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# Sanathana Sarathi

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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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Cover Page Photograph: Hanuman Statue

"People get deluded when they look at the physical form of the Divine Incarnation with external vision and start comparing Him with themselves. They think, He is also a human being like us. This is how they get deluded. They make a fool of themselves by such delusion. He may have a physical form like you, eat like you, move about like you, but God is God. One who understands this truth is truly educated."



## CONTENTS

- 2 **Knowing the Self is Real Freedom**  
**Bhagavan's Discourse: 23rd August 1996**
- 10 **The President of India Visits Prasanthi Nilayam**  
**A Report**
- 11 **Develop Faith in God**  
**From our Archives**
- 13 **Rich Treasure of Memories of Beloved Swami, My God**  
**Balram Nichani**
- 16 **The Basic Message of Islam**  
**Maulana Wahiduddin Khan**
- 19 **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**  
**A Report**
- 22 **Students Corner**
- 24 **Near the World, Far from God**  
**Chinna Katha**
- 25 **News from Sai Centres**

*"Sanathana Sarathi" wishes  
devotees a holy and prosperous New Year*



AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:  
23RD AUGUST 1996

## KNOWING THE SELF IS REAL FREEDOM

*People strive to acquire education which will provide them livelihood, but they do not come forward to acquire education which will grant them liberation. How can such people realise Divinity? Listen, oh valiant sons of Bharat!*

(Telugu Poem)

### CONTROL OF VAGARIES OF THE MIND IS YOGA



VEN AS THEY START acquiring education, many students today are filled from top

to toe with evil qualities like ego, pomp and attachment. Not merely that, evil thoughts, evil intentions and evil notions develop in them fast like anthills.

*When you surrender to God completely, He will take you closer to Him the very next moment. God will then become closest to you. Though many sacred qualities are present in him, man is not aware of them. Therefore, man should have awareness of his sacred qualities and develop them. If any evil thoughts arise in him, he should at once discard them, saying, "These are not mine; these relate to animal qualities. I am a human being. I have come from God."*



## Evil Qualities Cover up Man's Divinity

There are sixteen evil qualities which make man forget his humanness. Eight of these evil traits are pride of wealth, physical strength, intelligence, youth, high education, position, clan and physical beauty. Besides, he is beset with six internal enemies, viz., Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy). With the addition of Rajo Guna (passion) and Thamo Guna (sloth), the number of evil qualities from which man suffers today becomes sixteen. As a result, the sixteen divine attributes present in him become invisible. God is the embodiment of sixteen Kalas (splendours). It is only when man gets rid of the sixteen evil traits will he shine forth with sixteen divine splendours. Desire, anger, greed, etc., are not human qualities; they are the qualities of animals and beasts. Truth, righteousness, forbearance, empathy and sacrifice are the true human qualities and values. But these human values have become invisible today because man gives room to animal qualities. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce human values in the present system of education.

Youth is temporary like passing clouds. How is it that young boys and girls forget the eternal divinity being enamoured of the ephemeral youth? Every young boy and girl should develop divine feelings. Money comes and goes. One may be proud of one's enormous wealth but that cannot give one even an iota of peace.

One may be proud of one's education, but that also cannot give peace. What is the point in acquiring money and education when they cannot grant you peace? What is real property? It is knowledge. What is real wealth? Health is real wealth. What is real freedom? Knowing the Self is real freedom. The end of wisdom is freedom. The educated today think freedom means to speak, act, move about and behave in an arbitrary manner. But that is not real freedom. Self-control is real freedom, Atmic bliss is real freedom, knowledge of the Self is real freedom and blossoming of the Self is real freedom. How can you define Swechchha (freedom)? Swa + Ichchha = Swechchha. Swa means Atma, Ichchha means desire. Therefore, desire for the Self is the real freedom. But the youth today want to enjoy freedom only at the physical level and not at the Atmic level.

## Earn God's Grace by Total Surrender

Lord Krishna taught the principles of Swadharma and Paradharma in the Bhagavadgita. People misinterpret Swadharma as though it is related to race, religion or caste. They say Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras should follow the Dharma of their respective caste. But this is not Swadharma. Swadharma means Atma Dharma and Paradharma means Deha Dharma. Deha (body) is inert. It is the mind that makes the body perform various tasks. Deha Dharma does not constitute true freedom. Control of the mind and knowledge of the Self is real freedom. Sage Patanjali said, *Yoga Chitta*



*Vritti Nirodha* (Control of the modifications of the mind is yoga). Yoga confers real blessedness on those who practise it. God Himself will come and shower His love on such blessed souls. You don't need to go to God. God Himself will come to you. You don't need to pray to God to come to you. Thyagaraja sang:

*Raara Maa Intidaaka,  
R a g h u v e e r a S u k u m a r a ,  
Neeku Mrokkeda,  
Raara Dasaratha Kumara  
Nannelukora, Ne Taalalera.*

(Telugu Song)

(Come to our house, oh the valorous one of Raghu clan and oh the tender one, I offer my salutations to You. Oh the son of Dasaratha, come to my rescue, I cannot bear separation from You any longer.)

But a devotee need not call God to come. He Himself will come to him, saying, "Come on, my dear." But when will God call you? He will call you only when you totally surrender to Him and obey His command just like Arjuna did, saying, *Karishye Vachanam Thava* (I will obey Thy command). Pleased with his sense of surrender, Lord Krishna said to Arjuna:

*Manmana Bhava Madbhakto  
Madyaji Maam Namaskuru,  
Maam Evaishyasi Satyam  
Te Pratijane Priyo Asi Mey.*

(Fix your mind on Me, be devoted to Me, offer obeisance to Me and worship Me. Truly, do I promise that you will come to Me for you are dear to Me.)

Now you are Mine, said Lord Krishna. When you surrender to God completely, He will take you closer to Him the very next moment. God will then become closest to you. Though many sacred qualities are present in him, man is not aware of them. Therefore, man should have awareness of his sacred qualities and develop them. If any evil thoughts arise in him, he should at once discard them, saying, "These are not mine; these relate to animal qualities. I am a human being. I have come from God." Why do such animal qualities arise in man when he is of divine origin? Bad company is responsible for this. Therefore, run away from bad company. Don't wait even for a moment; run away immediately. Only then can you develop sacred, pure and selfless feelings. Here is an example. You should understand this clearly.

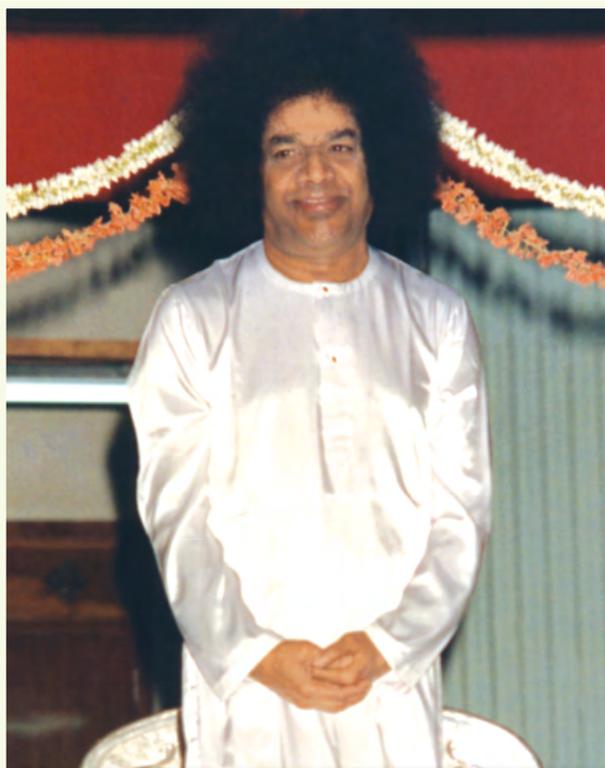
### **Make Proper Use of the Gifts of God**

God has created everything, right from the smallest atom to infinite cosmos. It is not possible to comprehend God. You should have the faith that what is present in the smallest atom pervades the entire cosmos and vice-versa. God is present in every atom. Why has He created this world? He says, "Oh human beings! Oh divine beings! I have created everything in this universe. All the objects that you require to lead your life on earth have been created by Me. I have given you water to drink, air to breathe, sun to give you warmth and ether to enable you to hear. I have created five elements only for your sake. Enjoy them as much as you like. I



have given you all the freedom. I don't have any objection. You don't need to pay any tax for this. But I have laid down one condition. In whatever way you use these five elements, you will have to bear the consequences of it. If you do good, you will have good results. If you do bad, the result also is bound to be bad. You should be prepared to accept both. I don't interfere in this. You have to reap the consequences of your actions."

The Bhagavadgita also teaches the same principle. God has given you light to drive away darkness. To protect you from the intensity of heat, God has given you cool breeze. Man has freedom to use these gifts of God for his benefit. But the same wind has the power to extinguish the flame of the lamp. When the wind blows and extinguishes the lamp, man blames God. He thinks God has done this injustice. God replies, "My dear, it is necessary for you to make some effort to protect the flame. I have given you air to breathe and sustain your life. I have given you light to save yourself from darkness and its resulting dangers. I have given to the wind the power to blow and to the lamp the power to give light. If the wind does not extinguish the lamp, it means there is something lacking in the divine power. Wind has the power to extinguish the lamp.



*What is real freedom? Knowing the Self is real freedom. The end of wisdom is freedom. The educated today think freedom means to speak, act, move about and behave in an arbitrary manner. But that is not real freedom. Self-control is real freedom, Atmic bliss is real freedom, knowledge of the Self is real freedom and blossoming of the Self is real freedom.*



That is the law of Nature. Wind has to blow and at the same time the lamp has to give light. It is your duty to cover the lamp with

a glass shield to protect it from the wind. That is the self-effort expected of you.” Without making such effort, if you leave the lamp in the open and pray to the wind that it should not extinguish the lamp, is it not a mistake on your part? That is against the law of Nature and the laws that govern God’s creation. God does not accept any blame for this. However, at times when the suffering of devotees becomes unbearable and devotees pray to God with a pure mind from the depths of their heart, God Himself will manifest and remove their suffering.

### **Do not Get Deluded by the Physical Form of the Divine Incarnation**

You might have read this in the Bhagavata. Once upon a time, Indra, the king of heaven, caused heavy rain in Gokul. Gopikas and Gopalas surrounded Krishna and prayed, “Oh Krishna, please save us, protect our cows. We are unable to bear this torrential downpour.” Then Krishna replied, “Rain is a natural phenomenon. It is not possible to stop the rain as it is also My creation. If it has to rain, it has to. However, through prayer you can save yourself from suffering. I should not stop the rain just because I have got the power to do so. In that case, I will be transgressing the laws I Myself have made. Therefore, come, I will lift this Govardhana mountain.” Saying so, Krishna went to lift the Govardhana mountain. Human mind is highly fickle. The Gopalas who prayed to Krishna to protect them from the rain started entertaining all sorts of doubts. They thought, “How can this small boy Krishna lift the mighty

mountain?” When the doubting Gopalas were thinking like this, Krishna lifted the Govardhana mountain on His little finger. Everybody took shelter under the mountain. They also brought their cows under it.

Krishna’s parents Yashoda and Nanda were fear-stricken as they thought, “He has somehow lifted the mountain. But how is He going to keep it down?” They had the fear that Krishna might get crushed underneath the mountain in the process of keeping it down. Then Krishna told the Gopikas and Gopalas, “All of you should obey My command. Those who obey My command will be protected; those who disobey will be destroyed. All of you should close your eyes when I chant Omkara.” Accordingly, all of them closed their eyes as Krishna chanted Om. When they opened their eyes, the Govardhana mountain was at its original position and Krishna was in their midst. This is the divine sport of Krishna. How did He put the mountain down? He can do anything in a moment.

*Not even a blade of grass will move  
without Divine Will,*

*Why to say this or that?*

*God pervades everything from an ant  
to Brahma.*

*People who do not realise this truth  
get carried away by their pride of  
intelligence and knowledge.*

*But no one, however great he may be,  
knows what lies ahead for him in future.*

(Telugu Poem)

This is the mystery of God. People get deluded when they look at the physical



form of the Divine incarnation with external vision and start comparing Him with themselves. They think, He is also a human being like us. This is how they get deluded. They make a fool of themselves by such delusion. He may have a physical form like you, eat like you, move about like you, but God is God. One who understands this truth is truly educated.

*Education confers humility, humility confers deservedness which in turn gives you wealth. Wealth will bring you material and spiritual satisfaction when you utilise it to perform charity and righteous deeds.* (Telugu Poem)

### **Shirdi Sai Baba Manifests his Divinity**

First of all, you should understand that education is not meant only to earn money. *Vidya Dadati Vinayam* (education confers humility). A student who acquires education to earn money is not a student in the real sense of the term. He is not a Vidyarthi (student) but a Vishayarthi (seeker of worldly pleasures). It is difficult to understand Divinity. Only those who obey the divine command implicitly can experience Divinity in its fullness. Mhalsapathi used to sleep in the room of Shirdi Sai Baba every night. There was a small wooden plank hanging to the ceiling on which Sai Baba used to sleep. As there was not enough place in the room, Mhalsapathi used to sleep directly underneath the wooden plank. Initially, Mhalsapathi was very afraid, thinking what would be his fate if the old dhoti that was used to hold the wooden plank gave

way and the plank fell on him. Due to this fear, he would not have proper sleep at night. One day Sai Baba decided to dispel his fear and demonstrate his Divinity to Mhalsapathi. He called Mhalsapathi and asked him to get up. When Mhalsapathi got up, he saw Shirdi Baba lying on the plank which was floating in the air without even the support of the old dhoti. Baba told him, "Oh simpleton, do you think those old dhotis are bearing my weight? No, no. It is my power that is bearing my weight." Then he revealed a divine secret to Mhalsapathi. He said, "Don't tell this to anyone. Some people think I am a Brahmin, some others think I am a Patel, while a few others think I am a Muslim. In fact, I am born to the Brahmin couple Devagiramma and Gangabhavadia in the village of Pathri." Then Mhalsapathi's doubt was removed and he offered his salutations to Baba thus:

*Pathri Gram Samudbhutam,  
Dwarakamayivasinam,  
Bhaktabhishtapradam Devam,  
Sai Natham Namamyaham.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(I offer my salutations to Lord Sainatha, who is born in the village Pathri, resides in Dwarakamayi and grants the prayer of his devotees.)

Baba commanded Mhalsapathi not to reveal this secret to anyone. In those days, there was infighting between different sects of Hindus and Muslims, resulting in great violence. With a desire to bring about unity between Hindus and Muslims, Baba told Mhalsapathi, "I am a Mohammeden



among Mohammedans and a Hindu among Hindus. Therefore, do not call me either a Hindu or a Muslim.” He told Mhalsapathi to keep this as a secret.

### **Develop Constant Integrated Awareness**

Similarly, all incarnations of God share such divine secrets with one or two individuals who are very close to them. Lord Rama shared many secrets only with Lakshmana and not with anyone else because Lakshmana followed Him like a shadow. None can describe the greatness of Lakshmana’s sacrifice. He could enjoy all the comforts of the palace. But he gave up the kingdom as also his wife and followed Rama. He told his mother Sumitra, “I want only Rama and I am prepared to sacrifice anything to go with Him to forest.”

True to her name Sumitra, she was a good friend of everyone. When Lakshmana came to take leave of her and offered his salutations to her, she said to him, “My dear son, the Aranya (forest) is verily Ayodhya when Rama is with you, whereas Ayodhya is verily the Aranya for us in the absence of Rama. Conduct yourself in such a manner that Rama is not put to any inconvenience whatsoever. Make sure that you don’t hurt Rama in any way. Rama is God and pervades the entire world. Therefore, if you cause even a little suffering to Rama, the whole world will be put to suffering.” What a wonderful teaching she imparted to her son!

During Krishna Avatar, Balarama was always with Krishna. But it was Uddhava

*Desire, anger, greed, etc., are not human qualities; they are the qualities of animals and beasts. Truth, righteousness, forbearance, empathy and sacrifice are the true human qualities and values. But these human values have become invisible today because man gives room to animal qualities. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce human values in the present system of education.*

who was Krishna’s closest friend. Sometimes even Balarama was not by the side of Krishna but Uddhava followed Krishna like His shadow wherever He went. It was only to Uddhava that Krishna revealed that the Yadava clan would be destroyed and He had decided to leave His body. Uddhava was very sad to know that. He held the feet of Krishna and prayed, “I will be with You till You are there and will come with You when You go. I cannot bear separation from You.” Subtle divine mysteries are not revealed to all. Divine incarnations reveal them only to their most intimate friends. It is not possible to tell everyone. How is it possible for everyone to understand Divinity? When devotees see a divine miracle, they say, “Ah! Swami is God!” However, they forget it after two days and think Swami is like any other ordinary person. Devotees should not have such fickleness. They should have Constant Integrated Awareness. Mere



awareness is not enough; there should be Constant Integrated Awareness.

### **Become Equal-minded and Experience Bliss**

A true devotee is Sthitaprajna (equal-minded). He has a steady mind without any wavering. Many commentators of the Bhagavadgita have interpreted the word Sthitaprajna in various ways. Some of them say, "When it is day for ordinary people, it is night for Sthitaprajna and vice-versa." Oh simpleton! Is this the attribute of a Sthitaprajna? The railway station masters and night watchmen keep awake the whole night and sleep during the day. Can we call them Sthitaprajnas? No, no. A Sthitaprajna is one who is always awake in matters relating to God and asleep regarding worldly affairs. Normally, people are very alert in worldly matters. But a Sthitaprajna is always immersed in bliss, completely oblivious of all that is worldly. This is the attribute of a Sthitaprajna. One who is devoid of worldly tendencies and totally immersed in the contemplation of Visweswara (Supreme Being) is a Sthitaprajna. The Bhagavadgita exhorts man to become a Sthitaprajna.

Many things keep happening in this world. However, all that is related to God is full of bliss. There is nothing bad in the world. How can there be anything bad in

God's creation? If you say something is bad, it is the defect of your vision. Can there be anything bad in the creation of God? You may judge something as good and something else as bad in accordance with your position and intelligence. But when you transcend your senses and mind, everything will appear to be good to you. You should treasure this feeling in your heart. However, till you reach such high state, you should strive to follow the sacred path befitting your humanness.

I want to tell you one more thing. Some people practise meditation. While practising meditation, your body should not touch any other body. When the bodies touch each other, good or bad currents from one body will pass on to the other body. If people sit close to each other and meditate, it cannot be called meditation at all. Therefore, sit separately as far as it is possible. That is why sages of yore used to go to the forest to do meditation. It is necessary that you live in solitude without having contact with the world as far as possible. Treasure this divine knowledge in your heart.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajans, "Madhava Murahara Madhura Manohara..." and "Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam ...")

**– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd August 1996.**

*Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.*

– The Bible  
Luke: 6.37

## The President of India Visits Prasanthi Nilayam

THE PRESIDENT OF India, Sri Pranab Mukherjee paid a visit to Prasanthi Nilayam on the afternoon of 23rd December 2013 and offered his homage to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Arriving at Sri Sathya Sai Airport, Puttaparthi from Anantapur by a special helicopter of Indian Air Force, the President along with Andhra Pradesh Governor, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Chief Minister, Sri Kiran Kumar Reddy and Major Industries Minister, Dr. J. Geeta Reddy came to Sai Kulwant Hall where he was formally received by Sri V. Srinivasan, Sri S.V. Giri, Sri T.K.K. Bhagawat, Sri K. Chakravarthi and Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and Sri Prasada Rao, Secretary, Central Trust. The President was then led to the Samadhi of Bhagavan where he placed a garland and offered his salutations to Bhagavan. He also spent some time sitting near Bhagavan's Samadhi. Thereafter, the



*The President of India, Sri Pranab Mukherjee, Andhra Pradesh Governor, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan and Chief Minister, Sri Kiran Kumar Reddy with Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.*

President went inside the Bhajan Mandir where also he sat for a while and interacted with Trustees of the Central Trust who presented a memento to him. He left for Sri Sathya Sai Airport to board a special flight to Hyderabad.



From our Archives

## DEVELOP FAITH IN GOD

MAN IS BOUND BY HIS ACTIONS IN THIS WORLD

**I**F YOU WISH TO EMBARK ON a new life, you need not wait for the arrival of New Year. To wait for a whole year means waiting for twelve months and so many days, hours, minutes and seconds. Treat every second as new. Sanctify every moment of your life. This has to be done by realising the unity of Sat (the Divine) and Chit (the individual consciousness). When this union is achieved, Ananda (spiritual bliss) is experienced. This is the primary task before everyone. Every second should be regarded as an expression of the Divine.

### Atmic Principle is Omnipresent

December and January may come and go (every year) but God neither comes nor goes. In this context, you have to bear in mind three things. One is that which, after it goes, will not come back. The second one is that which, after it comes will not leave. The third is the one that neither comes nor goes. That which, when it comes, will not go is Jnana (spiritual wisdom). When this sublime knowledge comes to man, it would not leave him. The knowledge which comes and goes relates to the waking and sleeping states. Knowledge of Supreme Reality, when once it is acquired, will

never go away. The knowledge that is lost is not true knowledge. Ignorance is the thing which, once it is gone, will not return. If it returns, it is "ignorance piled upon ignorance." This has been described in Vedantic parlance as Mithya in Mithya, delusion within delusion. That which does not come and does not leave is the Atma Tattwa (Atmic Principle). That which is omnipresent, where can it go? Where is the place for it to go?

### Qualify yourself to Enter the Kingdom of God

The observance of the beginning of a New Year is based on the statements of

*Hiranyagarbha is another name of the Creator. The Creator is therefore referred to as Bangaru (gold). If you place this divine gold in your heart, you can make any ornament of your choice, like Santhi (peace), Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness). Just as no ornaments can be made without gold, without Divinity, you cannot obtain Santhi, Sathya or Dharma.*

the Siddhanthi (the almanac maker). The almanac is an artificial man-made work and is not related to anything permanent or unchanging. The sun and the moon remain unchanged. The calendar is a man-made device. For the Divine, there is no coming or going. God transcends such conceptions. He is the Lord of what is called the Kingdom of God. Each one has to acquire the qualification to enter that kingdom. All are not entitled to enter it. But every human being should aspire to achieve that right. That is the essential purpose of human birth. Man is bound by his actions in this world. The actions should be good. Be pure in your speech. Develop a sacred vision. Purify your heart.

Dispute on dates is meaningless. Every second is the birth of a New Year. Seconds add up to minutes, minutes to hours, and so on to years. Every second of your life is new. Thus, there is no particular sanctity about the beginning or end of a year.

### **When you have Divinity, you will have Peace and Happiness**

Some people attribute special significance to this day and speculate on some extraordinary or awesome events to take place. The time or date is not the cause of your happiness or misery. Your own actions in the past are the

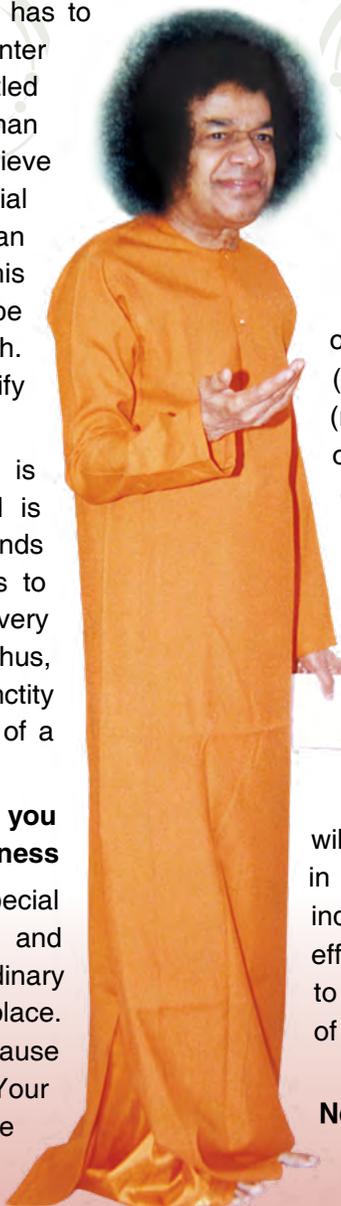
cause of both your happiness and misery. As you sow, so shall you reap. Don't waste your mental energy in speculations of this or that happening.

Today, humanness is on the decline. One hardly sees or hears love, truth and righteousness anywhere. In these conditions, how can peace manifest?

Hiranyagarbha is another name of the Creator. The Creator is therefore referred to as Bangaru (gold). If you place this divine gold in your heart, you can make any ornament of your choice, like Santhi (peace), Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness). Just as no ornaments can be made without gold, without Divinity, you cannot obtain Santhi, Sathya or Dharma. Hiranyagarbha is immanent in everyone. That is why Swami calls everyone Bangaru. Only when you recognise this truth and get firm conviction in

yourself that God is within you will you obtain all kinds of welfare in your life. Disregarding this indwelling God, any amount of effort for external things is bound to result in failure. Therefore, first of all, develop faith in God.

**–Excerpted from Bhagavan's New Year Discourses.**



# RICH TREASURE OF MEMORIES OF BELOVED SWAMI, MY GOD

Balram Nichani

**I** CAME TO THE LOTUS FEET OF Beloved Swami in 1966. Swami visited my house continuously every year for nearly 33 years. Normally, He would come along with a convoy of guests, students and ladies and would give us the joy of offering lunch, tea or dinner depending upon the time He arrived. In the year 1987, He paid a second surprise visit to my house.

## **A Sweet Surprise Visit**

I would like to mention that I used to drive Swami's car for several years, whenever He wanted to move out of Puttaparthi or Whitefield. In the year 1987, one afternoon He asked me to come to Whitefield without mentioning to me where I was to drive to. At that time, my wife was unwell; she was critically ill. After a little tiffin, we headed towards the city in the car which I was driving for Him. Beloved Swami and Satyajit were sitting at the rear seats as usual. We went through the Old Airport Road and Mahatma Gandhi Road. He then directed me to go towards Raj Bhavan side. After reaching Raj Bhavan, He asked me to go to West End Hotel and take a U turn going towards Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. On reaching that place, He asked me to go to Fairfield Layout where my house is.

Then I realised that He was going to my house or you may call it His house. After reaching Sai Krupa (my house), He went to first floor and rang the door bell Himself. My wife came out half drowsy because of her medication, and my daughter Vandana was also there. Both of them opened the door and were flabbergasted to see God Himself standing at their door. Since this was Swami's surprise visit, they had not made any preparations to receive Him. Normally, we would have Nadaswaram,

*After a few days, Swami came to our house. At that time, my mother was sleeping in her room. Swami Himself applied Vibhuti to her.*

*After dinner, He left for Brindavan. Next day, to my utter surprise, my mother passed away peacefully.*

*After three days, when I went to Brindavan for Swami's Darshan, He said that He had come to my house to give her Mukti (liberation). This is the kind of strength, Swami gave us to bear our sorrows. This is the richest experience I have ever had.*

flower decoration, etc. Even food was not prepared. On one side, we were very happy to receive Swami in the house and on the other, we were sad as no preparations had been made to receive Him. I cannot forget the wonderful time we spent in the house with God Himself all alone with us. Nobody else was with us. It was our greatest good fortune to be at the Lotus Feet of Beloved God Himself.

### **Mysterious are the Ways of Swami**

In the year 1988, when my wife Rajkumari B. Nichani passed away, my own sister sarcastically remarked, "What is this? Your Swami has taken her away." You know what I said, "Anybody who has come into this world has to go whether it be a human being or even God." This is the type of faith I had in Swami. Swami commanded me to perform the marriage of my daughter the very same year I lost my wife.

Swami had once gone to Mumbai and fixed the engagement of my daughter Vandana with an advocate boy. When Swami came back from Mumbai, He told me that my daughter was engaged. I dared not ask Him with whom, for I had full faith and confidence in Swami. After some time, He mentioned that the boy is Vinay Panjabi, my own sister's son in Mumbai. As you know, Swami believed in protocol. He said that I should go to Mumbai and request my brother-in-law and my sister about the same and ask them to come to Bengaluru for the engagement along with all relatives. Swami fixed the engagement ceremony and asked Smt. Ratanlal to make

all necessary arrangements. There were nearly 200 guests on that occasion. Swami graced the ceremony by His Presence.

Let me tell you at this stage that about seven to eight years earlier to the marriage of my daughter, my wife and I were called for an interview by Swami. He told us that He would get our daughter married to an advocate from Mumbai. When we came out of the interview room, I asked my wife how we could look for an advocate boy from Mumbai. My wife had full faith in Swami. She said, "When He has said, He will do the needful; we should not worry about the same." His ways are most mysterious. His words are really pure truth. Whatever He says, it does take place come what may. With Beloved Swami, it may be some kind of delay but whatever He says, it must definitely happen.

### **Grant of Liberation to my Mother**

I would also like to share with you another very important experience. My mother had a fall when she was 84 years old. We took her to St. Marthas Hospital. There Dr. Silgado treated her, put a plaster and said that there was fracture in the hand which would take 6 to 8 weeks to heal. I mentioned about My mother to Swami. He said to me, "Your mother is all right." I could not understand His words. After I reached the hospital, I informed the same to Dr. Silgado. He then said let's take another X-ray. He was surprised to see that the fracture was cured. He could not understand the ways of Swami. When I met my mother, she told me that Swami



had come to her room and told her that she was perfectly all right. Such are the mysterious ways of our Beloved Swami.

When my mother was very ill, I wanted to mention this to Swami. I just said, my mother... and He stopped me. He said in Telugu, “*Choodu Joga Rao! Balram Adurtha Unnadu. Amma ki Yemi Kaadu Nenu Wachche Varaku*” which means, you see, Joga Rao, Balram is afraid. But nothing is going to happen to his mother till I come. After a few days, Swami came to our house. At that time, my mother was sleeping in

her room. Swami Himself applied Vibhuti to her. After dinner, He left for Brindavan. Next day, to my utter surprise, my mother passed away peacefully. After three days, when I went to Brindavan for Swami’s Darshan, He said that He had come to my house to give her Mukti (liberation). This is the kind of strength, Swami gave us to bear our sorrows. This is the richest experience I have ever had.

– **The author, Sri Balram Nichani, is a businessman by profession and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan.**

## *Mysterious are the Ways of God!*

*At the time of the First World Conference, my father was District President of the Sai Organisation at Anantapur. The conference was to be held at Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1968 and my people requested Baba for exemption of my father from attending the conference because of his age and because of the accident in 1965. Mumbai being a strange place, they did not want him to risk a journey. But Baba had other ideas, and insisted that he should attend, promising that He would Himself take him to the conference. To prove the point, a 1st class reservation ticket was sent to him. In view of this, my brother decided to accompany him with his wife.*

*At the venue of the conference at Mumbai, entrance became a problem with a huge crowd and tight security; none without a badge was being allowed in. However, badges were being distributed inside. While my father was arguing with the security guards, Swami arrived at the gate of the venue. He spotted my father even as He was entering and stopped the car. He asked one of the volunteers to pick up my father and bring him. Suddenly, someone lifted up my father and with great difficulty pushed him into the car. Dazed as he was, my father did not know what actually was happening as he was dumped into the car beside Bhagavan. He was thus physically taken into the conference by Bhagavan as per His promise.*

*This act of grace bewildered my father and surprised the other VVIPs travelling with Bhagavan. Finally, Dr. Bhagavantam enquired of my father, “What is your importance for Bhagavan to pick you up from the crowd?” To this, it appears my father replied that that’s what he himself wanted to know. He was informed of Bhagavan’s promise only later.*

– **Excerpted from “Fifty Years at the Lotus Feet” by Dr. T. Viswanadha Rao.**

Sisters and Brothers!

WHEN I REACHED THIS international village, I first met Sri V.K. Kapoor. He told me a very beautiful story. He said that he was travelling from Jalandhar to Delhi and suddenly he got a heart stroke. Fortunately, he met Babaji and what happened was a miracle. Babaji put His hand on his heart and suddenly he was restored to complete good health. Now

Vivekananda's dream is being fulfilled. The topic for this evening is Islam and the concept of love and peace. I am a student of Islam; I have studied Islam in detail. I can say with conviction that Islam is a religion of love, peace and harmony. You know, the most sacred book in Islam is the Quran. The Quran contains 6,500 verses. I can say that 99% of the verses pertain to love, peace and harmony either directly or indirectly. So, this is the basic teaching

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

## THE BASIC MESSAGE OF ISLAM

*There is a beautiful saying of the Prophet of Islam: "God grants to love what He does not grant to hate." It means that in this world, love is more effective when you are in society, in your family, in your nation. If you adopt love culture, then you are powerful. If you adopt hate culture, then you are weak; you cannot do anything. So, this saying conveys that God grants to love what He does not grant to hate. Islam promotes love culture rather than hate culture. This is the true message of Islam.*

he is living a normal life without visiting any doctor or hospital. There are so many people who will tell such incidents. Really, it is a miraculous place.

### **Islam is the Religion of Love, Peace and Harmony**

This is my first visit to this place; I have found it very peaceful. Everywhere, there is spirituality, love, peace and harmony. I remember the words of Swami Vivekananda. About hundred years ago, he said, "India will soon emerge as a peaceful country." I think India is emerging here as an international city. Here, Swami

of Islam. If you take a copy of the Quran and start reading, you will find that the very first verse is about love. This is Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim. This verse is repeated in the Quran 114 times. This verse introduces God as the embodiment of love and compassion. Then we read in the Hadith, the saying of the Prophet of Islam: "Adopt the attributes of God in your life." When God is the embodiment of love and compassion, you have also to adopt these values and become a person of love and compassion. This is the basic message of Islam. I consider that the most important



message of Islam is that one's behaviour should be human friendly. There are some references in the Quran and the Hadith that tell us the two basic principles of Islam – worshipper of God and well-wisher of man. What is well-wishing? Well-wishing means love. So, love is the basic requirement of a human being, of a Muslim. The Prophet of Islam has said: "A Muslim is one by whose hands and tongue people are safe." This is the culture of love. Culture of love means culture of tolerance, culture of compassion, culture of well-wishing, culture of humanity. Islam promotes culture of love and culture of love contains all these human values, all these positive values.

### **Consider your Enemy as your Potential Friend**

Here, I would like to add that Islam lays emphasis on the promotion of all those values that are helpful to the culture of love. For example, the Quran says, "Reconciliation is best." (4:128). You know there are controversies and differences. If you are not ready to reconcile on such occasions, then it generates hate; there is no love. If you want to live in love, then you have to abandon hate, you have to abandon controversy, you have to abandon confrontation. All these things are hindrances towards love culture. Then there is a beautiful saying of the Prophet of Islam: "God grants to love what He does not grant to hate." It means that in this world, love is more effective when you are in society, in your family, in your nation. If you adopt love culture, then you are powerful. If you adopt hate culture, then

you are weak; you cannot do anything. So, this saying conveys that God grants to love what He does not grant to hate. Islam promotes love culture rather than hate culture. This is the true message of Islam.

Then there is a very important teaching of Islam. That is, Islam differentiates between enemy and attacker. If anyone attacks you, then you are allowed to go to defensive war. But if someone is your enemy, you cannot go to war. There is a verse in the Quran which tells us if you find some enemy, then what should be your behaviour towards your enemy. This verse says: "Do good deed in return for bad deed, and you will find that your enemy has become your dearest friend." (41:34) It means that according to Quranic teaching, every enemy is your potential friend. What a beautiful idea! People generally hate their enemies. But here we find a very different kind of teaching that enjoins us to see our enemy as our potential friend. This is the main teaching of Islam.

### **Live in Love**

Here I would like to narrate a story from the life of the Prophet of Islam. You know, the Prophet was born in Mecca, a city of Arabia in 570 A.D. He lived in Mecca for about 13 years. Then he migrated to Medina, another city of Arabia. He lived over there for 10 years. At that time, there were some Jewish tribes in Medina. One day, the Prophet saw a funeral procession passing by a street in Medina. The Prophet was seated at that time. On seeing the funeral, he stood up in respect. One of his companions said, "O Prophet, it is the



funeral of a non-Muslim.” The Prophet replied, “Was he not a human being?” It means that although there was difference in religion, culture, race, the Prophet found a commonality between himself and a non-Muslim. And that was love. Love is greater than everything. There are differences between people with regard to culture, religion and so on. But there is no difference in love. You can love everyone because you are a human being and others are also human beings. So, love is the greatest binding force between human beings.

The Prophet of Islam used to rise early in the morning and pray in these words: “O God! I bear witness that all human beings are one and the same. All are brothers and sisters to each other.” This is the true message of love. There is a very relevant Dua (prayer of supplication) of the Prophet of Islam. This Dua says, “O God, You are peace, peace is from You, peace returns to You. O God! Let us live in peace! O God! Let us abide in the home of peace! O God! Glory be to You!” What is peace? Peace is another name of love. When you are in love, you are peaceful. When you are peaceful, you are in love. Peace and love, both are synonymous words. There are many other references in the Quran in this regard. For example, there is a very relevant saying. Someone came to the Prophet and asked a very meaningful question, “O Prophet! Give me a master key by which I may be able to manage all the problems of my life.” He wanted a master key, a master formula to manage all the problems of life. The Prophet said,

*There are some references in the Quran and the Hadith that tell us the two basic principles of Islam – worshipper of God and well-wisher of man. What is well-wishing? Well-wishing means love. So, love is the basic requirement of a human being, of a Muslim. The Prophet of Islam has said: “A Muslim is one by whose hands and tongue people are safe.” This is the culture of love.*

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“Don’t be angry.” It means in other words, try to live in love. Because when there are provocations, people generally fly into a rage. But when you know the value of love, you will forgive. So, this is the message of positive thinking. Don’t be angry means to respond positively even in a negative situation. The result is love. According to my study, Islam is the religion of love. All the teachings of Islam are based on love, peace and harmony either directly or indirectly. I am very happy that I was blessed by this spiritual audience and I make my Dua that you may be blessed, so that you may realise this noble cause under the leadership of this Supreme Guru. Thank you.

– **From Maulana Wahiduddin Khan’s talk at the Interfaith Conference held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd July 2005. Maulana Wahiduddin Khan is a renowned Islamic scholar. He is the founder of Centre for Peace and Spirituality International, New Delhi.**

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## PILGRIMAGE OF SRIKAKULAM DEVOTEES

**A**BOUT 900 DEVOTEES CAME from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on their annual Parthi Yatra (pilgrimage to Puttaparthi) to Prasanthi Nilayam. On this occasion, their singers, both ladies and gents, presented an excellent devotional music programme on 13th December 2013. Beginning their presentation with a prayer song to Bhagavan “Parthi Pureesham Pranamamyaham” (I offer salutations to the Lord of Puttaparthi), the singers offered a fine garland of devotional songs at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan, bringing their presentation to a close at 6.00 p.m. This was followed by Bhajans, during which the singers and musicians were felicitated and Prasadam was distributed to all.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Deep devotional fervour and grandeur marked the celebration of Christmas 2013 at Prasanthi Nilayam. A large number of devotees came from various overseas countries to celebrate it in the sacred precincts of this abode of supreme peace. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically bedecked with traditional Christmas decorations. Colourful floral decorations and Christmas trees adorned the Samadhi

of Bhagavan where a beautiful chair with silver umbrella was placed for Bhagavan. Beautiful lights on temples, canteens and office buildings in the premises of



*Illuminations at Book Centre building.*

Prasanthi Nilayam presented a charming spectacle at night. Christmas scenes and decorative lights set up in the lawn of the Western Canteen attracted large crowds of devotees at night. The celebrations in Sai Kulwant Hall spanning over three days from 24th to 26th December included Christmas carols, devotional songs and talks by overseas devotees, a drama by overseas children and a Christmas Discourse of Bhagavan.

### International Christmas Choir

The Christmas programme began on 24th December with Christmas carols and devotional songs by over 300 overseas musicians and singers. Commencing their presentation at 5.00 p.m. with “Sri





*Christmas carols and devotional songs by International Christmas Choir.*

Ganesh Pancharatna Stotram” in Sanskrit, the singers saturated the entire milieu with devotional fervour by their soulful rendition of beautiful Christmas carols and devotional songs for nearly one hour. As the singers sang the songs with deep devotional feelings, they touched the hearts of the listeners. The audio play of the concluding prayer “Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina” (May all be happy!) in Bhagavan’s voice and a portion of Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse added to the joy of the devotees. At the conclusion of this devotional music offering, the participants were felicitated and clothes were presented to them. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.40 p.m.

### **Devotional Music by Students**

On the holy Christmas morning, 25th December 2013, devotees from all parts of the world joined in singing Christmas carols in Sai Kulwant Hall, which revived fond memories of earlier years when Beloved Bhagavan used to give Darshan to the devotees in the hall from the balcony of the Mandir. Led by Australian devotees, the programme which started at 6.15 a.m. with singing of “Silent Night, Holy Night”

came to a close at 7.00 a.m. with “Joy to the World.” Video screening of a clip showing Bhagavan in white robe giving Darshan to devotees from the balcony of the Mandir made the carol singing all the more an enriching experience.

The next programme in Sai Kulwant Hall started at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting. Thereafter, a group of students from Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented an enrapturing devotional music recital on violin. This was followed by a musical concert comprising special Christmas numbers by the brass band students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus. After this, the students of the Institute along with those of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented a soul-stirring programme of Christmas carols and devotional songs. A beautiful dialogue between two students which accompanied the carols showcased the message of Christmas and highlighted the teachings of Lord Jesus. When the students sang “Jingle Bells,” two boys dressed as Santa Claus went around in the hall distributing chocolate to devotees. This was followed by Bhajans. Meanwhile, students and staff members offered Christmas cakes at the Samadhi of Bhagavan. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at 9.45 a.m.

### **The Fourth Wise Man: A Drama**

The evening programme began with a drama “The Fourth Wise Man” enacted by International Sai Children and Region



8 (Southern California). Based on the story "The Other Wise Man" by Henry van Dyke, the drama depicted the journey of Arteban, a Zoroastrian of ancient Persia, who set out across the desert to Judea like the Three Wise Men who saw the signs pointing towards the birth of Jesus. While the other Three Wise Men reached their destination and paid homage to the Divine Child Jesus, Arteban reached the goal of his quest for Divinity through the path of service to mankind like an Iranian devotee Daryush who reached Prasanthi Nilayam after Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi and realised the goal of his quest for Divinity when a kind soul, Father Francis, told him the story of "The Other Wise Man."

After the drama, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Ms. Rita Danielli of U.S.A. who narrated her personal experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity and told how Bhagavan assumed the role of her father, mother, guide and God and led her to the path of selfless love and service to mankind. The second speaker was Sri Tom Lahey of Australia who described how Swami united people of all nations and races into one family through the bond of His Divine Love and created the Sai Organisation to enable its members to attain Divinity by serving others.

### **Bhagavan's Divine Discourse**

The Christmas day programme concluded with video screening of a Christmas Discourse of Bhagavan, in which He exhorted the devotees to love all and serve all to experience unity of mankind, which could lead man to purity and divinity. Jesus, Bhagavan said, also

showed the path of unity to mankind when he said, "All are one, my dear son, be alike to everyone." Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin." A brief Bhajan session followed this. Meanwhile, clothes were presented to the cast of the drama and Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.40 p.m.

### **International Children's Choir**

The three-day Christmas celebrations concluded with an enrapturing presentation of Christmas carols and devotional songs by the International Children's Choir on 26th December 2013. Beginning their presentation with prayer to Lord Ganesh "Ekdantaya Vidmahe" followed by chanting of Sai Gayatri, the children sang the glories of Lord Jesus and Lord Sathya Sai with hearts full of love and devotion, saturating the entire milieu with Christmas spirit and devotional fervour. They brought their presentation to a close with the Christmas carol "We Wish you a Holy Christmas." The melody of rendition and sweetness of music made the presentation a befitting finale to the grand Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. At the conclusion of this presentation, clothes were presented to the children. Earlier, Chairman of the Christmas Committee, Sri John Behner addressed the gathering. The distinguished speaker exhorted the devotees to follow the teachings of Jesus and Sai Baba to redeem their life. He also thanked devotees from various countries and Seva Dal volunteers for their help and support.

## Students Corner

### DO YOU KNOW?

1. Name the year and place where the first Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality was held in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba.
2. Name the famous temple in Hampi where Swami showed His Divinity to His elder brother Seshama Raju and others.
3. Name the places where Swami studied as a school student.
4. When Swami was a school student at Uravakonda, He wrote a drama which was enacted in the school. Give the name of this drama.
5. Name the first Bhajan taught by Bhagavan Baba after declaring His Avatarhood on 20th October 1940.
6. When was the first issue of the magazine "Sanathana Sarathi" released by Bhagavan?
7. Give the name of Swami's teacher who wrote the book "Sayeeshuni Charitra" in Telugu verse.
8. There is a hillock on the eastern edge of Puttaparthi village on which stands the famous Kalpa Vriksha (wish-fulfilling tree). Give the name of that hillock.
9. Swami's grandfather Kondama Raju sang songs from the Ramayana and enacted the role of one of its principal characters in the village plays in Puttaparthi. Tell the name of the character whose role he used to play.

(see answers on page 29...)

### Keep a WATCH Crossword

Among other precious articles, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba materialised numerous watches for devotees. While giving the watches to devotees, He usually taught them valuable lessons by stating the meaning of the five letters contained in the word WATCH, e.g., Watch your words. Locate these words in the crossword given and treasure these lessons in your heart.

C	D	L	T	N	E	M	X	Y	O	M
B	E	S	H	E	A	R	T	M	H	G
A	N	W	O	R	D	S	M	E	T	G
D	C	L	U	O	M	C	B	A	L	F
Q	U	E	G	Z	O	N	E	R	Y	M
M	L	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R
R	A	C	T	I	O	N	S	T	A	B
Y	P	O	S	F	A	S	O	N	S	M

(see answers on page 29...)

## CRY OF A CURIOUS SOUL

*Where are You? Where are You?*

*Cries my curious soul.*

*I am looking only for You,*

*All is that because You are my only goal.*

*88 years back in a small hamlet, Thee took*

*Thy human form.*

*Poets and authors are charmed and amazed*

*of the life of Yours, that we adore.*

*10 years of my life, upon Your smiles was all that I gazed.*

*Bless me Lord, so that I can spread Your message of love, peace and joy.*

*Give me strength, wisdom and courage,*

*because I basked in Your love as a little boy.*

*I know You will guide me all through my life*

*that has already been lighted by You.*

– Vedant, Class IX

### NOTICE

#### SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST

Recognition to Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust under Section 35AC of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the project “(i) Running and Maintenance of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences at Prasanthigram (Andhra Pradesh) and at Whitefield, Bengaluru (Karnataka) (ii) Running and Maintenance of Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital (iii) Building a Corpus Fund for the Trust” has been extended by Ministry of Finance, Government of India for the period 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2016 vide Notification No. S.O. 3142(E) dated 17.10.2013. Donations by Indian donors for this specific project qualify for **100% deduction from taxable income under Section 35AC/80GGA of the Income Tax Act 1961.** Donations by Cheque / Demand Draft towards running of the above hospitals may be made in favour of “Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust,” accompanied by a covering letter mentioning that the donation is for 35AC Project. **If the donation is intended towards the Corpus Fund of the Trust, the same may be specifically mentioned in the covering letter.**

– K. Chakravarthi

Member Secretary, Board of Trustees, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust  
Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134.

**For the kind attention of subscribers:** Please send only Multicity Cheque or CTS 2010 Cheque while placing orders for books, subscribing for Sanathana Sarathi or making donations.

– Convener

## Near the World, far from God

**K**ING BHARTRIHARI, WHO was also a renowned poet, renounced the world to lead his life as a yogi and Sannyasi (renunciant). He had a disciple named Gopichand. Both of them relinquished all contacts with the world and moved about as itinerant mendicants. In the course of their travel, they once came near a city.

On hearing that Bhartrihari was passing by the city, the ruler of that place came outside the city along with his family and



*Bhartrihari and his disciple Gopichand became itinerant mendicants.*

followers to ceremonially welcome him in a grand manner with music and fanfare and to earn great merit by honouring such a noble soul. Bhartrihari noticed this from a distance and thought of enacting a drama with his disciple to avoid this worldly contact. Holding a piece of Chapati in their hand, the Guru and the disciple started quarrelling and fighting with each other,

each of them saying, "Since I have secured it, I should have this bigger piece." They shouted loudly at each other so that the king and his followers could hear it. When the king saw this, he said, "What is this? Is this the reality of this renowned yogi and Sannyasi! What type of Sannyasi is he who is fighting over a piece of bread? Enough of it, let us go back. Shall we honour such an avaricious person?" Saying this, he went back to the city with his family and entire paraphernalia. Overjoyed at this,



*The king came to offer ceremonial welcome to Bhartrihari.*

Bhartrihari said to his disciple, "My dear! Got relieved of the trouble."

A true renunciant conducts himself in this manner. Samyak Nyasa (true proximity to God) is Sannyasa. It means total detachment from the world and full focus on God. Mere talking about Sannyasa (detachment) is no Sannyasa.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## AUSTRALIA

**A**N EDUCATION RETREAT on the theme, "My Students are My Wealth," was held at Bossley Park near Sydney on 10th and 11th August 2013. It was attended by more than 160 educators from various countries in Zone 3 of the Sathya Sai International Organisation. A prominent aspect of the presentations and workshops was focus on the Sathya Sai Education (SSE) Group 4 students and the Youth Programme (for older youth). A number of amazingly dynamic and innovative approaches have been developed by the SSE teachers in various countries, which has resulted in enhanced retention of Group 3 children from this bridging programme for students between Group 3 and the Youth Group.

## KAZAKHSTAN

The Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) of Kazakhstan conducted a medical camp from 1st to 10th August 2013 in the town of Saran, in the Karaganda region. About 250 volunteers from Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, U.S.A., Canada and India served at this camp. At the opening, the Mayor of Saran, Sri M.E. Adambekov, said that he had never before met such people, who came at their own expense from distant places to do good deeds. The medical team, headed by Dr. Upadhyay, was

composed of specialists in ophthalmology, optometry, neuropathology, immunology, general practice, reflexology, nephrology, endocrinology, paediatrics, stomatology and psychiatry. Between 1st and 9th August 2013, 5,721 patients were screened and 1,136 pairs of glasses were distributed, in addition to medicines. Three mobile medical teams were organised to visit ten nearby towns and villages to examine people who were unable to come to the camp.

Sathya Sai devotees also performed construction work to renovate two kindergarten schools, a house for the mentally retarded, a home for elderly people and a college hostel.

About 1,600 people attended 168 different educational activities at the camp. Forty teachers and teacher's assistants conducted 15 classes for 186 children, two to six years old. Another education project, "The School of Joy," was conducted for first to ninth grade school children in two schools. Over 700 children attended 89 classes, including 60 classes in Education



*An EHV class for children.*

in Human Values (EHV) and 29 classes in self-knowledge. In addition, 291 children from the town attended 48 workshops in stage performance, dance, sports, puppetry and arts. Eighty-nine teachers from local schools and kindergartens attended four seminars focused on the topics of self-knowledge, alienation in school, teenage suicide and addiction to alcohol and tobacco. On 3rd August, a festival for 23 disabled children was arranged, and on 4th August, a “Festival of Joy” was conducted in the town square.

At the camp, Sathya Sai devotees distributed 150 food packets containing grits (potato pancakes) and sugar, as well as clothes and laundry detergent. In addition, a wheelchair, a baby-jumper and medical equipment were also distributed. The children and their school received many useful items, including laptop computers, a large screen TV, a camera, an iPad, a DVD player and toys. In closing, Ms. Dana Gillespie presented a wonderful concert, showering Swami’s love on the entire region.

## NEPAL

A film on Swami and His works was released on 12th August 2013 by the Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) of Nepal. The 52-minute film depicted Bhagavan’s advent on earth, His life and message, and provided glimpses of all devotional, educational and service activities being carried out by Sathya Sai devotees in Nepal. Major service projects

such as Sri Sathya Sai Old Age Home, Sri Sathya Sai Bal Ashram, two Sri Sathya Sai Community Drinking Water Projects, and Sri Sathya Sai Community Toilet Project were highlighted.

A Sathya Sai Centre in an extremely remote, hilly area completed the construction of a hall for conducting Bhajans and devotional meetings. The hall was inaugurated on 15th September 2013 in a function attended by a large gathering of Sathya Sai devotees, high ranking government officials and senior office bearers of the Sathya Sai Organisation. The life and message of Bhagavan, His projects and the activities of the SSIO of Nepal were exhibited on this occasion, and the recently produced film about Bhagavan was screened to the delight of the assembled audience.

## LAOS (LAO PDR)

In the Borikhan district of Borikhamxay Province, Laos, 15 villages were severely affected by floods in July 2013. About 40 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Foundation



*Relief material for flood-affected people of villages.*

of Laos responded to the emergency by distributing food provisions, blankets and other needed items. The disaster relief efforts were covered by major newspapers in English and local languages. In recognition of humanitarian services rendered on 6th July 2013, the Governor of Borikhan district awarded a certificate to the Sathya Sai Foundation on 15th August 2013.

## BHARAT

**Andhra Pradesh:** A very severe cyclonic storm named Phailin with massive damage potential was predicted to hit the coastal areas of Odisha and northern districts of Andhra Pradesh on 12th October 2013. Perceiving the risk to human beings and property, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh kept ready 15 teams consisting 9 members in a team and set up base camps with necessary transport facilities. Doctors, medicines and mobile health service vans were also arranged. The storm crossed the coastal villages with



*Distribution of relief material by the Sai Organisation of Andhra Pradesh.*

strong winds blowing at the speed of about 200 km per hour. There was total disruption in power supply and communications due to heavy rainfall. However, miraculously by the grace of Bhagavan, by morning, the sky was clear and people started moving back slowly to their villages and the human loss was minimal. On 13th October 2013, State Coordinator of the Sai Organisation along with other office bearers toured the affected villages and distributed food packets and blankets to the affected people. Village Donkuru which is situated on seashore was battered by the cyclone on the previous night. Seva Dal members rescued five villagers who were trapped in the village.

**Himachal Pradesh:** An Akhanda Bhajan of 88 hours duration was held at Shimla as part of 88th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Baba from 9.00 p.m. on 8th October till 1.00 p.m. on 12th October 2013. Thousands of devotees from all over the State of Himachal Pradesh participated in it with great joy and enthusiasm. The Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba was experienced by one and all during the Akhanda Bhajan.

The Annual Day function of Sri Sathya Sai School, Anand Vilas, Shimla was held on 13th October 2013. The Chief Guest of the function was Sri Virbhadra Singh, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh who witnessed all the sports events and cultural programmes for more than two hours, appreciated the performance of the students and distributed prizes to them. In



*The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sri Virbhadra Singh was the Chief Guest at the Annual Day function of Sri Sathya Sai School, Shimla.*

his speech on this occasion, he advised the students to practise the tenets laid down by Bhagavan Baba and fulfil His Divine Vision of Golden Age.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** A mega medical camp was held in Thanger village from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 20th October 2013 in which about 104 people mostly students belonging to far flung areas of Leh and Kargil districts were provided with free treatment as well as medicines on the spot against various ailments.

**Karnataka:** The Sai Centre in Indira Nagar, Bengaluru "Sai Darshan" celebrated its 25th anniversary with programmes on 3rd and 4th November 2013. The days were marked by Bhajans and talks on both evenings and a Paduka Puja (worship of the sandals of Bhagavan) on the morning of 4th November. The talks were delivered by Sri Krishna Kumar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences and Dr. Ravi Kumar, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.



*Beautiful illuminations on the occasion of 25th anniversary of Sai Darshan.*

On 4th November evening, Sri Y.N. Gangadhar Setty, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Karnataka presided over the deliberations. The Mandir was tastefully illuminated at night on both the days.

**Maharashtra and Goa:** 88th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated in a grand manner in all the districts of Maharashtra and Goa. Public events, music programmes and Narayana Seva were some of the highlights of the Birthday celebrations. Dharmakshetra, the abode of Bhagavan in Mumbai, was beautifully bedecked. After a grand chariot procession around Dharmakshetra accompanied by Bhajans and chants, a Gayatri Yajna and Puja were conducted, wherein office bearers of the Mumbai Organisation took part. Rudrabhishekham was performed in Satyadeep in the afternoon. The evening saw a house full Dharmakshetra, witnessing soul-stirring songs presented by the youth, followed by songs rendered by Sri Geet Sagar, an upcoming artiste. A value-based education



programme entitled “Sai Parivartan” was organised by Thane Samithi that was attended by many dignitaries, school principals, teachers and government officials from education and village development.

**Odisha:** The devastating Phailin cyclone severely affected Ganjam and its neighbouring districts and caused extensive damage. It is worth mentioning here that 300 villagers of Markandi village on Gopalpur sea beach where Phailin landed were evacuated safely and sheltered in the Sathya Sai Temple premises in Berhampur. Proper care was taken of all in all respects till normalcy was restored. Sathya Sai Trust, Odisha also came in a big way to fund the relief operations.

After the fury of the cyclone subsided, Phailin-induced flash floods inundated vast areas in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Puri and Jajpur districts with the result that many villages remained marooned for days together. Sai Youth of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Odisha along with the State Disaster Management Team reached the inaccessible villages and served hot cooked food to affected villagers and distributed biscuits, puffed rice, jaggery, candles, matchboxes, cattle feed,



*Villagers relishing hot delicious cooked food served by Sai Youth.*

medicines, bleaching powder, etc., in the villages. In the absence of proper approach road, Sai youth had to go through mud and water of hip to neck level, pulling the big utensils and huge relief materials to reach



*Supplying relief materials to villagers in inaccessible areas.*

interior villages of Puri district. Looking at the dedication and selfless service of the Sai Youth, the villagers got emotional and wholeheartedly praised Swami and His messengers of love.

*...continued from page 22*

**Answers to the questions:** (1) Brindavan, Whitefield (Bengaluru), 1972 (2) Virupaksha temple (3) Puttaparthi, Bukkapatnam, Kamalapuram, Uravakonda (4) Cheppinatlu Chesthara (5) Manasa Bhajare Gurucharanam (6) 16th February 1958 (7) Sri V.C. Kondappa (8) Obuladevara Gutta (9) Lakshmana.

**Answers to the Crossword:** W = Watch your WORDS, A = Watch your ACTIONS, T = Watch your THOUGHTS, C = Watch your CHARACTER, H = Watch your HEART



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

## ADMISSIONS NOTICE

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

### PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN

#### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

#### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

#### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- B.Ed.
- M.Ed.

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

Applications deadline  
**28 Feb 2014**

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

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

### PROGRAMMES FOR MEN

#### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

#### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

#### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

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

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# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

## ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSIONS

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

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

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

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

### NOTE

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

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

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

## SATHYA SAI MIRPURI COLLEGE OF MUSIC

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

### ADMISSIONS NOTICE

#### FULL-TIME COURSES

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

**PRASANTHI NILAYAM - 515134, (A.P.)**

### ADMISSION NOTICE 2014-2015

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

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

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

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

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

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

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

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

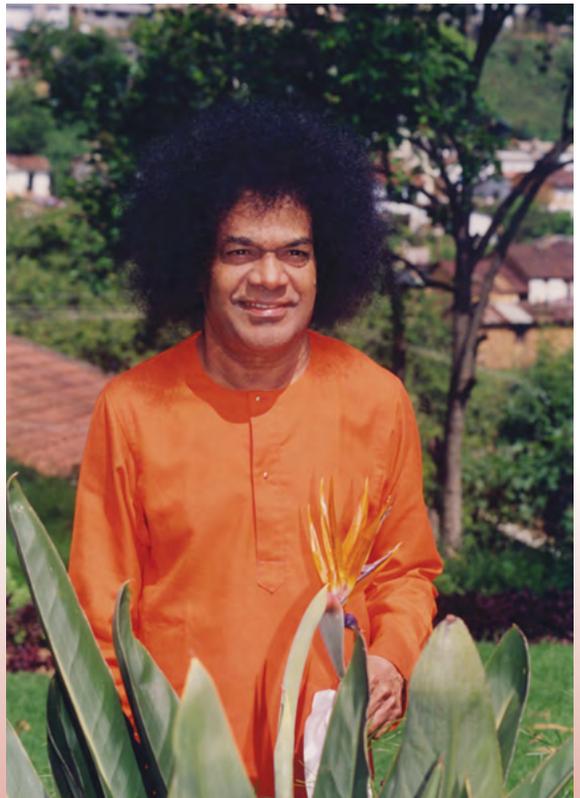
– *Principal*

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



**Visit of the President of India to Prasanthi Nilayam, 23rd December 2013.**

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*Violin recital by Primary School Children on Christmas morning.*



*Christmas carols by International Children's Choir.*



*Music programme by Sriakulam devotees.*

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## *My Love is Pure*

My love for you is pure, unchanging and selfless. What is your life worth if you cannot believe in such love? Believe in it. You place trust in double-dealers. Why don't you stand by the truth which you know? Receive My pure love with a pure heart. Make yourself holy. Live in love. Love is God. Bear in mind what Swami has said and regard Swami's words as a beacon light for your lives. With the light of Swami's advice in your hearts, you can proceed on life's journey for any length of time. Remember with love God, who is everything.

*– Baba*

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