Tere Charnon Mein Koti Pranam” (I offer crores of salutations at Your Lotus Feet, oh Sai) dedicated to Bhagavan. At the conclusion of his presentation, the dancer was felicitated. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m. after a brief session of Bhajans.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES OF DELHI - NCR

As part of their pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam, a group of devotees from Delhi-NCR presented a medley of devotional and patriotic songs in Sai Kulwant Hall on 26th January 2013, the 64th Republic Day of India. The programme began at 5.00 p.m. with an introductory speech of Sri Jitendra Cheema, State President of Delhi-NCR, who outlined the Seva activities being carried out by the Sai Organisation in Delhi-NCR. Thereafter, Sri Prasada Rao, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust dwelt on the significance of celebrating Republic Day and explained the basic tenets of Indian Republic, e.g., democracy, socialism, secularism in the light of the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Beginning their programme with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the singers and musicians of Delhi-





Devotees of Delhi-NCR presenting devotional and patriotic songs.

NCR thereafter presented devotional and patriotic songs in Hindi, Telugu and Bengali which included two compositions of Rabindranath Tagore, a beautiful Qawali, a Bhajan “Hey Giridhara Gopala” and famous multi faith song “Koi Bole Ram Ram Koi Khudaya.” At the conclusion of the programme, the singers and musicians were felicitated. After a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

THYAGARAJA ARADHANA AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

On the occasion of Thyagaraja Aradhana, two programmes were organised at Prasanthi Nilayam. The first programme was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu on 2nd February 2013 as part of two-day Parthi Yatra (pilgrimage to Puttaparthi) of Tamil Nadu devotees. The programme began with a thrilling flute recital followed by prayer to Lord Ganesh. Presentation of Thyagaraja’s five chosen compositions by 75 musicians and singers of Tamil Nadu that followed kept the listeners spellbound for nearly one hour and created an aura of Bhakti,

which elevated them to a divine plane. As per the established custom of Thyagaraja Aradhana, the five compositions rendered were: *Jagadanandakaraka*, *Duduku Gala Nanne*, *Saadhinchene*, *Kanakanaruchira*, *Endaro Mahanubhavulu*. These were brilliantly presented by renowned singers which included such noted exponents of Carnatic music as Trichur Ramachandran, P.S. Narayana Swami, O.S. Thyagarajan, Bombay Sisters (C. Saroja and C. Lalitha) and Nagaratnammal. At the conclusion of this enrapturing presentation, the singers and musicians were felicitated. This was



Thyagaraja Aradhana by 75 singers and musicians of Tamil Nadu.

followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme which started at 5.00 p.m. came to a close with Arati at 6.45 p.m.

The second programme of Thyagaraja Aradhana was presented by the students and teachers of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th February 2013. Beginning their presentation at 5.00 p.m. with the rendition of the composition “Jagadanandakaraka,” the singers and musicians surcharged the entire milieu with devotional fervour by



their singing for nearly 40 minutes. It was indeed a sumptuous feast for the lovers of Carnatic music. This was followed by Bhajans. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF KANCHEEPURAM DEVOTEES

More than 2,000 devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu by a special train. As part of their pilgrimage, Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth of Kancheepuram presented an excellent cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 9th February 2013. The first item of the programme was a bouquet of devotional songs entitled "Nadopasana." Starting their programme with prayer to Lord Ganesh, they sang Tamil and Telugu devotional songs which included "Kannan Vandan Inge Kannan Vandan" (little child Krishna has come here), "Pahi Rama Prabho" (save me, oh Lord Rama) and the famous Tamil song "Maruthamalai Mamaniye Murugaiah" (the shining jewel on the peak of Marutha mountain, oh Lord Muruga). This was followed by a lively dance which depicted the subjugation of serpent Kaliya by Krishna. Another thrilling dance followed this which portrayed various incidents from the life of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and highlighted His Divine Glory as the protector and propounder of the Vedas. The climax of the programme was reached when a student dressed as Bhagavan appeared on the stage to the delight of devotees and presided over the

performance of a Yajna as Bhagavan used to do as Veda Purusha on the occasion of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna. At the conclusion of this enrapturing



A dance presentation depicting the Divine Glory of Bhagavan.

presentation, clothes were presented to the participants. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.20 p.m.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Chinese New Year was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotion and enthusiasm, wherein more than 300 Chinese devotees from Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia came to participate. The theme of this year's celebrations was "Honour our Parents Everyday (HOPE). Celebrations spread over two days, viz., 15th and 16th February 2013 were held in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated for the festive occasion.

The programme on 15th February 2013 began at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting by a group of Chinese devotees from Malaysia. This was followed by



offering of Chinese delicacies at the Samadhi of Bhagavan by the children from Indonesia and Malaysia. Chanting of Tibetan Buddhist Mantras by Malaysian devotees followed this. Thereafter, this year's Chinese New Year Celebrations Coordinator, Sri Billy Fong addressed the gathering. Dwelling on the theme of the celebrations, Sri Fong observed that filial piety was a basic tenet of Chinese society and fundamental to Chinese heritage. A beautiful presentation by the children of Malaysia donning traditional attire and carrying bamboo scrolls and school bags followed Sri Billy Fong's speech. The



Devotional songs by Chinese devotees.

highlight of the evening programme was an enrapturing presentation of devotional songs by the Chinese devotees. Beginning their programme with the Mantra "Om Mani Padme Hung," the singers sang melodious songs in Chinese and English, hailing the New Year and depicting the glory of Bhagavan. One of the most brilliant items of this programme was a classical Carnatic music composition eminently rendered by a Chinese youth from Malaysia, Sri Chiu Sen. As the Bhajans started after this, the participants in the music programme were

felicitated and Prasadam was distributed. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

The second day's programme began at 5.00 p.m. with a colourful spring dance by Chinese children to welcome the dawn of the New Year. Ten auspicious offerings at the Samadhi of Bhagavan by Malaysian devotees followed this which included flowers, fruits, incense, oil, tea, etc. After this, Indonesian devotees sang traditional Buddhist Mantras and devotional songs dedicated to Lord Buddha and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Two speakers addressed the gathering after this. They were introduced by Dr. V.K. Ravindran, Chairman, Zone 4 of International Sathya Sai Organisation. The first speaker was Ms. Ong Phaik Suan, Chairperson, Sathya Sai Baba Centre, Penang (Malaysia) who narrated how Bhagavan came mysteriously into her life, strengthened her faith in His Divinity and blessed her to become a part of the Sai Organisation of Malaysia. The



A thrilling presentation of "Kung Fu Master Dance."

continued on page 19...



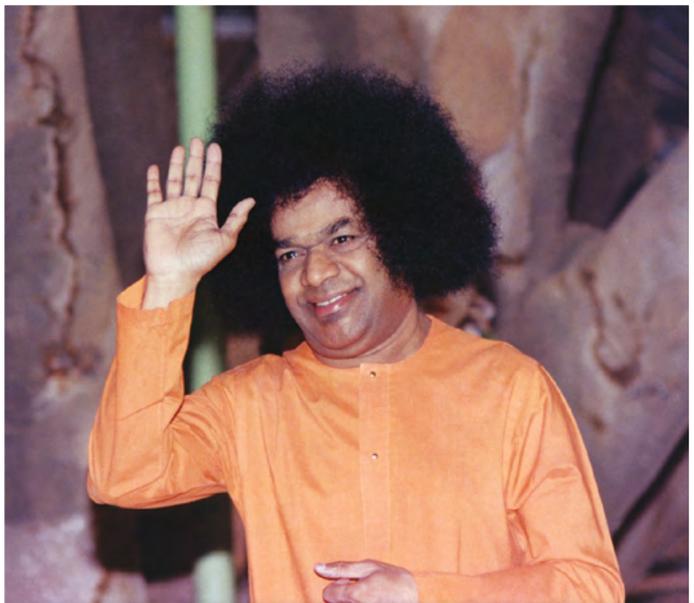
From our Archives

CONQUER THE MIND BY INTENSE SADHANA

MAKE YOURSELF WORTHY OF GOD'S GRACE

LIFE IS A SHORT and fast-flowing chance; you will have to put every minute to the best use: that is, the discovery of your own reality, which gives you the highest joy. Do not spend time enquiring about the whence and wherefore of others. Enquire about yourselves.

When an election comes along, you wander from door to door and fall at the feet of all and sundry to get their votes. Instead of demeaning yourselves in this manner, if you fall at the Feet of God and become worthy of His grace, people themselves will press you to stand for election and fill the ballot boxes with votes for you. For this, you must have faith, faith in God and His grace. Now, most people have no faith; what is worse, they laugh at those who have; they scorn those who create and promote that faith.



Vigilance this night is to be secured by Sadhana, that is, by means of Bhajan or the reading of sacred texts or listening to the reading of such texts; not by attending film shows or gambling or playing cards. Be engaged in seeing good, listening to good, speaking good, thinking good, doing good; that is the programme for the vigil tonight. Make it also the programme for your entire life.



Sivarathri Night should be Spent in Vigil

Let me tell you why this day is considered holy. Today is the fourteenth day of the dark half of the month when the moon is all but invisible; just a minute fraction remains visible to man. The moon is the presiding deity of the mind which is the source of all the entangling desires and emotions. The mind is almost powerless this day; if only this night is spent in vigil and in the presence of the Divine, it can be fully conquered and man can realise his freedom. So, every month, the fourteenth day of the dark half of the month is prescribed for more intense Sadhana and once a year, this Mahasivarathri, the great night of Siva, is laid down for the great consummation.

Vigilance this night is to be secured by Sadhana, that is, by means of Bhajan or the reading of sacred texts or listening to the reading of such texts; not by attending film shows or gambling or playing cards. Be engaged in seeing good, listening to good, speaking good, thinking good, doing good; that is the programme for the vigil tonight. Make it also the programme for your entire life.

You are all Mine

I have come to reform you: I won't leave you until I do that. Even if you get away before I do that, do not think you can escape Me; I will hold on to you. I am not worried if you leave Me, for I am not anxious that there should be a huge gathering here, around Me. Who invited you all here? There was not even a little

notice in print, yet you have come here in thousands. You attach yourselves to Me. I am unattached. I am attached only to the Task for which I have come. But, of one thing be assured. Whether you come to Me or not, you are all Mine.

This Siva Matha, this Sai Matha (Mother Sai) has the love of a thousand mothers towards Her children; that is why I do so much Lalana (fondling) and so much Palana (protecting). When I direct you along a line of action, reflect on My advice; you have full liberty to do so; in fact, I shall be happy if you do so; I do not like slavish obedience. If you feel that it will help you to reach the goal, follow it; if not, go to some other place; but, let Me tell you one thing: Wherever you go, you meet only Me. I am everywhere.

Every man is inclined to ignore his own defects and see the faults of others. The root cause of this tendency is selfishness and self-centredness. All attachments of man are based on self-love. And this applies also to man's love for God. Men pretend to love God, but one who truly loves God will forget himself. Loving anyone for your own sake is Anuraga (affection). But loving God for His own sake is Prema (true love).

Man fails to recognise the power of the Divine because of his selfishness and self-centredness. Only when he can get rid of the impurities encrusted in his heart will man be able to experience his divinity.

Eschew Ostentation and Self-conceit

Ingratitude is a great sin, which brings in its wake a host of troubles. To forget



what one owes to others for his position and prosperity is to forfeit the grace of the Divine. He is as good as dead. You have to be grateful to those who have helped you to achieve position, power, wealth and prominence.

Embodiments of Divine Love!

It is necessary to study the scriptures, the Upanishads and other sacred books. But this should not be done as a mechanical ritual. The religious preachers today merely prescribe the reading of the Gita or other spiritual texts as routine exercise. Of what use is mere reading of scriptures if their precepts are not put into practice? The sacred names of different deities are repeated as a daily routine (Parayana). Is it of any use? Instead of reciting a hundred Slokas mechanically, it is better to put one sloka into practice after grasping its full import. For instance, there is the expression, Sat-Chit-Ananda. Sat refers to the Paramatma (Omni Self). Chit refers to the Jivatma (the individual soul). When Sat and Chit come together, there is Ananda (divine bliss). If Sat and Chit are apart, how can there be bliss? There can be only sorrow. You must strive for the union of Sat and Chit. You can have light only when the current is switched on to the bulb.

All are the embodiments of the Divine Spirit. But because of their submergence in worldly desires, they are leading mundane existence. Experience the Divine in all your activities. In worshipping God, do not make distinctions between one name or form

Let me tell you why this day is considered holy. Today is the fourteenth day of the dark half of the month when the moon is all but invisible; just a minute fraction remains visible to man. The moon is the presiding deity of the mind which is the source of all the entangling desires and emotions. The mind is almost powerless this day; if only this night is spent in vigil and in the presence of the Divine, it can be fully conquered and man can realise his freedom.



and another. All names – Rama, Krishna or Govinda are Divine. Some fanatics adoring the name of Vishnu will not like to utter or even hear the name of Siva at all. Such an attitude should be given up. You must regard the entire cosmos as the embodiment of the Divine.

Sivarathri is an auspicious night. On this night, of the 16 aspects of man, fifteen are merged in man's divinity. Only one aspect remains. It is an easy and convenient time for experiencing the Divine. If at least on this one night, the mind and the senses are kept under control, one is bound to experience the Divine. If on this night, all bad thoughts are kept out and the mind is concentrated on the name of the Lord, it will experience the consciousness of the Divine. This process has been described as Jagarana (spiritual vigil). Observance



of sacred wakefulness on Sivarathri night is not achieved by playing cards the whole night. It is a caricature of Jagarana. This is the kind of religious observance that is practised in the Kali Age. During the twelve hours of this night, if all the senses are kept under control and the mind is wholly concentrated on the Supreme, that alone

constitutes Jagarana. If such a vigil is observed by even one in a million, that is enough. Seek to observe such a pure, holy and Divine vigil this night and experience divine bliss.

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

...continued from page 11

your Prajna Sakti (intelligence) will go on decreasing. Your will power depends on the actions you perform. From tomorrow onwards, you drink only two cups of tea and smoke five cigarettes. After ten days, you should satisfy yourself with only one cup of tea and one cigarette. Thereafter, you stop them all together. You yourself will see how the power of your intellect blossoms. Your memory power will also increase. As you increase your desires, your memory power declines and you even lose the power of concentration. As you reduce

your desires, your power of concentration also grows. Therefore, *Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure*. Reduce the luggage of desires. Only then can you attain true happiness. There is one desire that you should develop and that is the desire for God, which alone can confer peace on you.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, *Prema Mudita Manase Kaho...*)

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall on 29th July 1996.**

...continued from page 15

next speaker was Sri Tony Bong from Malaysia who narrated how Bhagavan proved His omnipresence and provided instant relief to him when once he suffered from an excruciating chest pain. The grand finale of the Chinese New Year celebrations was a thrilling dance presentation entitled "Kung Fu Master Dance" by Sai Study Group and Nanyang Zhi Hui School, Medan, Indonesia (see

picture on page 15). After these dances by boys and girls, the Chinese devotees sang melodious Bhajans which included traditional Prasanthi numbers and their Chinese versions. Meanwhile, all the participants were felicitated and Prasadam was distributed. The Chinese New Year celebrations came to a happy conclusion with Arati at 6.45 p.m.

ISLAM TEACHES RESPECT FOR ALL RELIGIONS

Prof. Akhtarul Wasey

IT IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND pleasure for me to be here as a pilgrim and I am grateful to the organisers for inviting me to speak about Islam. The word Islam is rooted in *Silm* which means peace and tranquillity. Therefore, Islam stands for peace. Being a Muslim, it is necessary for me to confess, profess and have faith that Allah is one but I also have the faith that Mohammad is His last messenger. As soon as you profess, confess and pronounce that Allah is one and Mohammad is His messenger, you have again to pronounce and declare that you have faith in Allah, in God, in Ishwar, whatever name you want to give Him and His angels, His books and His prophets.

God Willed Religious Plurality

According to Islam, nobody can be a Muslim until and unless he has faith in all the books and all the prophets whom we know or do not know, whose names are referred to in the Quran or not. Allah Himself said in the Quran that He sent prophets to show direction to every nation, every community and the entire humanity. Therefore, it is obligatory, mandatory, compulsory for every Muslim to respect all religions, all prophets, all the books, whether we know the names or not. It is not a fact that a person can be a Muslim by just having faith in Mohammad and none

else. We must have faith in all the prophets and sacred books. Therefore, we are told that we must know the fact about the unity of all religions. This is a golden chain of prophets which starts from Adam and reaches Mohammad. That's the basic thing we must know. Therefore, every Muslim who is a devout Muslim, who is really a Muslim in good spirit, perforce will respect all religions.

Now there is another question which comes. People can ask us, "Is it not hypocrisy that you people are saying that every religion can be respected?" Why not? According to me and according to the faith which I profess and practise, religious plurality or religious diversity is basically just because of the design and desire of God. Otherwise, why has Allah or Ishwar or God who is so powerful and strong and can control and change your hearts, not moulded all of us in one religious form? Whatever has been desired, whatever is the Will of God, we must respect that. Religion is basically a conviction of the mind to a particular tradition, and that

Jihad means most supreme struggle. The biggest Jihad is called Jihad-e-Akbar. It is nothing but the war man wages against his evil desires and qualities, the war against anger, greed, infatuation and jealousy. One has to carefully understand this point.

depends upon the freedom of conscience which you have. That is your choice, and that should be your choice. You must not forget that.

Jihad Means War against Evil Qualities

Prophet Mohammad in his last sermon had clearly told that all humans, men or women, were basically the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were made of clay. So, there is no superiority or inferiority between white and black in humans. Hence, a person being virtuous or non-virtuous is not dependent on a person's colour, language or place; it is dependent on how much God-fearing he is.

I am very happy at the introductory words of Sri Srirangarajan. He gave the meaning of Jihad. The meaning of Jihad is not holy war. When Britishers came here, they translated it as such. Neither we could understand English fully nor they could understand Arabic. Jihad means most supreme struggle. The biggest Jihad is called Jihad-e-Akbar. It is nothing but the war man wages against his evil desires and qualities, the war against anger, greed, infatuation and jealousy. One has to carefully understand this point. We have to understand that Dharma does not create barriers but removes them. Religion should unite people and not divide them. You can yourself check in the Quran, there is no compulsion in religion. Whatever path you want, you can adopt or opt. It depends upon your conscience, your own choice, your own will.

All Religions have Equal Status in Bharat

The Quran is a holy text authored by God Himself; it is not written by Prophet Mohammad. Indian scriptures are of two types: Sruti (revealed texts) and Smriti (text composed by sages). So, the Quran is also Sruti. God revealed the verses of the Quran to Mohammad, and through Mohammad, transmitted these to the common man. It has been said, do not deride the gods of other religions because they in turn will ridicule yours. This will lead to misunderstanding and fights between religions. Follow your own path. Your religion is for you and my religion is for me. As a Muslim born in India, I do not have any inhibition to convey this. I feel it is an honour and pride because I am born in such a land which is the land of many religions, languages, and all are given equal status. The seasons of all countries are found at one time in different parts of India. This is a boon of the Almighty; we should be happy about it.

I am happy that this event is happening at this place. Thirty years ago, Baba had conducted a similar conference. You are conducting such a conference again. This is to be highly appreciated. Baba spoke about unity of mankind. We may profess different religions and ideologies, but our goal is the same. There are different rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada and Cauvery in this land of Bharat. But their destination is the same; some merge in the Arabian Sea and the rest in Bay of Bengal. But at the end, it forms the expansive Indian Ocean. In the same way, our country is formed.



Another pertinent point from Islam. Both Hinduism and Islam believe in rebirth after death (though in Islam that is completely different from the concept of incarnation of Hinduism). In both religions, it is said that man is accountable for his actions and accordingly a person either goes to heaven or hell. So, the sum and substance is, if we do good actions, the result would be good and if we do bad, we have to face the consequences. Instead of becoming a good human being, cultivating human values, we get embroiled in controversies and disputes. We may or may not be able to do bad to others, but certainly we are causing harm to ourselves by our actions.

All Beings Belong to the Family of God

There is another problem. Can Hindus and Muslims, Christians and Muslims, Jews and Muslims, Buddhists and Muslims, Parsis and Muslims and people of all other indigenous faiths live together? Yes, why not? Nobody can prevent them. Nobody can create any obstacle in their relationship because we are all creatures of God. Mohammad had said, "You people are basically the servants of Allah and the descendents of Adam. Therefore, you must remain together." And in Hindu Dharma, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the whole world is one single family) is basically the Moola Mantra (fundamental precept) for the survival of mankind.

My relationship with Indian culture cannot be measured in terms of years; it is as old as Indian culture. If Indian culture

It has been said, do not deride the gods of other religions because they in turn will ridicule yours. This will lead to misunderstanding and fights between religions. Follow your own path. Your religion is for you and my religion is for me. As a Muslim born in India, I do not have any inhibition to convey this. I feel it is an honour and pride because I am born in such a land which is the land of many religions, languages, and all are given equal status.

is mine, Rama is mine and Krishna is also mine. Krishna is the charioteer of Arjuna. Mahabharata war did not end in the battlefield of Kurukshetra. There is a Mahabharata war going on every minute of our life. We introspect and become our own Arjuna, our own Krishna. One who gets inspiration from it becomes successful and one who does not, becomes unsuccessful. I understand and respect your feelings but you should understand and respect my feelings, too.

Significance and Relevance of Siva

When I talk about culture and tradition of this place, I believe that whatever has been said, it is meant for everyone. Friends, I would like to tell you that churning of the ocean did not take place at one time; it is a process which is continuing but with a different form. The churning is taking place every moment in my and your life



and society. The Rakshasas (demons) take away the Amrita (nectar) and leave the poison for humanity for its destruction. Then Siva appears and drinks the poison and as a result his throat turns blue. How many among us are willing to voluntarily drink the poison for saving humanity? I feel that every society in the world requires Siva. I am telling this because I want this misunderstanding to be cleared.

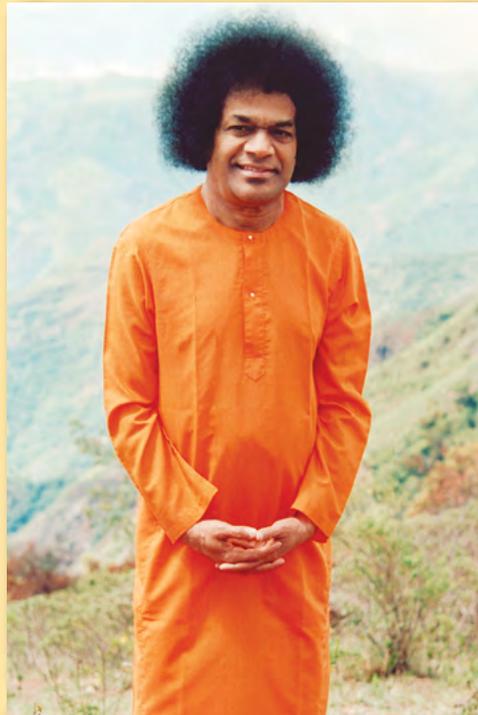
I am a Muslim. I believe Allah is one. I believe in Prophet Mohammad and Quran. I believe in rebirth after death. Though there is no concept of incarnation in Islam yet every Muslim must have faith that there would be resurrection after death on the day of the judgement. There is no country in the world where God has not

sent a messenger to lead people in the path of life. I may or may not know them but I should honour and respect everyone. I should not criticise, never deny them. If we are in a dilemma, we should not try to arrive at some conclusion. I have told a few things which you may have understood and some you may not like. I ask for pardon. But I have said faithfully, and I conveyed the truth to you. If I do not speak truth here, where else will I say?

(From the speech of Prof. Akhtarul Wasey in the symposium held on 2nd July 2012 at Prasanthi Nilayam on the theme of "Unity of Faiths." Prof. Wasey is Hony. Director, Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.)

You should not be ever entangled in the meshes of this world and its problems. Try to escape into the purer air of the spirit as often as you can, taking the name of the Lord on your tongue. Of the 24 hours of the day, have 6 hours for your individual needs, 6 hours for the service of others, 6 hours for sleep and 6 hours for dwelling in the Presence of the Lord. Those six hours will endow you with the strength of steel.

– Baba



Effulgence of Divine Glory

AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY

SOME DAYS LATER, AS WE were sitting on the verandah waiting to be called into Baba's interview room, a handsome but distressed Indian family were ushered into the small inner room. The father was carrying his son, who was about nine years old; the boy was wearing white socks which didn't really conceal his badly deformed feet. His spindly legs indicated that he had never run or played like other children. I felt a tug at my heart. I was grateful for the three healthy children we had left in the care of their grandparents in California.

After some time, the door swung open; and, wonder of wonders, the family emerged, all of them shedding tears of joy. The young boy was walking on wobbly legs like a newborn fawn, his large brown eyes sparkling. I didn't even try to control my own tears.

Baba came out and gave some final instructions to the parents; then He turned to me and asked, "Why are you crying? Don't cry; it's the first time he has walked." I replied through tears, "That's why I'm crying." He then gave me a look I have come to know so well – the most kind and compassionate smile I had ever seen – and He said in the softest of tones, "I know, I know."

I wanted that moment to last forever, but in an instant He had changed His

demeanour and was showing deep concern for another of His children.

Soon it was our turn to be alone with Baba. Our first private interview was an overwhelming experience. Bob and I and Sai Baba stood close together as Baba asked questions. He addressed me first, asking simple questions like, "How many children do you have?" At that moment, I was at a loss for words. He smiled indulgently and answered the question Himself, saying, "Three." In the meantime, I stood mute – unable to communicate. I must have appeared more than foolish, but Baba was kind as He understands all human conditions and frailties. During those few minutes, He outlined the character – both the strengths and weaknesses – of each of our children. The passing years have revealed Him to be one hundred per cent accurate.

His attention then turned to Bob, and they spoke of business matters while Sai manifested some Vibhuti (holy ash) and stroked Bob's chest and heart area with the ash, saying, "He is a good man, a good man." This clear sign of loving approval caused Bob to do something I had never seen him do before – he burst into tears and cried like a helpless child. Sai Baba said, "Business gives you no satisfaction, but all that will change." Bob brightened at that reassurance.

Swami, as He often refers to Himself, turned again to me and said, "Be patient. You need to learn to be patient." The interview was over, and I was still mute as we left. It took a long time to come back to earth. It had been the most unusual experience of my life, but I still failed to see that Sri Sathya Sai Baba was a divine being. I could only perceive that He was special and that He invoked higher ideals and emotions in me than I had ever known before.

While on the airplane back to the United States, we started planning our next trip to India. Already, we were being drawn

back as if by some magnetic force. Bob, in a light-hearted spirit, began to tease me about Swami's comments on my being impatient. I immediately became defensive, annoyed and obviously impatient. Later, we both had a good laugh at my narrow viewpoint and inability to accept criticism, even though it had been given so gently by Baba. I promised myself, then and there, to work on the problem of impatience.

– Excerpted from the article of Ms. Barbara Bozzani in the book, "Transformation of Heart" compiled and edited by Ms. Judy Warner.

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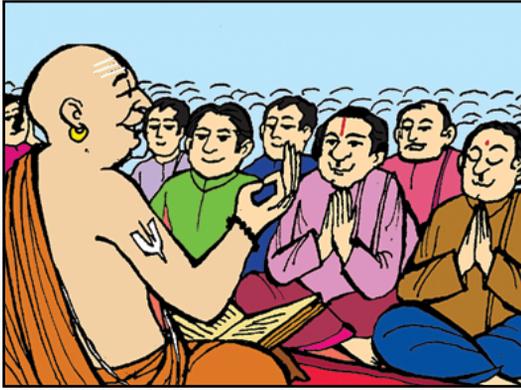
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Experiencing is Important, not Mere Listening

Chinna Katha

DURING HIS PILGRIMAGE to holy places, Sri Krishna Chaitanya once came to the southern part of India in the region where the temple of Sri Ranga is located. In a temple in that region, a Pandit (learned man) gave discourses on



Listening to the discourse of the Pandit, the listeners were sometimes sad and sometimes blissful.

the Bhagavadgita to his disciples. As the Pandit recited the Slokas (verses) of the Gita, the disciples repeated them after him and listened with great faith when he expounded the subject-matter of the verses.

Many devotees who came there also listened to the exposition of the teachings of the Gita by the Pandit, holding the Gita in their hands. Sometimes they smiled, sometimes looked sad and sometimes they were immersed in bliss. In this way, changes in their feelings were visible

as they listened to the discourse of the Pandit. But there was a person sitting in a corner who continuously shed tears and did not show any change in his feelings. Sri Krishna Chaitanya saw that person, came near him and asked, "What sir? Why are you shedding tears when other people are studying the Gita and feeling blissful listening to the explanation of its teachings?" That person replied, "Swami, I do not know who you are. I am not able to recite the Sanskrit Slokas. Thinking that it would be better to keep silent than to recite them wrongly, I am not reading them. As I am not so well educated to understand the meaning of these verses, I will not gain anything by reading them. Therefore, I am visualising the scene of the Mahabharata war in which Krishna is imparting the knowledge of the Bhagavadgita to Arjuna and constantly turning His neck backward to explain its meanings to him since Krishna is sitting in front of the chariot and Arjuna is sitting in its rear. Thinking that Lord Krishna's neck will be in great pain by constantly turning it backward, I am feeling very sad." Then Sri Krishna Chaitanya observed thus, "You are the only true devotee since you have experienced Krishna's principle of love and are immersed in it by focusing on the scene of dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna in the Mahabharata war. Experiencing is important, not mere listening of sacred texts."

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

Global Celebrations of Bhagavan's 87th Birthday

INDONESIA

BHAGAVAN'S BIRTHDAY was celebrated in many cities including Jakarta, Medan, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surabaya and Denpasar. More than 1,500 people benefited from medical camps throughout the country. Sathya Sai volunteers served at orphanages and distributed food and groceries to the needy in many villages.

More than 800 people attended Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations at Jakarta wherein Sai Youth, Bal Vikas children



A section of devotees attending Bhagavan's 87th Birthday celebrations in Jakarta.

and students of Insan Teladan School and Pondok Sai School rendered cultural programmes.

Over 250 devotees attended Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations on 23rd November 2012 at the Prasanthi Griya Sai Centre in Medan (North Sumatra). The

celebrations included Bhajans, talks and Prasadam distribution.

In Bandung (West Java), 250 devotees attended Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations, which included Bhajans interspersed with art and cultural shows.

The Sai Study Group in Yogyakarta (Central Java) celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday by distributing more than 880 food packages to the needy and organising a medical camp in which about 800 patients were served.

CANADA

On 18th November 2012, about 250 SSE children from the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Toronto-York celebrated Swami's Birthday by presenting a cultural programme that was attended by approximately 1,000 people. The programme included Veda chanting, devotional and value-based songs and a play on the unity of religions, titled "There is Only One Religion, the Religion of Love." On 23rd November 2012, over 800



Cultural programme by Sai Spiritual Education children in Toronto, Canada.

people celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday with Suprabhatam, Nagar Sankirtan and Laksharchana (chanting of the sacred Divine Name 100,000 times), followed by inspirational talks on Bhagavan's message and devotional songs.

Two service projects, "Ceiling on Desires" and "Feel the Pain, Fill the Plate," were organised as part of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations. Devotees skipped some meals and used the savings to purchase food items for a food bank. Devotees who participated had the opportunity to experience firsthand the pangs of hunger. Approximately, 1,000 pounds of food was collected during the two weeks preceding Bhagavan's Birthday. The devotees prepared 87 packages of food and distributed them to the needy in the Greater Toronto Area.

DENMARK

Sathya Sai Centres in the Copenhagen area celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday with a presentation depicting Bhagavan's life, from birth to His proclamation of Avatarhood, based on the book, "Sai Baba: Man of Miracles," by the late Howard Murphet. The presentation consisted of a narration of the story accompanied by a slide show of pictures of Bhagavan, with musicians playing the clarinet, guitar, flute, pan-flute, drums and harmonica. The celebration ended with Bhajans. In Odense, Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated with the sharing of divine experiences and the screening of a video on His life, followed by distribution of Prasadam.

LATVIA

Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated in several cities in Latvia. At the Sathya Sai Centre in Riga, the programme included Bhajans and a "Family Circle," in which each person shared a story about the most important gift of love they had offered to Bhagavan during the previous year and what they would offer Him during the coming year.

RUSSIA

On 23rd November 2012, about 150 Russian devotees from St. Petersburg celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday. The programme consisted of a concert followed by Veda chanting, songs about Bhagavan, and presentations of His works. A special



Bhagavan's 87th Birthday celebrations at St. Petersburg, Russia.

song on Bhagavan's life, composed by devotees from the Baltic States, was sung by the Sathya Sai Youth, followed by Bhajans and distribution of Vibhuti Prasadam.

On 23rd November 2012, over 400 members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Moscow celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday



ITALY

at a nicely decorated auditorium. The programme began with the chanting of Omkar, Gayatri Mantra, Sai Gayatri, Rudram and Ganesh Bhajans. Following a welcome address by Lyudmila Deputatova, head of the Central Region of Russia, a series of cultural programmes were presented by Sathya Sai devotees from Korolev, Dzerzhinsky, Moscow and Obninsk, and SSE children from Moscow. The celebrations concluded with Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam.

THAILAND

On 3rd November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday by singing 87 Bhajans at the Sai Prashanti Centre of Bangkok. On 23rd November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday at the Sathya Sai Centres of Rajdamneon, Sai Prashanti,



Distribution of blankets in Thailand as part of Bhagavan's 87th Birthday celebrations.

Maesai and Chiangmai. Various service activities including distribution of blankets, serving of food to the needy and devotional programmes were undertaken.

About 150 Sathya Sai devotees from Sathya Sai Centres in the City of Turin celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday at the Municipal building. As part of the



Bhagavan's Birthday function in Italy.

celebrations, an exhibition was held on "The Activities of the Sathya Sai Centres" of Italy.

BAHRAIN

To celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Bahrain undertook spiritual and service programmes for 87 days under the theme, "Swami, the Indweller." The programmes commenced on the auspicious day of Onam and covered all major festivals leading up to Bhagavan's Birthday. Major spiritual activities included Shirdi Sai Sat Charita Parayana (reading of the sacred life story of Shirdi Sai Baba), Paduka Puja, Tapovanam Parayana (reading of the sacred life story of Sathya Sai Baba), Laksharchana and Sahasranamavali. Throughout the period, many inspirational talks and EHV programmes were conducted on the Glory of the Sathya Sai



Avatar, along with Bhajan Workshops. Finally, the 87-day series of programmes concluded on 23rd November 2012, with 300 devotees celebrating Bhagavan's Birthday. The day's programme included Veda chanting, Bhagavan's Ashtottram (chanting of 108 names of Bhagavan), a talk based on Bhagavan's Birthday messages, cake cutting, SSE Children's choir and Bhajans.

SAUDI ARABIA

On 22nd November 2012, about 200 people attended Bhagavan's



A section of devotees attending Bhagavan's Birthday celebration in Saudi Arabia.

Birthday celebrations, organised by the Riyadh Sathya Sai Centre. The evening commenced with an invocation dance, followed by a soul-stirring rendition of devotional songs and a play, entitled "Atmosphere to AtmaSphere," concerning the social environment that present-day children and youth are exposed to, such as technology, peer pressure and fashion trends. On the evening of 23rd November 2012, about 60 devotees gathered to

celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday with Omkaram and Ganapati Atharvasirsam chanting, followed by Bhajans.

ABU DHABI

The SAI (Serve And Inspire) Group celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday over a period of 87 days, with special Veda chanting, devotional and service activities. Winter jackets were distributed to 120 labourers in the industrial area of Mussafah, 40 kilometres from Abu Dhabi city, and blood donation programmes were also organised. About 250 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday on 23rd November 2012. The programme included Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Veda chanting, Bhajan singing and Prasadam distribution.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Bhumi Puja (ground breaking ceremony) for the extended Anantapur Water Project of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was performed by the Collector of Anantapur, Sri V. Durga Das on 24th January 2013 at Kothacheruvu amidst sacred chants. The proposed extension of the Anantapur Water Project would cater to an additional 2.5 lakh population across the three Mandals, Puttaparthi, Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam, in the district. The ₹ 80 crore extension project would draw 10 MLD of water for 118 habitations with a total pipeline coverage of 411.5 km. Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Trustee and Sri Prasada Rao, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust along with former L&T Vice President



ECC Division, Sri A. Ramakrishna, Chief Engineer for the Project representing the government, Sri Kondal Rao, Puttaparthi MLA, Sri Palle Raghunatha Reddy were the dignitaries who graced the occasion.

The main Anantapur Water Supply Project of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was commissioned in the year 1995 and covers 731 villages providing drinking water to over 1.25 million population. This proposed extension of the project was announced by the Central Trust during the 86th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba held in November 2011.

Gujarat: Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Workshop was held at Navsari, Gujarat on 19th and 20th January 2013 to train the teachers of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Navsari and Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat. The State President of Gujarat welcomed the Vidya Vahini team and Sri Ashutosh Verma briefed about the Vidya Vahini Project and how Swami wanted the schools and the organisation to join together and promote this project mainly in remote villages. Later, the team members trained the teachers to make lesson plans and do the presentation as well. The second day was fully devoted to technical usage of Vidya Vahini online explaining how to view lesson plans, value content, etc., and how to upload lesson plans. In all, 35 teachers attended the workshop.

Maharashtra: A youth festival “Jev-O-Utsav 2013” (Journey of Education in Values and Awareness) was conducted at Nanded, Maharashtra, wherein over

1,000 students from nine colleges in Nanded participated. The youth festival was inaugurated by Sri D.P. Sawant, Minister of State for Health and Technical Education in the presence of a galaxy of dignitaries. Initiated by Smt. Snehalatai Khatgaonkar, inter collegiate competitions in Human Values and Awareness in the form of skits and dramas were held for two days in which all the nine colleges participated. The grit of the youth of today against the social evils prevalent in society was very passionately displayed with a determination to transform the society to make it a better place to live.

The holy festival of Milad-ul-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad, was celebrated at Dharmakshetra, Mumbai on 27th January 2013. The highlight of the evening was the offering of Maghrib-



The festival of Milad-ul-Nabi at Dharmakshetra.

ki-Namaaz in the lawns of Satyadeep right outside Bhagavan’s residence. Dharmakshetra reverberated with the sacred chants from the Quran and

continued on page cover page III...



Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School

Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, Anantapur District, (A.P.)

Ph.: 08555-289289, Email: ssshss@gmail.com (Affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi)

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates (preferably men) by sending their bio-data with academic qualifications and experience particulars to work in Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School (boys wing), Prasanthi Nilayam for the following posts. A recent passport size colour photo is to be attached. Phone number and Email address can also be provided. Fluency in English is required.

1. Postgraduate teacher in Physics
2. Postgraduate teacher in Informatics (computer science)
3. Trained graduate teacher in Sanskrit

Qualifications required for the posts:

A Postgraduate degree with second class and teachers training degree done in English Medium
Or

A Postgraduate degree with first class and 3 years experience in the above-mentioned subjects done in English Medium.

Qualifications required for TGT in Sanskrit, Modern Indian Languages and Classical Languages (either of the two).

i) a) Graduate in / with the subject concerned or its equivalent.

b) A recognised Degree / Diploma in education.

ii) B.A. Ed. with language concerned of the Regional College of Education.

Pay scale for PGT ₹ 18030-43630.

Pay scale for TGT ₹ 14860-39540

The last date for the receipt of applications is 20th April 2013.

The selected candidates will be called for an interview at a short notice.

Note: Fresh candidates from S.S.S.I.H.L., who are interested to work in the school may meet the Principal personally.

– *Principal*

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Alike

Post: Sathya Sai Vihar, Bantwal TQ., D.K., Karnataka, India

Ph.: 08255-265566 / 265567 / 9480228674 / 9449281254, Email: ssslsalike@yahoo.com

Applications are invited with full bio-data and photograph immediately for the following posts:

Physician: MD / DNB – preferably with experience, full time or part time

Medical Officer: MBBS – preferably with considerable experience, full time or part time.

Retired persons may also apply. Salary + accommodation will be provided.

– *Chairman*

Managing Committee, Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Trust, Alike

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**Statement of Ownership and other Particulars of the Newspaper
Entitled SANATHANA SARATHI (English) R.No.10774/58**

(To be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February)

Form IV (See Rule 8)

1. Place of Publication : Sri Sathya Sai Press, within the compound of Sri Sathya Sai Ashram, Prasanthi Nilayam.
2. Periodicity of Publication : Monthly
3. Printer and Publisher's Name : Sri K.S. Rajan
Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : West II / C-22, P.O. Prasanthi Nilayam, Dist. Anantapur, A.P., 515134.
4. Editor's Name : Sri G.L. Anand
Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : Round Block V / C-3, P.O. Prasanthi Nilayam, Dist. Anantapur, A.P. 515134.
5. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total paid up capital as on 28-2-2013 : Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, P.O. Prasanthi Nilayam, Dist. Anantapur, A.P., 515134.

I, K.S. Rajan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 1-3-2013

(Sd) **K.S. RAJAN**
(Signature of Publisher)

...continued from page 31

all present were soaked in Divine Love. Dr. Hanif Banatwala who conducted the Namaaz highlighted that the five tenets of Islam in terms of Prayer, Pilgrimage, Fasting, Charity and Truth were the tenets of every religion – only called by different names.

Dr. Shafi Thanawala, President of the Sunnat Jamat and Chief Guest of the function, expressed profound gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation and urged everyone that to be followers of Islam is to tread the path of love and humanity. In his

moving speech, he declared Dharmakshetra to be the House of God – a house that looked neither like a mosque nor like a temple but still was an abode where one could hear the Sound of Silence and feel the Voice of God.

The programme concluded with a short presentation by Bal Vikas students on the five tenets of Islam and a soulful rendition of songs on Allah and Prophet Mohammad. Everyone left with just one thought: Indeed, there is only one religion and that is the Religion of Love.



Talk Sweetly

Let your love flow towards all; you have love but, now, it is distributed selfishly and sparingly. Or at least, do not hate other people and talk ill of them or seek to estimate their faults. Do not feel sad or hurt when others are happy; try to share their happiness and be happy yourself, when those around you are. Your speech has to be soft and sweet; do not imitate the roar of the lion or the hiss of the serpent. In a village where everybody knows everyone else and where living is so intimate and interdependent, this kind of sweet talk, motivated by love, is essential.

– Baba

Annual Subscription English (12 issues)
India ₹ 75. Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka
₹ 600. Other Countries ₹ 850 or US \$19
or UK £13 or €13, CAN \$22, AUS \$26.
Acceptable for 1, 2 or 3 years.

Printed by K.S. RAJAN Published by K.S. RAJAN On behalf of the owner Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.) And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises, 136, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560044, Karnataka And published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

Editor: G.L. ANAND