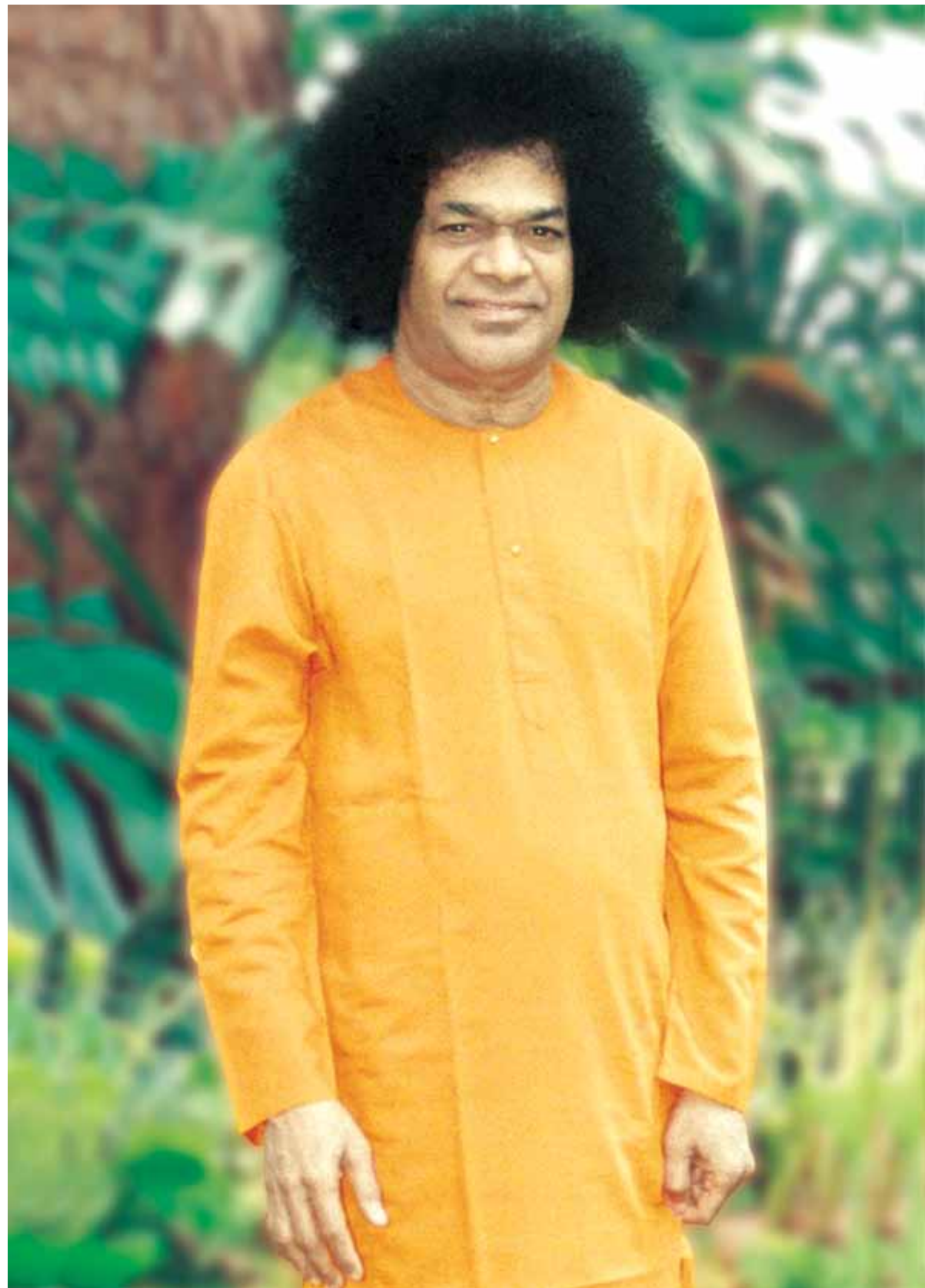


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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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"One who understands Dharma
will foster Prema. A person who
develops love for God can follow
Dharma easily. Dharma and
Prema are twins. But man today
has lost both these qualities. Life
without Dharma and Prema is
barren like a waste land."



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AVATAR VANI

DEVOTION IS THE EASIEST PATH TO ATTAIN GOD

On the morning of 24th April 1996, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba created a diamond which was two and a half inches in diameter and was as big as an apple. This was the diamond gifted by King Dasaratha to Lord Rama, which He wore on His turban during His wedding with Sita, told Bhagavan to the devotees who were wonderstruck to witness this unique creation by Him. Similarly, Bhagavan created in the afternoon Mangalasutra of Sita having a three-inch diameter ruby in its centre which had nine gems embedded around it. Bhagavan not only provided the rare opportunity to the students and devotees to see these unique creations closely, but also permitted them to touch them...

THE OUTPOURING OF PREMA IS DHARMA

*One may be the master
of all forms of knowledge,
One may vanquish one's adversaries
in debate,
One may fight with valour and courage
in the battlefield,
One may be an emperor reigning over
vast kingdoms,
One may offer cows and gold as an act
of charity,
One may count the countless stars in
the sky,
One may tell the names of different
living creatures on the earth,
One may be an expert in eight steps
of yoga,
One may reach even the moon,
But, is there anyone who can control
the body, mind and senses, turn the
vision inward and achieve the supreme
state of equanimity of the mind?*

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

*Lord Krishna declares in the
Bhagavadgita:*

*Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya Glanir
Bhavati Bharata,
Abhyutthanam adharma-sya
Tadatmanam Srujamyaham.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Oh Arjuna! Whenever there is a decline
in Dharma and rise in Adharma, I
incarnate on earth.)

God incarnates to teach Dharma
(righteousness) to man and to raise him
to the divine level. Dharma itself therefore
takes human form.

**Where there is Dharma, there is
Victory**

Devotion is most important in the
life of man. Unflinching love for God is
true Bhakti (devotion). But people waste
their life by their love for external worldly
objects. Worldly love is not true love.

This is sheer attachment, not love. Only love for God is true love. Intense love for God is real devotion. The outpouring of Prema is Dharma. One who understands Dharma will foster Prema. A person who develops love for God can follow Dharma easily. Dharma and Prema are twins. But man today has lost both these qualities. Life without Dharma and Prema is barren like a waste land.

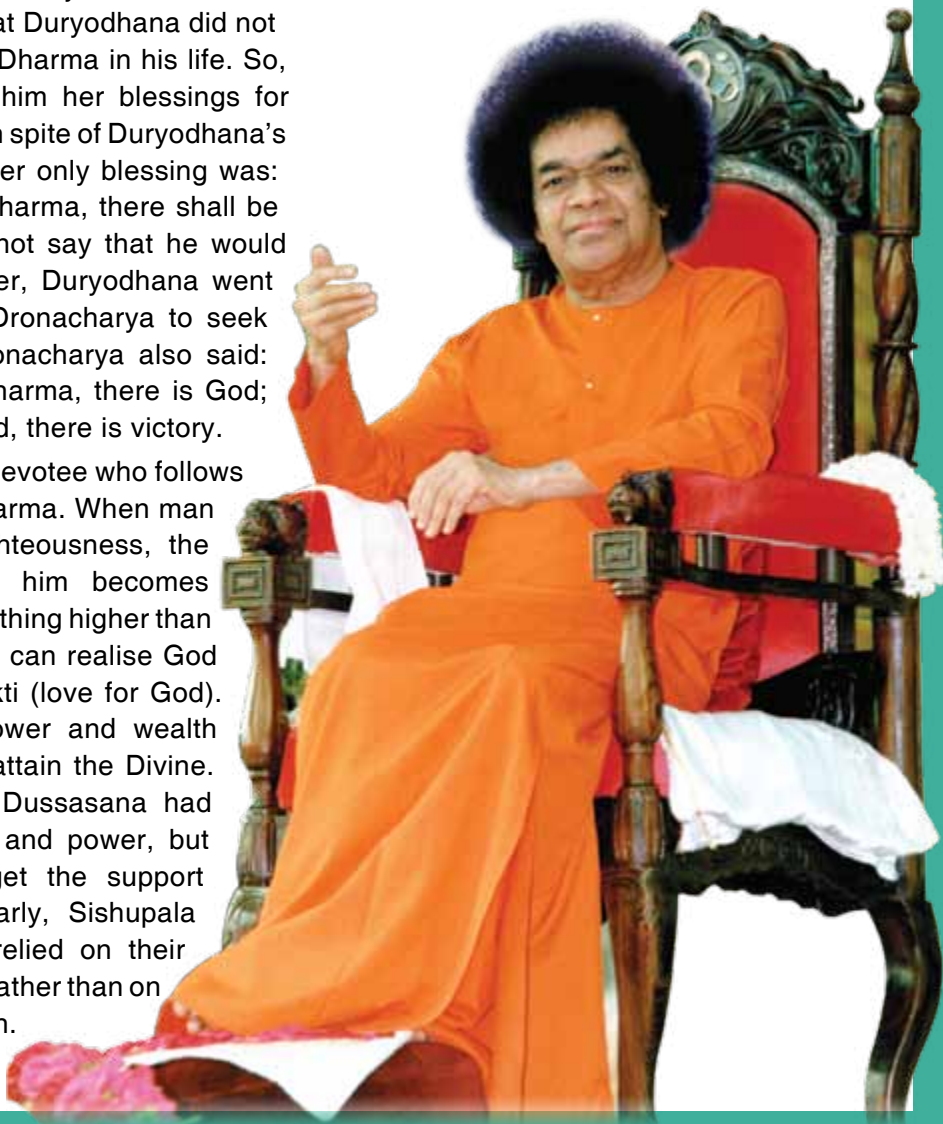
At the time of Mahabharata war, Duryodhana went to his mother Gandhari, prostrated at her feet and beseeched her blessings for victory in the war. But Gandhari knew that Duryodhana did not follow the path of Dharma in his life. So, she did not give him her blessings for victory in the war in spite of Duryodhana's pleadings for it. Her only blessing was: "Where there is Dharma, there shall be victory". She did not say that he would be victorious. Later, Duryodhana went to his preceptor Dronacharya to seek his blessings. Dronacharya also said: Where there is Dharma, there is God; where there is God, there is victory.

God loves the devotee who follows the dictates of Dharma. When man has love and righteousness, the Divinity latent in him becomes patent. There is nothing higher than love for God. Man can realise God only through Bhakti (love for God). No amount of power and wealth can help man to attain the Divine. Duryodhana and Dussasana had enormous wealth and power, but they could not get the support of Krishna. Similarly, Sishupala and Dantavakra relied on their physical strength rather than on the Divine strength.

So, they were ultimately destroyed. Take the case of Ravana and Kumbhakarna. They possessed enormous strength and wealth. Ravana was endowed with great capabilities. He was highly learned and affluent. But wealth and learning could not help him to get liberation. God can be attained only by devotion and love.

Man can Attain God through Love and Devotion

Kuchela was a childhood friend of Lord Krishna. He had a large family but he was mired in poverty. Therefore, his wife



advised him to go to Dwaraka and seek the help of Krishna. The moment Krishna saw his old friend, He got down from the throne, ran towards him and hugged him with intense love. Kuchela was overwhelmed by the love and attention given to him by Krishna. When Kuchela went back home, his wife asked him as to what happened in Dwaraka. Kuchela said, "The moment Krishna saw me, He came running to me, He held my hands, looked at me with love from top to toe and embraced me tightly. What should I say and how should I say? He took the dried beaten rice from me and ate them, saying it tasted like nectar. How can I describe the love of Krishna in words?"

Though Kuchela did not ask Krishna for any help, Krishna gave enormous wealth to him to remove his poverty. God showers His grace on those who contemplate on Him with intense devotion. Sabari and Jatayu did not ask Rama for anything. They worshipped Him with great devotion. Rama performed the last rites of Jatayu unasked. He went to the hut of Sabari and showered His grace on her.

Sincere Devotion Moves the Lord

God is present in the entire creation. He assumes the form according to the feelings of the devotee. You can attain God only through love. Therefore, you should develop intense love for God. Then only can you experience Divinity. Worldly attachments and desires are the creation of the mind. Control of the desires and the mind is true devotion. Devotion connotes unconditional and limitless love for God. If you acquire this divine quality, you can easily attain God.

The word Bhakti (devotion) is derived from the root 'Bhaja' which means worship and service of God. It is the path which ensures total bliss. Sakkubai experienced bliss even when she was being put to physical suffering. She prayed, "Krishna, how long will I have to undergo suffering? Is there no justice? Don't You have compassion? Am I not Your servant"? What was the suffering did Sakkubai undergo? She was suffering because she could not attain the proximity of God. There were many devotees like Tulsidas, Tukaram and Ramadas who all suffered for God.

Ramadas prayed to Rama, "Oh Lord! I am Yours. Why are You keeping distance from me? Have I done any wrong? I spent all the money collected by me to build a temple for You. O Rama, I got special jewels made for You. But Tanisha did not understand this. He punished me and put me in prison. I blamed You because I could not withstand the thrashing of Tanisha's soldiers. Kindly excuse me". Immediately, Rama and Lakshmana came in the form of servants and offered to Tanisha the amount of money that was due from Ramadas. When Tanisha asked who they were, they replied, "We are Ramaiah and Lakshmanaiah. We are the servants of Ramadas". When Tanisha realised the truth, he went to Ramadas and prostrated before him. He understood what a noble person Ramadas was. It is the sincere devotion of a devotee that moves the Lord.

(Continued in the next issue...)

– Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 24th April 1996.





BHAGAVAN WRITES FOR SANATHANA SARATHI

WHEN BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA STARTED SANATHANA SARATHI in February 1958, He also began writing an article for it every month from its very first issue and continued writing without any break up to October 1984. All these articles were written in perfect sequence as these were meant to be compiled in the form of books which were called Vahini series. To acquaint our readers how these articles were written by Bhagavan, we reproduce Bhagavan's handwritten articles along with their translation that formed the 16th and final book of Vahini series named "Leela Kaivalya Vahini" (Stream of Cosmic Consciousness Divine).

The article given in this issue forms the first part of the article which was published in September 1984 issue of Sanathana Sarathi. The subsequent issues of Sanathana Sarathi will also carry articles of "Leela Kaivalya Vahini" which expound the profound knowledge of the Vedas. Since Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself is the Veda Purusha and the Vedas have emerged from Him, there can be no greater authority to propound the eternal values and invaluable teachings of the Vedas than Him. The seekers who want to grasp the authoritative and true import of the spiritual truths contained in these most ancient scriptures should read and reread these articles.



వీలాకైవల్య వాహిని

(సాయి సాధకుల సంభాషణ)

నిత్యనైమిత్తిక కర్మలు, యాగాది క్రియలు అన్నియూ స్వాహాకార పూర్వకమగు నాచమన క్రియలతో ఆరంభమగు చున్నవి. స్వాహా, స్వధాకార వర్జితములైన హోమములు సామాన్యముగా ఉండవు.

సాధకుడు : వేదమంత్రములందు చివర స్వాహా, స్వధా అను మంత్ర ద్వయమును చేర్చుట వలన ఫలమేమి?

సాయి : స్వాహా, స్వధా మంత్రములు చేర్చి హవిర్దానముల గావించుటచేత దేవతలు, పితరులు తృప్తి పడుదురు. స్వాహా అను నామమును ఉచ్చరించక వేదవిదులు యజ్ఞములందు హోమమొనర్చినచో, దేవతలు ఆ యజ్ఞ భాగములను పొందలేరు. స్వాహా, స్వధా అను రెండు శబ్దములు దేవతా ప్రీతికరములును, దేవతా జీవన హేతువులును అగు మంత్రములు.

‘స్వాహా స్తోమస్య వర్చసా’ ఋగ్వేదము. స్వాహా పదమునకు (1) స్వాహాకారపూర్వకమైన హవిర్దానము (2) స్తుతి లక్షణమగు వేదవాక్కు అని రెండు అర్థములు ప్రసిద్ధములు. ఏ యర్థమును చెప్పినను లేక రెండు అర్థములు చెప్పినను పదోచ్ఛారణముచే దేవతలు ప్రీతినొందుటయు, అట్లు ప్రీతినొందిన దేవతలు స్తోత్రముచేయు స్తోత్రను వర్ణిల్ల జేయుటయు జరుగును.

సాధకుడు : ఇవట స్తోత్రను వర్ణిల్లజేయుట అనగా నేమి?

సాయి : స్తోత్ర యొక్క వేదమంత్రరూపమైన వాక్కులో నొక విధమగు ప్రభావమును చేకూర్చి ఉచ్చరించుట అని అర్థము.

సాధకుడు : శ్రుతిలో స్వాహాశబ్దమునకు గల సాంప్రదాయాను గతములయిన అర్థములను కొన్ని ఉదాహరణముగ చూపగలరా?

సాయి : కేశవాయస్వాహా, ప్రాణాయస్వాహా, ఇంద్రాయస్వాహా - ఇత్యాది స్థలములందు స్వాహా పదమునకు స్వాహుతమస్తు, సుహుతమస్తు అనగా సుహుతమగుగాక, స్వాహుత మగుగాక అని యర్థము.

సాధకుడు : సుహుతము, స్వాహుతము అనగా ఏమి?

సాయి : అర్పిత ద్రవ్యములు దగ్ధమగును గాక ! అనగా జీర్ణమగును గాక అని కూడా అర్థము.

సాధకుడు : ఇవట ఒక సందేహము. సామాన్యముగా ఎట్టి పదార్థము లైనను, ఏ మంత్రము చెప్పకపోయినను అగ్నిలో వేసినపుడు దగ్ధము కావటము, జీర్ణమయిపోవటము జరుగుచునే యున్నది కదా! ఇక స్వాహాకారముతో కలిగే ప్రత్యేక విశేషమేమి?

సాయి : స్వాహుతి అనగా వస్తువులను అగ్నిలో చక్కగా దగ్ధము చేయుట లేక జీర్ణము చేయుట అని మాత్రమే కాదు.



LEELA KAIVALYA VAHINI

Sai Speaks to Sadhaka

The rites prescribed as unavoidable for daily life and those that are laid down as optional for the observance of certain holy days, all these have to begin with “Svaaha”, pronounced along with the sips of sanctified water (Aachamana). Generally speaking, there are no ritual offerings in the sacred fire without the accompaniment of the Mantras, Svaaha or Svadha.

Sadhaka: What is the benefit that accrues when these two Mantras, Svaaha and Svadha, are additionally pronounced at the end of Vedic Mantras?

Sai: When offerings are given, while Svaaha or Svadha is uttered, the gods (Devatas) or manes (Pitrs), to whom they are directed, will be pleased. Moreover, when those, who are well-versed in Vedic practices, perform the worship of fire in order to offer oblations and do not utter the prescribed Svaaha, the offerings cannot reach the gods. Svaaha and Svadha are words which invoke the respective deities. They are Mantras, which awake and alert the Divine. The Rig Veda declares, “Svaaha Stomasya Varchasa”. Svaaha has two meanings: (1) the offering made with the utterance of that Mantra, and (2) the Vedic statement which conveys praise or glorification. Whether one of the meanings is preferred or both are adopted, the gods are pleased and they confer progress on the person, who pronounces the Mantras – Svaaha or Svadha.

Sadhaka: Confer progress on the adorer! What does that mean?

Sai: As a consequence of the praise, conveyed through words bearing the impress of the Vedas, the person is blessed with various progressive qualities and opportunities to achieve excellence.

Sadhaka: I would like to know some examples where the Mantra “Svaaha” is used in the Vedas to convey its traditional meaning.

Sai: Keshavaya Svaaha; Pranaya Svaaha; Indraya Svaaha. These are some examples. Here, the meaning of the Mantra is: Svaahutam Astu, Suhutam Astu. May it be Svaahutam. May it be Suhutam.

Sadhaka: What do those two words, Svaahutam and Suhutam, mean?

Sai: They mean, “May the offering made be well burnt”, that is to say, well digested.

Sadhaka: Swami! That raises a doubt in me. Whatever thing is dropped into fire gets burnt totally, even when no Mantra is uttered by us. This is the general experience. So, what is the special process that takes place when Svaaha is uttered?

Sai: “Svaahutam” does not indicate the mere burning out or the total consumption of the offering placed in the fire.



BHAGAVAN'S VISHU AND TAMIL NEW YEAR MESSAGE

REDEEM YOUR LIFE BY NAMASMARANA

"From this New Year Day onward, contemplate on the sacred ideals demonstrated by the men and women of the Ramayana and follow in their footsteps. You should attain happiness and share it with others. Uphold the good reputation of Bharat. Develop the feeling of nationality. Never forget your motherland," said Bhagavan in His Tamil New Year and Vishu Message on 14th April 2002.

BHARAT IS THE LAND OF UNITY AND DIVINITY

IN THIS LAND OF BHARAT (India), there are many noble mothers like Sumitra and virtuous wives like Urmila. Since ancient times, Bharat has attained great reputation because of such noble women. In the northern side of Bharat, we have the Himalayan mountains as the boundary. This land is sanctified by the perennial rivers – Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. These three symbolise the triad of Bhakti, Jnana and Vairagya (devotion, wisdom and renunciation). Not merely this, the great epics of this land, the Ramayana, the Bhagavata and the Mahabharata shine as beacons illumining the path of man. They teach how man should mould his life into an ideal one.

Bliss is in you, with you

This land is the birthplace of sacred scriptures like the Bhagavadgita, which gave the message of unity to mankind. This land has given birth to noble souls like Buddha, who propagated the message of non-violence. He



taught *Ahimsa Paramo Dharma* (non-violence is the supreme Dharma). The syllable 'Bha' stands for light, radiance and effulgence. So, Bharatiyas (Indians) are those who aspire for light and divine effulgence. Hence, you should live up to your reputation as Bharatiyas by making your lives sacred and attain divinity. When you make an enquiry into the sacred history of Bharat, you will know that since ancient times this country has propagated the sacred message of divinity and conferred peace and security on other nations.

No individual or wealth can confer eternal bliss on you. Bliss originates from your heart. So, turn your vision inward. *Antarbahischa Tatsarvam Vyapya Narayana Sthita* (That all-pervasive God is present within and without). When you develop inner vision, you will automatically experience eternal bliss. Man is Ananda Pipasi (one who aspires to attain bliss). He need not go in search of bliss. It is in him and with him. Happiness is not related to the body.

This body is a den of dirt, and prone to diseases; it is subject to change from time to time; it cannot cross the ocean of Samsara (worldliness). It is nothing but a structure of bones. Oh mind! Do not be under the delusion that body is permanent. Instead take refuge at the Divine Lotus Feet. (Telugu Poem)

How can such a body give you eternal happiness? Only the Lotus Feet of the Lord can grant you true happiness. There is no devotion and sense of surrender among Bharatiyas today. People are deluded by the worldly, physical and ephemeral things. Are they able to derive any happiness out of these? Nothing whatsoever. The darkness of ignorance is the root cause of man's delusion. How can you understand

the Sattwic (serenity) principle when you are immersed in Tamo Guna (sloth)?

Uphold the Ancient Glory of Bharat

You should never forget the sacred history of Bharat. Don't brush it aside saying it is rather old. It is not easy to understand the subtle principles contained in our history. You might have gone through the Ramayana many times, but have you understood the nobility of Sumitra and sacredness of Urmila? Today, people remember the names of Kaikeyi and Manthara but not the name of Urmila, who demonstrated sacred ideals. She remained in the same room where she was when Lakshmana left for the forest for fourteen long years, until he returned. She never had any worldly desires. Being the daughter of King Janaka, she had no body attachment. King Janaka was known as Videha, one without body attachment. When you enquire deeply, you will know that there are many hidden secrets in the Ramayana. But the Bharatiyas themselves are not making any effort to understand them. Once a person, after listening to many discourses on the Ramayana, was asked to tell the name of Rama's consort. He replied, "Mrs. Rama", since he did not remember her name. Such is the sorry state of affairs. Bharatiyas are leading a life of ignorance. They are ignoring their ancient culture and are being carried away by modernism.

You have only one friend, and He is God. There is only one sacred text, and that is the ancient history of India. You have to study this sacred text; don't spoil your mind by reading meaningless novels. He who has purified his heart alone can inculcate sacred feelings.

Today you are celebrating the commencement of the New Year. But, in



fact, you should treat every second as the beginning of a New Year. Many people are worried as to what changes the New Year will bring in the social, political and economic fields. But no changes will take place. Any change, if it were to take place, will not wait for the arrival of the New Year. In fact, many changes are taking place from moment to moment. You may wonder as to what are the big changes that would take place in this New Year. Whatever happened in the previous year would take place this year also. One need not be concerned about these things. You should be concerned that there is no transformation in your heart, although years are rolling by. You have to get rid of evil tendencies in your thoughts, words and deeds. You should celebrate the arrival of New Year with noble and divine feelings. You should experience bliss by visualising the unmanifest Atmic principle in this visible world.

From this New Year Day onward, contemplate on the sacred ideals demonstrated by the men and women of the Ramayana and follow in their footsteps. You should attain happiness and share it with others. Uphold the good reputation of Bharat. Develop the feeling of nationality. Never forget your motherland. If someone were to ask you as to who you are, you need not say, I am Ramaiah, Krishnaiah, etc. You should proudly proclaim that you are a Bharatiya. Ramaiah and Krishnaiah are Pettinna Perlu (names given to the body), whereas Bharatiya is your Puttina Peru (the name you acquired by birth). Who is a Bharatiya? Bharatiya is one who has intense love for God. Bharat is the centre of peace and security. That which is not present in Bharat is not present anywhere else in the world. No other country has attained such a noble reputation as

Bharat. The glory of this country has to be upheld.

Understand the Inner Meaning of Celebrating New Year Day

Follow the teachings of the Ramayana and make your lives sacred. This sacred epic has a great message to convey. Many histories could not stand the test of time, but the Ramayana, though thousands of years have passed, continues to remain ever fresh in the minds of people. The name Rama was given by Sage Vasishtha. When you utter the word 'Ram', you first open the mouth with the sound 'Ra'. All your wicked qualities go out when your mouth is open. When you utter 'M' by closing the mouth, the entry is barred against wicked qualities that have gone out. This is the inner meaning of chanting the Name of Rama. On this New Year Day, you have learnt many new things. Sanctify your lives by putting into practice whatever you have learnt.

(Here Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ..." After this, Bhagavan added):

Embodiments of Love!

Yesterday happened to be the Telugu New Year Day, Ugadi. Today, we are celebrating Tamil New Year Day and also the Malayalam New Year Day, Vishu. The names are different but the inner significance is one and the same. Celebration of a festival does not merely mean getting up early in the morning, having a sacred bath, wearing new clothes, partaking of sweet dishes, etc. When you understand their inner significance, you will have celebrated the festivals in their true sense.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan's Vishu and Tamil New Year Discourse on 14th April 2002 at Brindavan, Bengaluru.





MESSAGE FROM
SRI R.J. RATHNAKAR,
MANAGING TRUSTEE,
SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST



Effulgence of Divine Glory

THE BLISS OF BHAGAVAN'S PRESENCE

M.K. Kaw

MY FIRST DARSHAN OF Bhagavan Baba took place in 1973, when I was Deputy Commissioner of Solan district in Himachal Pradesh. Baba was en route from Chandigarh to Shimla and was passing through Solan town. The local devotees were electrified into activity and organised an impromptu halt for Him. The S.P. (Superintendent of Police) and I stood at the main crossing to ensure that Baba was not mobbed.

Soon, the cavalcade arrived. The car was a white Ambassador and Baba was seated in the middle of the back seat, with one person on either side. Devotees surrounded the car and tried to persuade Baba to descend for a few minutes. Baba finally relented and stood briefly in the car itself with the door open, so that people could have His Darshan. Before the devotees could realise what had happened, Baba had gone inside, the door closed and the car raced away towards Shimla.

A Special Blessing for my Son

We were all disappointed, especially my wife, as she was in the Bhajan group a few yards away and had not even got a fleeting glimpse of the Avatar. When we reached home, another story unfolded itself. My police orderly had picked up Anurag (my one-year old son) in his arms and was standing by the roadside. Swami's car stopped there; He came out

and placed His hand on the child's head to bless him.

That was the beginning of a series of miracles with special focus on this child. All along, one could sense the active interest Baba took in his welfare, education, health, marriage and so on, till this day. Anurag also has a special love for Swami and wherever he goes he is soon discovered as a natural leader of the local Bhajan Mandali.

God Gives Concentration

Anurag is a wonderful person. His sole problem used to be a disinclination to study. In Shimla, we would often see him looking at the deodars outside for hours, attention not at all on the open book before him. In 1988, my wife complained to Swami, "Baba! Please do something to tighten his concentration". Swami said: "Why can't he remember? He remembers film songs all night. There is nothing wrong with his brain. He does not pay attention. That is all". Anurag took the hint. Today (November 2001), he is studying for the M.Ch. programme in Cardiac Surgery.

Baba gives much practical advice to each member of the family. When my mother once threatened to come and live in the Ashram, He said, "No need to come here, Amma. Your duty is to serve your husband. Do that". And she did it till the day my father died.



How the Divine Works

I would like to narrate a few miraculous events, which took place in my own experience. One evening, I was at the Delhi airport, waiting for a flight to Hyderabad. The flight had been delayed and I had a few hours to kill. After walking up and down for some time, I thought I would request for Baba's help.



The author with Bhagavan.

I sent an inward prayer to Swami, "Baba! Please create some drama. Let my waiting period be enlivened somehow". As I opened my eyes, I noticed a young man pushing a wheelchair, in which an old lady sat. He obviously had a problem. I saw him go from functionary to functionary, but no one seemed to be in a mood to help him. I decided to intervene. As he passed by, I called out, "Excuse me, sir! Do you have any problem"? He was obviously relieved. He was from Bulgaria. His mother had cancer. He had brought her to India for treatment. He found that the pedestal of the wheelchair had broken loose. Without it, his mother could not keep her feet on the pedestal as the wheelchair moved. He wanted someone to repair the pedestal.

Where would I find a repairman in the airport departure lounge? The problem seemed insoluble. I decided to try the constable in-charge of security, who was

X-raying the hand-baggage. 'No, sir', he said, "There is no such facility of repairs available in the airport".

I turned back. Suddenly, his companion who was looking at the incoming baggage shouted, 'Sir, wait!' I was tensed. What now? The cop held an offending piece of baggage that had crossed his X-ray screen. "What is this"? he demanded.

A meek looking person claimed ownership. "Please open the bag. Sir, we have to search it".

The man was puzzled, but complied. The bag was unzipped. From its entrails, the cop took out what looked like a tool-kit. "What is this?" he wanted to know. The man said, "It is my set of tools". "Does it belong to you?" the cop asked. "Yes," said the man. "Can you use these tools?" the cop enquired.

"Yes," said the man. "Can you set this wheelchair right?" asked the cop. Again the man said, "Yes", after looking at the pedestal in the young man's hand.

The man suited the action to the word and within a few minutes had set the wheelchair right. The cop gave him the bag and the man moved ahead. When I looked for him a few minutes later, he had vanished!

Meanwhile, the youth had struck a conversation with me. I wanted to know which doctor was going to treat his mother. "No, not a doctor," he said, "All doctors have said there is no treatment". "Then where are you going?" I asked. He said, he was looking for one Sathya Sai Baba.

I was intrigued. He was going to Sai. "Who is He?" I asked him, now enjoying the fun. "How did you come to know about Him?" He said, he had friends who had been to India. They said that Christ had



been reborn in India and He could heal incurable diseases. So, he had started for India. “Do you know where Baba lives?” I asked. “No,” he admitted, “But they said when you reach Hyderabad, someone will tell you”.

I looked in my purse. A few months back, Baba had in an interview given me one of His materialisations – a visiting card with His photograph and full address. It was a treasured possession, but did I need it? I decided to give the card to him. On the reverse, I wrote a letter to a friend, “If you are in Puttaparthi, do guide this gentleman”.

A man standing next to me whipped out a railway time-table. “You will get a train for Puttaparthi at such and such time tomorrow afternoon,” he volunteered and wrote out the details on a piece of paper for him. Another man asked, “Where are you staying?” “I have no place,” the young man admitted. The man said he knew a good hotel, reasonably priced, located near the railway station. “And as I am passing that way, I can give you and your mother a lift up to the hotel.”

Our flight was announced and left some minutes thereafter. Later, I learnt from my friend that the Bulgarian had been given an interview by Swami, and the mother’s cancer was cured.

Overwhelming Omniscience

A dramatic instance of Baba’s omniscience was exhibited one day, when in a long interview with Him we had exhausted all the family subjects. As Baba showed no impatience, our courage grew. My mother said, “Baba, there is a neighbour of ours. He has got paralysis recently”... Before she could finish, Baba said, “Yes, Amma. A sad case. He lost his young son

when he was only 25. The trauma was so much, he developed hypertension. He has had a paralytic attack, but he will recover. Only his right leg and hand will remain affected for life”.

I asked, “Swami, Mr. X has been diagnosed for cancer of the prostate”. “Yes,” said Baba, “They operated upon him but the cancer was discovered too late. They have removed the cancer, but the roots are still there. I will give Vibhuti”...

Then I said, “Mr. Y is embroiled in a litigation”. “Why are you pleading for him?” Baba replied, “If he had not been a fool, he would not have got involved with that lady. He has only himself to blame. Anyway, let him not worry. Nothing will come out of the case”. A remarkable illustration of instant communication and divine intercession in three unconnected cases of strangers!

Further Life for my Father

Let me now narrate the story of my father’s illness in 1976, which really brought us into intimate contact with the Sai miracle for the first time. My father had jaundice which had been diagnosed as infective hepatitis and treated as such by very good physicians in Delhi. His doctor declared that he was cured and could travel to Dharamshala, where I was posted then as Deputy Commissioner.

Hardly had a month passed, when suddenly Papaji (affectionate name for father) developed high fever with severe rigour. His temperature shot up to 105° and he shivered so much that we were frightened out of our wits. The local doctors first thought it was malaria, then viral fever, and finally, some unknown dreaded disease which they would not name. One day, Dr. Jha, the Chief Medical



Officer took me aside and said, "I strongly advise you to remove your father to Delhi at once. After three days, you may not be in a position to shift him, even if you wish to".

Overnight, all arrangements were made. We rushed by ambulance to Pathankot, boarded the train and were received with an ambulance at the railway station, Delhi. Papaji was admitted at once to the AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) where the doctors struggled with his daily rises and falls of temperature.

On the third day, the doctors held a conference. I was told, "Your father has hepatitis. We suspect it is obstructive hepatitis. If we operate on him, his chances are 2%. If we don't, he will move into an irreversible coma. Please decide".

Naturally, I chose surgery. We prayed to Lord Sai day and night. When he was taken to the OT, Sri Chaman Lal smeared some Vibhuti on his forehead. The operation was successful. Five minutes later, he had cardiac arrest. He was revived. He had respiratory failure and was put on a ventilator. He had black motions. His kidneys stopped.

One by one, all his systems collapsed and came back. Doctors said he might

survive, but he would be an invalid all his life. Two months later, he was attending office! He lived a near normal life, except for the usual symptoms of old age, for another 25 years.

My mother had promised herself that if Papaji came out of the ordeal alive, she would take him to Baba at Puttaparthi. What with one thing or another, the visit kept on getting postponed. In 1988, we finally went to Puttaparthi. As soon as Swami saw my mother, He exclaimed, "At last, you have come. For years you had the desire to bring father here. Now you have made it! How is he now"?, thus confirming that it was indeed He who had answered my mother's prayers in 1976.

Bhagavan is today the focal point of our family. His portrait adorns every room. He is the central topic of our spiritual discussions. He is the resident of our hearts.

(Courtesy: 'Sai Prem', Mathrubhumi's supplement in 2001.)

– The author held prestigious positions in State and Central Government. He retired as Secretary, Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India.

Indian culture is like pure gold, but such a precious culture is being ignored today. People do not respect their parents and elders. They have forgotten the sacred values of love and humility. They give importance to only worldly education and material possessions. These will be with you so long as you are alive. When you leave the body what follows you is only Samskara (inherent tendency) and not Samsara (worldliness). But you ignore Samskara and get caught up in Samsara and suffer from lack of peace.

– Baba



ASK ONLY FOR GOD AND GOD ALONE

TRIBHUVAN SACHDEVA

WHenever we have a choice, Swami says that we should not ask for trinkets, or any small things of the world. If we need to really ask something in our prayers, we should ask only for Bhagavan!

And brothers and sisters, believe me, Swami said about this (prayer) in September 1979. And from that day, till today, I have not asked Bhagavan anything related to this world. Earlier, I used to ask for Vidya (knowledge) and Sadbuddhi (good sense), and Swami taught me a lesson on that day. After that day, I have not asked anything related to this world. And whenever I have asked, I have always asked for Bhagavan! And the Lord has responded by showering His blessings in abundance, so much so that even we may not be able to hold it in our tiny hands! This is one experience, which unless a person experiences in his life, it cannot be realised.

Teaching through Pain and Suffering

After passing my B.Com. (Bachelor in Commerce), there was a gap in between before I could join M.Com. (Master in Commerce). My admission for M.Com, had not taken place for some technical reasons. I was staying at Prasanthi Nilayam attending Bhajans and singing Bhajans morning and evening, having great Darshans, and enjoying life and not

going to college or hostel. The hostel boys could have Darshan only in the evening, whereas I was having Darshans morning and afternoon, and it was great fun being in Swami's eyes everyday.

So, one fine day Swami decided that He has to teach me a lesson on something. He stopped talking to me. Now all those of us who have been ardent devotees of Bhagavan know what a painful experience it is when Swami refuses to recognise you. He sees through you, He talks to the person next to you on both the sides, and also people around you, but He does not recognise you, does not look at you, He does not talk to you! He will ask all questions to everyone around you, about you also, but will not look at you. And what was that? That is the time when one needs to go into Atmanireekshan (self-introspection). One has to go within and understand why Swami was putting him into this treatment. Why is Bhagavan not talking to me? It so happened that it was that phase. After a month or so, I was sitting there singing Bhajans, but Swami had stopped talking to me. And I was trying my level best to draw Swami's attention asking myself, "Where am I going wrong, what am I doing wrong? Why is Bhagavan not responding to me, why is Bhagavan not talking to me?" I would keep on trying, but for Swami I was invisible, and He would look through me. Even if I sat in the front row, He would not talk to the boys sitting with me, lest He should come closer to me, and I might take His Padanamaskar! He was avoiding me purposely. And I kept praying for Bhagavan; I kept on praying but Swami would not respond. Then one



morning, Swami announced, “We have started a school in Bukkapatnam. And I would want some handpicked boys to come upstairs in the afternoon. We will take some dresses, some clothes, some books, some stationery, and give to all the children in that village school”. This school at Bukkapatnam was started by the Central Trust way back in 1983, I think. And then Swami went around picking up some boys saying, “Yes, you come, you come...” And I was sitting and kept on praying to Swami and would stretch my neck and change my position so that Swami would notice me. But Swami refused to notice me. He took about fifteen boys, and my name was not there! And, in fact, the idea of Swami calling you upstairs in the afternoon in the sanctum sanctorum, the place Swami lives, I mean imagine what kind of luck you should have, to go up there!

Swami would be sitting and directing – put this bundle here, put this bundle there, etc. Not that there was big work there, it was just that Swami would give an opportunity to share that bliss, and that joy of being in His proximity! So, that morning when Bhajans got over, I was so crestfallen, I was so dejected, I was so hurt. I kept on saying, “How can You do this? I am trying to do my best in whatever way I can. You are not talking to me, You are not looking at me, You are not doing anything. Swami, please respond, Swami, please respond, Swami, please respond”!

The Example of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

And then I was reminded of something. We had done a play on the life of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa there. And Swami had told me personally, “Do you know how you must crave for God”? When



those rehearsal sessions used to take place, Swami used to sit on that chair (to watch the rehearsals), and He used to tell us. There was one scene in which I was (acting as) Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, so I had to pray to Mother Kali and cry out, “Maa (Mother), why don’t You reveal Yourself to me? Why don’t you give Darshan? There are other devotees whom you gave Darshan, but why haven’t you given Darshan to me”? So, I had to plead from my heart. But Swami said, “No. Not acting, you must feel that pain in your heart. You know how much that pain should emerge? As if you have been separated, something has been taken away”. I still probably could not come up to Bhagavan’s expectations. I said, “Swami, how do we feel that pain”? Then Swami gave an example. He made us sit down. Once all the boys were there,



then Swami said, "One day Ramakrishna Paramahansa was talking the same thing to Swami Vivekananda, and Vivekananda asked this question: how should we miss God in our lives? See, when our child goes away, do we miss the child? We miss our children when they go away for studies, or when we get them married. When a daughter is getting married, invariably we have tears in our eyes. Don't we miss our loved ones? But do we ever miss God? Do we ever cry for God?" So, we replied, "No, Swami, we do not cry for God". He said, "You must cry for God. And you know what Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to say? He said your pain should be like when a child is born to a mother, and after the mother has breast-fed the child for three or four days, the child is taken away from the mother. How would the mother miss the child? How she would pray to God to get the child back? This is how it must pain in your heart". And coming closer to the boys, He said, "If you get married, and after two days of your marriage, the wife goes away to the mother's place, how would you miss your wife? You must miss your God like that. That's the kind of pain it must cause in your heart".

So, I heard all that and I realised (and said to myself), "Swami, I think You are testing me. I am missing You sure enough, but the pain is not there. I must create that thing and Swami You must do something". And trust me I was crestfallen, I was broken, I felt my whole life had come to an end with Bhagavan not talking to me. At that time, I was a small child, and was unable to understand that this was one way of Swami giving me maturity and making me understand, and also revealing Himself.

When you Ask only for God, He will Come Running

I kept on crying after the Bhajan got over. Without speaking a word, I went inside my room, I closed my door, and sat down on my bed and I wept like a child! I cried out, "Why, Bhagavan, why? Why are You not talking to me? Where am I falling short? Why are You not calling me? If I am falling short in something, then please correct me, Bhagavan"! And before long I realised, I was crying for Bhagavan like a baby would do, and I was rolling on the floor. And I said, "Swami, You had told me that if I cry like Ramakrishna Paramahansa, You will come Yourself. But Swami, if You don't come today, that means whatever You have told is wrong and everything I have heard is wrong! Because today, I cannot miss anybody else in my life and if You don't come and knock at my door right away and right now, Swami, I am even willing to give up my life for You, but I want You, Swami". And I wanted Swami so badly that I was crying with tears rolling down my eyes. I was like a mad man, literally like a mad person.

And suddenly, there was a knock on my door. Oh my God! I felt Bhagavan had come! But then I thought, Swami had already gone upstairs, how can He come down now? I immediately wiped my tears, and it took me almost five minutes to come back to normalcy. As I opened the door, I found Sri Chiranjeevi Rao standing there. What an anticlimax if you look at it. I expected Bhagavan to be there. Trust me, I thought it was Bhagavan. And I saw Chiranjeevi Rao standing there. And he asked, "Are you Tribhuvan Sachdeva"? I said, "Yes, sir". He continued, "Is everything ok with you"? Because he saw my eyes were bloodshot,



I was still crying, and I was looking like a mad person with my hair probably (that time I had hair) all dishevelled. I said, "Yes, sir. I am ok". He said, "I don't know, Swami was giving instructions to me on that village; suddenly He told me to rush immediately. Swami said: You go to the old hostel, one boy named Tribhuvan Sachdeva will be there. Just tell him to be ready at 1.30 p.m. or 2.00 o'clock. He should come up to Swami's room. I forgot to tell him, and so he is there in the room waiting for that call". So, I (Sri Chiranjeevi Rao) said, "Swami, when I go on my way, I will tell". Swami responded, "No, no, no, I will give you instructions later; you go now, you go now". Swami literally threw him out from there, and so Chiranjeevi Rao came and knocked at my door, and I opened and I found him there. He said, "I hope everything is ok with you, because Swami sent me very urgently". So, I again started crying and spoke out, "What is this, I cried for You and You actually sent...", and then I looked at him. He would have thought that this fellow was a Pichivaadu (madcap). He was a man of few words in any case, and he turned back and left.

I closed the door and again started crying; now there were tears of gratitude in my eyes. I was saying (within myself), "Swami, all what You told was right, all what You said was correct. For the first time in my life, I wept for You, I craved for You, and I had said, Swami, If You are really God, You will come today. Swami, You did not come, but You sent Your messenger, and You told me and made me understand that my prayers were reaching You, and if it is hurting me in my heart, it is hurting You because You made him (Sri Chiranjeevi Rao) leave everything and come". And

while I was thanking Swami and tears were still flowing down my eyes, again there was a knock! I wondered now who is this? This time, I opened, and there was Engineer Jayakumar standing there. He said that when Chiranjeevi Rao returned, Swami asked him instantly, "Did you give him the message"? He said, "Yes, Swami, I gave the message". Swami further enquired, "What did Tribhuvan have to say"? Chiranjeevi Rao said, "He just said that he will come". And, after giving a few instructions to Chiranjeevi Rao, Swami again told me (Jayakumar), "Aye, you go. He is still there waiting for a call. Go and tell him everything is fine. Swami is calling him in the afternoon, don't worry. Everything was fine. Just go and tell". So, he came again, and informed me that Swami was telling that everything is fine, and not to worry. And then he asked me, "Is everything alright? Is there a problem in the family"? I said, "No". He saw me crying and was wondering that this guy seems to be a sane guy, then why is he crying like a baby? And, Swami was so concerned, that He was sending people again and again one after the other!

That day I realised that whatever Bhagavan says has a meaning. He says, you take one step towards Me, and I take ten steps towards you. That was the idea that struck me, that it is easy to convince Bhagavan. You have to crave for Him. You have to pray to Him. You have to literally ask for Him and Him alone! And when you do that, He comes running like He did for Sudama, like He did for Draupadi, like He did for Arjuna, like He did for everyone! And that afternoon, with a lot of guilt in my heart, I wore my best white shirt and best white trousers, and I went there. I went



there happily putting clothes here and there, making stacks, and suddenly I find two little feet coming to me and that orange robe, right in front of my eyes! And I did not lift my head up because I was guilty and (said within myself), "Swami, I cried so much and troubled You so much, and You had to send two messengers"! And Swami looked at me, with both His hands folded at the back, and in that pose of His, He just raised His eyebrows and just said, "Hmm". And I just looked at Swami not knowing what to say. He said, "Hysteria, hysteria. Full hysteria"! That is what He said, and I just looked at Swami, and then He patted me and said, "Love, Love, not hysteria". Oh! I understood what Swami meant. No one else understood what was happening.

Someone said, "Did you write a letter to Swami! Did you say something"? Now how could I say that I behaved so foolishly – like Ramakrishna did before the Mother, I did before my Sai Mother. I cried for Him, I prayed for Him, I shouted for Him, I was literally rolling on the floor, then what more can I ask from God? And then, when He promised 'Whatever you ask, I am going to give you'!

(Courtesy: "Sri Sathya Sai Bhagawatham, Volume 1)

– From the Samarpan talk of Sri Tribhuvan Sachdeva, an alumnus and former faculty of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, delivered by him at Dharmakshetra, Mumbai.

Your steps should be in the direction of what is good. What is good? The steps should lead upwards spiritually. So, if you ascend ten steps, I shall help you to climb a hundred steps. You should move in the right direction, not the wrong one. To the extent you yearn and pine for God, God will pine for you a thousand fold. You can have no conception of God's concern. Your pining is "Tamas" (sloth). God's pining is Tapas (penance) The difference between the two should be understood.

– Baba



Dr. C.K. Reddy

EXPERIENCES OF BHAGAVAN'S DIVINITY

I FIRST MET BHAGAVAN BABA IN the summer of 1967 at Horsley Hills, a small hill station near Puttaparthi, where I was working in a small clinic. The clinic at Horsley Hills closed and very soon I got an MD seat in the Christian Medical College, Vellore.

Rescue in a Dire Situation

After my MD, I went to Kuwait as I had been selected by the Government of Kuwait as a permanent staff. While I was working there, Iraq invaded Kuwait and the Gulf War broke out. There was a mad rush by the expatriates to leave the country. All flights were booked, but I somehow happened to get the last ticket on the last flight that was leaving for India. I profusely thanked Swami for that. But Swami's Leela was to play out further. As I made my way to the flight on the tarmac, a burly Iraqi soldier held my hand tightly. He took my passport and threw it on the tarmac and was in no mood to allow me to leave. My jaw dropped as I saw the last of the passengers board the flight while the vice-like grip of the Iraqi soldier on my hand stayed. I fervently prayed to Swami. Suddenly, there was commotion and I understood that the Iraqis had got information that the US army had started attacking the Iraqi positions in the city. Hearing the news, the soldier let my hand go and rushed inside the airport, while I picked up the passport and rushed to the flight. There was only one seat available on the flight and I took that seat. Later, I

came to know that the news about the US attack at that time was a false alarm. It was Swami who created the confusion so that I could leave Kuwait safely. I returned to India and went to Prasanthi Nilayam to have Swami's Darshan. It is vain to express our gratitude to Swami in words. We just bow to Him in silence.

Why Do you Fear When I am Here?

After working for some years in India, I got an appointment in Saudi Arabia, without actually applying for it! But I had to return to India some time later as my son, who was in third year of Medicine, went into deep depression and became extremely irritable. All the psychiatrists



we visited suggested deep sedation as the only solution. I knew only our Dearest Swami could help us. So, I left my job and came to Prasanthi Nilayam. I came to know that there was a vacancy for the post of Consultant in the Radiology Department of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram. I applied and Swami gave me the job. A few days later, Swami gave me and my wife a personal interview. We told Swami about our son's health, to which He graciously replied, patting me on my back, "When I am here, why do you fear"?

Then onwards, the whole family would come for Darshan of Swami everyday.



Soon we realised that all the symptoms of depression that were plaguing my son started disappearing. And after a while, he became perfectly healthy. Swami cured my son by His Darshan. Swami says, "Do not try to understand Me, you cannot, just enjoy My grace". Yes. But suffice for us to understand that Swami is God.

Witnessing Swami's Divine Aura

During Darshans, I had so many wonderful experiences. As soon as Swami entered Sai Kulwant Hall from the west gate each morning, I used to see an aura around His head which was brighter than the sun! The first few days, I saw it only around His head. Later, I started seeing it from Bhagavan's head to toe as He was walking. I felt I was in heaven. I started going very early in the morning each day to the Mandir to wait for Bhagavan's Darshan with that aura. One day, I saw Bhagavan walking and the aura took the shape of Lord Siva. Bhagavan was smiling as always. He came to me, stopped for a moment, blessed me with Padanamaskar and moved on. I have no words to describe the happiness I felt at that moment. Another day, I saw Bhagavan just entering Sai Kulwant Hall at Darshan time in the morning with a huge aura in the form of Shirdi Baba, and the aura was fading as He came towards us. I did not like the shape to disappear as He came near me. Bhagavan Baba came to me after going around and stood before me. I prayed to His Lotus Feet and He went ahead. I did not have anything on my mind except Bhagavan Baba. The love of Bhagavan Baba is so much that I have no words to mention. He showered so much of His grace on me that I totally forgot all my physical, mental and worldly troubles.

As days passed by, I could not withstand physical separation from Him for even a single day.

Boon of Happy Healthy Life

After my retirement, I went to Mumbai on a personal work. There I was diagnosed with heart problem. I flew down to Puttaparthi and my friend and colleague Dr. Selvarajah of Radiology Department, SSSIHMS received me at the airport and before taking to the Cardiology Department of SSSIHMS, decided that we both should first have Swami's Darshan. Bhagavan came to me, but I did not tell Him anything about what had happened in Mumbai. I merely prayed for His blessings. He put His right hand on my head and blessed me saying, "Happy, healthy, long life". That was it. Later, various tests were performed at the Cardiology Department of Swami's hospital in Puttaparthi, but no heart disease was found! A few days later after curing my heart, Bhagavan asked me to go to Saudi Arabia for a job. I prayed to Swami fervently to keep me at His Lotus Feet until my last breath. He said "Manchidi" meaning 'Ok'. Later, I was appointed as an honorary Senior Consultant and I am continuing to work up till now in the Radiology Department.

To conclude I wish to say, we all who are connected to Swami are the most fortunate and blessed people in the world. Let us keep this opportunity close to our heart and re-dedicate ourselves to Swami's work.

– The author is serving as honorary Senior Consultant in the Radiology Department of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi.

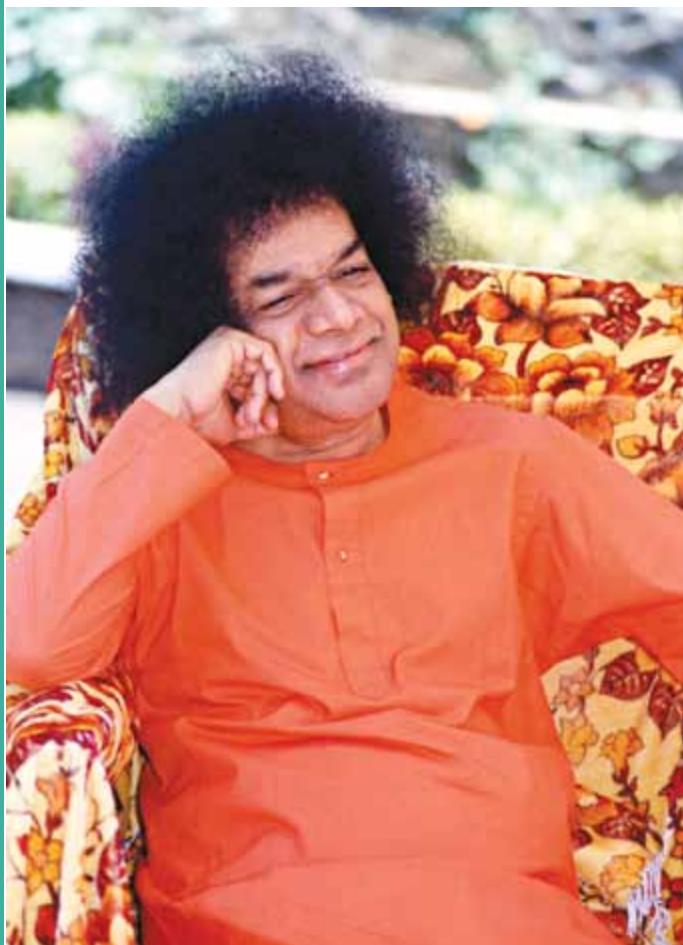


BHAGAVAN'S SRI RAMA NAVAMI MESSAGE

IMPRINT RAMA'S NAME ON YOUR HEART

"Only chanting of the Divine Name can protect you. Money and power are like passing clouds. Don't clamour for them. One may join politics and attain some position of authority, but how long can one remain in power? Any moment, one may be dislodged from power. One should not get carried away by politics; instead one should take refuge in the Divine Name. He alone is truly blessed and meritorious whose heart is filled with the Divine Name," said Bhagavan in His Sri Rama Navami Discourse on 21st April 2002....

ALWAYS CHANT THE DIVINE NAME



THERE IS NO AMRITA (ambrosia) greater than Rama's Name. Today, people have forgotten Nama Chintana (contemplation on the Divine Name). They repeat the names of cinemas, but they don't repeat God's Name. That is why the country is facing hardships. The educated, intellectuals and scientists don't think of God at all. Some people deem it below their dignity to apply Vibhuti on their forehead. They have it on their forehead when they are at home and rub it off the moment they step outside. This has become a fashion! Why should one be afraid of chanting God's Name? Let people talk as they like. You don't need to be afraid. Spread the glory of Rama's Name in every nook and corner of the world. You can chant any Name of your choice – Rama, Krishna, Govinda, Siva, etc.

Since people have forgotten the Divine Name, every home is in turmoil. There are conflicts even



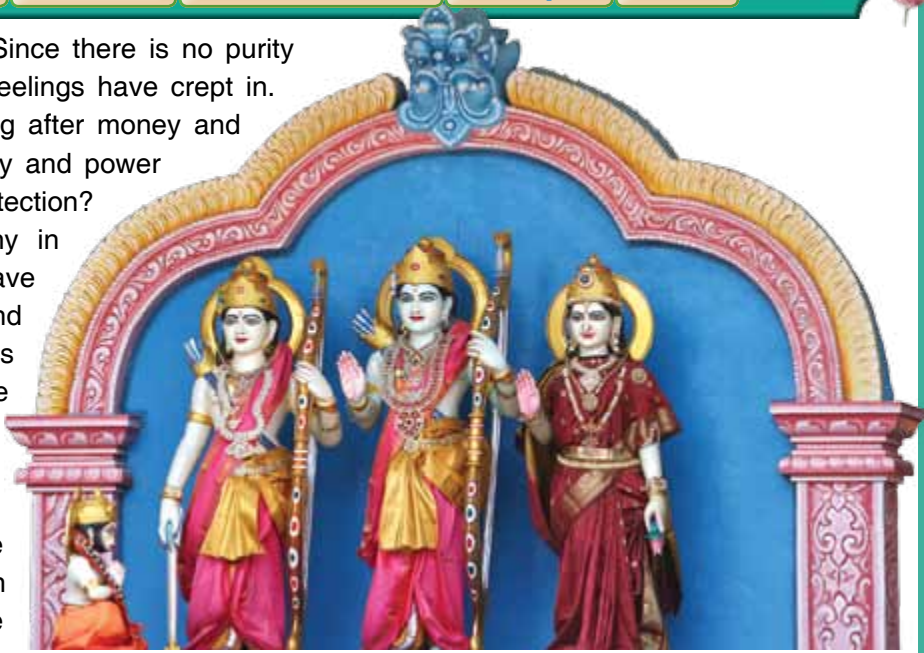
among brothers. Since there is no purity within, unsacred feelings have crept in. People are running after money and power. Can money and power give you protection? You find so many in this world who have plenty of money and occupy positions of authority. Are they able to enjoy peace and happiness? No, no. Only the Divine Name can grant you peace and happiness. One who neglects God's Name is bound to be ruined.

Sweeter than sugar, tastier than curd, sweeter indeed than honey is the Name of Rama. Constant repetition of this sweet Name gives one the taste of divine nectar itself. Therefore, one should contemplate on the Name of Rama incessantly. (Telugu Poem)

The letter 'Ma' is the life force of the Siva Panchakshari Mantra, Om Namah Sivaya. If 'Ma' is removed from this, it reads Na Sivaya, meaning inauspicious. Likewise, the letter 'Ra' is the life force of the Ashtakshari Mantra, Om Namo Narayanaya. The life force of the Panchakshari Mantra, 'Ma', and that of the Ashtakshari Mantra, 'Ra', together form the Divine Name Rama.

Students! Devotees!

Only chanting of the Divine Name can protect you. Money and power are like passing clouds. Don't



clamour for them. One may join politics and attain some position of authority, but how long can one remain in power? Any moment, one may be dislodged from power. One should not get carried away by politics; instead one should take refuge in the Divine Name. He alone is truly blessed and meritorious whose heart is filled with the Divine Name.

People who do not relish the Divine Name may make fun of you. Somebody may tell you there is no God. What should be your reply? "He may not exist for you but He exists for me. Who are you to deny the existence of my God?" No one has the right to deny God. Never forget the Divine Name, wherever you are and under any circumstances. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam* (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances contemplate on God). Imprint the Divine Name on your heart firmly and permanently.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan's Sri Rama Navami Discourse on 21st April 2002 at Brindavan, Bengaluru.



Chinna Katha

Recognise the Value of the Divine Name

HERE WAS ONCE A BOY WHO picked up a precious gem, bright and round, and used it for playing marbles on the road, with his comrades. A merchant dealing in precious stones chanced to pass along that road, and his discerning eye fell on the gem. He approached the boy, took him aside and offered to pay him fifty rupees in exchange. If the boy could know the value of fifty rupees, he would have known the value of the gem! He went to his mother and

those simple folks so that he could sell it at huge profit to some millionaire or Maharaja. He discovered the house of the boy and moved up and down that road hoping to see the boy. When he saw the boy playing with it as if it was as cheap as a marble, his heart was wrung in agony. He spoke to the boy asking for the gem in exchange for a hundred rupees, and again, for five hundred rupees! The boy ran into the house in tears, complaining about the stranger who would not let him alone. His mother came out into the garden and begged the merchant to go away.

The merchant grabbed the chance; he told the mother that he was ready to give one thousand rupees on the spot if the



"Mother, a stranger has offered to pay fifty rupees for the marble I played with".

told her that a stranger had tempted him with fifty rupees in return for the marble he played with. She was surprised that it was so costly and said, "Do not go out of the compound with it; play in the garden with your friends". When the value was revealed, limits were set.

The merchant had no sleep that night; he was planning to secure the gem from



"I am ready to give one thousand rupees on the spot if the marble is placed in my hand," said the merchant to the mother of the child.

continued on page 30...

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF ADILABAD DEVOTEES

SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA Organisation of Adilabad district of Telangana organised a three-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 29th February to 2nd March 2020, in which more than 3,000 devotees came to participate. Two excellent cultural programmes were performed on this occasion. The first programme was presented by the Bal Vikas children of this district on 29th February 2020, which showcased the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Bharat and its ancient glory beginning from the Vedas and Upanishads right up to the Advent of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The



The drama "Sanathana Bharati" portrayed the ancient glory of Bharat.

presentation entitled "Sanathana Bharati" (eternal glory of Bharat) in the form of a drama outlined the entire story of the glory of Bharat in all fields of knowledge through dialogues and dances of the children, songs of singers and folk art form Burra Katha, illustrated by brilliant multimedia support.

The second offering of the devotees of Adilabad was a drama "Ekam Sath



The story of Bhrgu in the drama "Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti".

Viprah Bahudha Vadanti" (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names), which was performed by Sai Youth of this district on 1st March 2020. The drama depicted various Upanishadic stories, such as those of Nachiketa, Bhrgu, Svetaketu to reveal the truth of oneness of God who is omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent. It also beautifully portrayed that this was the fundamental truth highlighted by the scriptures of all the different faiths. The drama concluded with a video clip of Bhagavan's Discourse which further authenticated the oneness of God and unity of mankind.

BHAGAVAN'S STATUE REINSTALLED IN BHAJAN MANDIR

The life-size bronze statue of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba earlier unveiled by Bhagavan Himself in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th July 2002 was reinstalled in the Bhajan Mandir on 5th



Bhagavan's statue reinstalled in the Bhajan Mandir.

March 2020. Before installation, the worship of the statue was performed by the Mandir priest amidst Veda chanting, Bhajans and auspicious Nadaswaram music by the groups of the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.

The statue which weighed about 160 kg was made by an Italian devotee Sri Mimmo Albergo who worked relentlessly for three years to offer it at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan on the sacred occasion of Guru Purnima, 2002. At the end of the unveiling ceremony, Bhagavan blessed the sculptor and materialised a gold chain for him. Later, the statue was first installed in the Bhajan Mandir and then shifted to Chaitanya Jyoti.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM BIHAR

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Bihar organised a two-day pilgrimage

... continued from page 28

marble was placed in his hand! On hearing this, she forbade the child to play with it outside the house; he could play only within the rooms. The merchant could not be shooed off like that. He appeared the next day in front of the house and held out ten thousand rupees as his offer for the marble. The mother refused to part with it but kept it now in an iron safe, under lock and key. When the merchant came the

of devotees from Bihar on 9th and 10th March 2020 and celebrated the sacred festival of Holi at Prasanthi Nilayam. On this occasion, Bal Vikas children of Bihar presented an elevating drama "Bhakta Sakha Bhagavan" (Bhagavan is the friend of His devotees) on 10th March 2020 which depicted how Lord Rama and Sita showered their grace on the innocent child Bhola and accepted food from him because he would not eat food



The drama "Bhakta Sakha Bhagavan" highlighted the truth that God is the friend of His devotees.

without offering to the Lord. Simple story, excellent make-up and costumes and good acting of the cast made the drama an impressive presentation.

next day with fifty thousand rupees, she took it to a bank and deposited it in their safety vault.

You are also playing marbles with the Name of God, unaware of its value. Once you realise its worth, you will keep it in your heart of hearts as the most precious treasure. Know that the Divine Name is the key to success in your search for consolation, confidence, courage, illumination and liberation.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

COLOMBIA

USME IS A SMALL, RURAL community located south of Bogotá, Colombia. For over four years, SSIO volunteers, along with the Art Circle of Life (Círculo Arte De La Vida) Foundation have lovingly served approximately 20 women and children of this community. The volunteers assist the women in taking care of the environment by practising sustainable development, reforesting streams, rivers, and water springs. Assistance is also



Helping the adopted community, Usme, Colombia.

provided in improving their organic crops and marketing the product. They also participate in workshops on Human Values. The SSIO has established a Sathya Sai Complementary School, serving around 30 children between the ages of 3 and 15 every Saturday. SSIO members directly work with the children, encouraging artistic activities such as theatre, dance and music. In addition, work is being done to improve the structure of the aqueducts

and the purification of the community's water supply, especially through the use of solar panels. A health camp was held in September 2019, where medical and psychological services and speech therapy were provided.

KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek is the capital and largest city of Kyrgyzstan. Every year, SSIO volunteers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by organising an interfaith meeting. Through his actions, Mahatma Gandhi showed that the most complex issues, including political matters, could be resolved by non-violence, resolute spirit and perseverance. On 2nd October 2019, nearly 70 representatives from various spiritual faiths, along with 4 SSIO representatives, came together to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The meeting began with talks about the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi and concluded with a concert filled



150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Kyrgyzstan.

with a repertoire of spiritual poems, Indian dances, songs and musical renderings on komuz and flute. The concert was attended by an honoured artist of Kyrgyzstan, Gulzada Ryskulova.

SRI LANKA

Torrential rainfall in December 2019 triggered widespread flooding in several villages in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, displacing more than 30,000 people. About 45 SSIO



Food provisions for flood victims, Sri Lanka.

volunteers in the eastern region of Sri Lanka, including 15 young adults, jumped into action to provide dry rations, candles, matches and clothes to 480 families in several villages, some of which had been previously adopted by the SSIO under Sri Sathya Sai Village Improvement Programme.

THAILAND

The Good Shepherd Sisters of Thailand is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life of the needy, regardless of their religious affiliation. It provides opportunities for women and young girls at risk and to break the unending cycle of poverty. More than 25 SSIO



Christmas celebrations with residents of Good Shepherds Sisters Home, Thailand.

volunteers, including SSE children, brought Christmas cheer to nearly 70 residents of the Good Shepherds Sisters Home. The celebration began with blissful prayers and devotional singing, followed by a joyful programme presented by the residents of the home and the SSE children. Everyone enjoyed a holiday meal of pizza, macaroni, French fries, cakes, Thai pudding and ice-cream. Volunteers also donated groceries to the establishment.

RUSSIA AND ADJOINING COUNTRIES

More than 900 people attended a series of public meetings in 46 cities across Zone 8 between 3rd and 20th November 2019. The meetings were held in offices and museums, motels and libraries, and various educational institutes. Sathya Sai Baba's teachings, including human values,



A public meeting on Bhagavan's teachings.

were introduced at these public events. Discussions about the spiritual and moral education of the younger generation were encouraged. The themes of the meeting included “Unity as a Spiritual Practice”, “Life in Harmony with Oneself” and “Ceiling on Desires”. Lessons were taught through films, presentations, games and other means.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

BHARAT

Jammu and Kashmir: Sri Sathya Sai Mandir built on the outskirts of Jammu was inaugurated amidst Veda chanting on 6th March 2020 by Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva



Inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Mandir, Jammu.

had visited Jammu and Kashmir two times in 1957 and 1980.

Sri Nimish Pandya made everyone chant full-throated Om Sai Ram thrice and congratulated the Sai Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir for coming up with such a beautiful building which will be temple for all faiths. He also spoke on the way forward for Jammu and Kashmir Sai Organisation with the help of neighbouring States like Punjab.

With Swami's grace, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of India and Sathya Sai International Organisation have been marching forward exactly in the way as Swami had willed, walking hand in hand, helping each other and following the teachings and footsteps of Swami.

Kerala: The State of Kerala witnessed the worst impact of incessant rains and fury of floods during August-September 2018, wherein a large number of houses were washed away. Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Kerala and Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala jointly are in the process of constructing 65 specially designed houses for the flood victims. In the first phase, 14 houses were completed and handed over to the families in a grand function held at Amayidanear Ambalappuzha Sreekrishna Temple in Alappuzha district on 19th December 2019.



Sri Sathya Sai Mandir, Jammu.

Organisation, in the presence of a large number of dignitaries and devotees.

Sri Rathnakar gifted the Sai Centre with Swami's robe from Prasanthi Nilayam. Paduka sent from Prasanthi Nilayam was already placed in the Mandir. Sri Rathnakar said that he was immensely thankful to Swami to witness the way this Mandir was constructed. He urged the management to focus on the improvement of manpower, Seva Dal, Bal Vikas programmes, women empowerment, medical camps, etc. It was recollected on this occasion that Swami



Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President of SSSSO and Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust handed over the keys of the houses to the beneficiaries in the presence of the State President of Kerala, Prof. Mukundan and many other dignitaries. The dignitaries



New houses to flood victims in Kerala.

visited all the houses, spent time with the beneficiaries, participated in the housewarming functions and extended their love, good wishes and prayers to each one of them. The inmates were overwhelmed by the selfless love and care shared by Swami's messengers and expressed their loving gratitude and regards to everyone. It was also decided to build seven Anganavadis in the flood-affected area.

On the way back from Alappuzha, the dignitaries inaugurated a Herbal Garden in Sri Sai Vidya Vihar, Aluva, a dream project of AIP, SSSSO, India. This is a garden of medicinal plants which will be given to the needy free of cost.

Odisha: Water is 'Elixir of Life'. Providing clean and safe drinking water to the needy in places which do not have access to the same is one of the flagship projects of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. Providing clean drinking water is one of the top needs for these villagers as it enhances their health and quality of life.

Keeping Swami's message in view, the SSSSO, Odisha has established 11 Nirmal

Jhar plants in Odisha which provide safe and potable drinking water to more than 16,000 villagers in remote areas. Once again SSSSO, Odisha decided to install such a plant in Jagatsinghpur district which is a coastal district where maximum people were facing acute difficulty in getting potable drinking water because of saline nature of ground water both in shallow and deeper conditions. After a preliminary survey, one such village named Pradhagheri of Ersama Block was selected where the villagers had to go for more than five km distance to collect non-saline water for drinking and other domestic purposes.

In this connection, a Grama Sabha was conducted on 8th December 2019 where the villagers agreed, cooperated and supported for the establishment of the plant. The water plant was inaugurated on 26th December 2019 amidst Vedic chants and Bhajans. Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President, Sri H. Srinivasulu, National Coordinator, Techno-Media Group, Sri Appa Rao, Sri Narayan Sar, State President, SSSSO Odisha and other dignitaries were present on this grand



Inauguration of a water plant in a village of Odisha.

occasion. While dedicating this project to the service of the villagers, Sri Nimish Pandya requested them to take care of the plant as it is the Prasadam for them from Beloved Swami.

SEARCHING THE TRUTH ... UNDERSTANDING TRUE LOVE*

Arthur Hillcoat

YOU SEE, THERE ARE TWO roles to play then – a role of understanding and living a godly life and allowing the body to play out its role. But people think that once you have

All is Imagination

What does Swami mean when He says: “All this is your own imagination!”? It’s hard. But you see, I always call it the waking dream. People say to me: “But it’s not a dream at all! It’s tough sometimes. And you have to suffer; and sometimes you go through a lot of pain; sometimes you get happiness; it’s the pleasure / pain principle all the time!”

My usual response to that is: “Isn’t it like that in the sleeping dream also”? I am sure we have all had a bad dream as we call it! If you had a bad dream when you are being chased by a lion and your little legs won’t move fast enough, and the lion is gaining; you know the fear is so great; it is a reality! You wake up with your heart pounding and you’re perspiring. And when you realise, you say: “Oh thank God, it was only a dream!” We’ve had that, you see! But then we think this one is real. The sleeping dream and the waking dream are only different in the fact that the waking dream seems longer.

The Body is beautiful; the love that comes is beautiful; and we love that Form. But we should also love the Formless and relate more to the Formless because that can be with you and is with you wherever you are in the world; it cannot be away from you, you see!



come to understand something, you have to give up your body or something! It’s not the case. What it brings is a greater life; a greater understanding and the joy of understanding this great hoax.

* *Continued from the previous issue.*

Heartfelt Call

I have called on Swami at times and I haven't had to shout. There was one time in 1986, when I woke at four o'clock in the morning with great pain across the chest and down both the arms. It was a frightening thing because it felt as if the body was going to explode and I would splatter all around the room; you know that sort of a feeling. So, we rang for a doctor. And while the doctor was coming, it grew worse.

I reached for Vibhuti, but the monkey mind was always there to challenge things. So, as I picked up this Vibhuti, the monkey mind said: "I wonder if this is as good as the real stuff". Because you see, this came out of a photo in Malaysia. But I continued to do what I was doing; regardless of the mind, and I put that in my mouth and boom! All pain stopped! Immediately! Totally gone!

The doctor arrived and asked: "So, who is the patient"? I said: "I am"! He said: "What's wrong"? I said: "I am okay". He said: "You wouldn't ring me at this hour in the morning unless you had a good reason; tell me about it". So, I explained it to him and he said: "You must go to the hospital immediately; you've had a massive heart attack"! And I said: "But I am okay"! He said: "I will not leave the house until you agree to go"! I said alright I'll get one of my

daughters to get me to go". And he said: "No, no! It must be in the heart ambulance"! So, I said alright. He left.

The heart ambulance arrived and they rushed in with their kickstart gear and everything else. And they said: "Who's the patient since I was walking around the house"? I said: "I am"! They dropped everything and actually picked me up and carried me to a chair! And while one was checking me out, the other one was trying to sell me a very bad programme: "No longer can you do the things that you used to do. Once this has happened to you, you must change your way of life. You've got to go very quietly now; be very careful"! So, I listened to them all the way to the hospital. When I got there; there was a young Chinese doctor – very nice young man – and he checked the ECG. He said: "Everything's alright. I can't find anything wrong".

So, you see Sai is there. Sai is within oneself. At least that which is expressing itself through Sai is within oneself. And if you ask with faith, the Lord will look after you.

– The author was the Chairman for Sathya Sai Council of Australia, and for many years he was in-charge of the Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Without character, wealth, education, social status, all these are of no avail. It is the fragrance of the flower; it gives value and worth. Poets, painters, artists and scientists may be great, all in their own field, but without character, they can have no standing in society.

– Baba

About Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust Publications Division

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

The Publications Division caters to:

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

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

Other Books By Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division (In English)

1. Sai Sathya Sakha
2. Summer Showers In Brindavan, 1972
3. Satyopanisad I
4. Satyopanisad II
5. Gurudev
6. Namasmara
7. Bhakthi And Health
8. Life Is Love, Enjoy It!
9. Life Is A Challenge, Meet It!
10. Life Is A Dream, Realize It!
11. Bhagawan And Bhakta
12. Body And Mind
13. My Dear Ones
14. Sevalad
15. Silence
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30. Life
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58. Gnyana Vahini
59. Geetha Vahini
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69. Chinna Katha Book-1
70. Chinna Katha Book-2
71. Chinna Katha Book-3
72. Living with God
73. Capturing Divinity
74. Full Flame 2 unconditional Love
75. Fragrance, A Tale of Love
76. Sai Nandana: 60th Birthday
77. Sai Nandana: 75th Birthday

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2. Upanishad Vahini
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A dance sequence in the presentation "Sanathana Bharati" showcasing the rich culture of Bharat.



A scene from the drama "Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti".



An elevating drama, "Bhakta Sakha Bhagavan" by the Bal Vikas children of Bihar.

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Maintain Balance in Nature

Today the world is losing its ecological balance as man, out of utter selfishness, is robbing the mother earth of her resources like coal, petroleum, iron, etc. As a result, we find earthquakes, floods and such other devastating natural calamities. Human life will find fulfilment only when ecological balance is maintained. Balance in human life and balance in Nature, both are equally important.

– Baba

