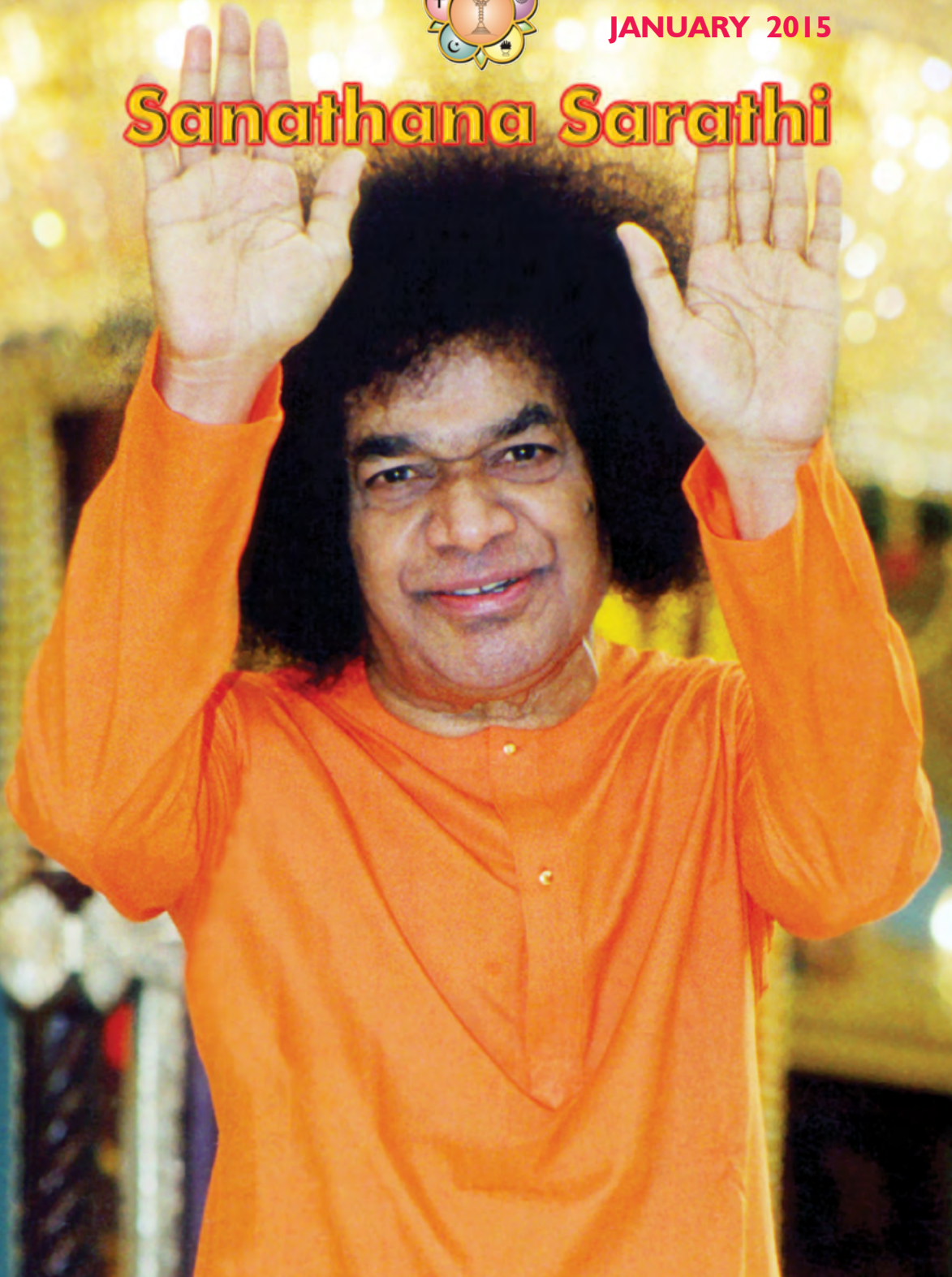




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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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*"God is ready to grant anything
the devotee asks for. In fact,
He is ready to give Himself.
You cannot find such supreme
spirit of sacrifice in your friends,
relatives or anyone for that
matter in this world."*

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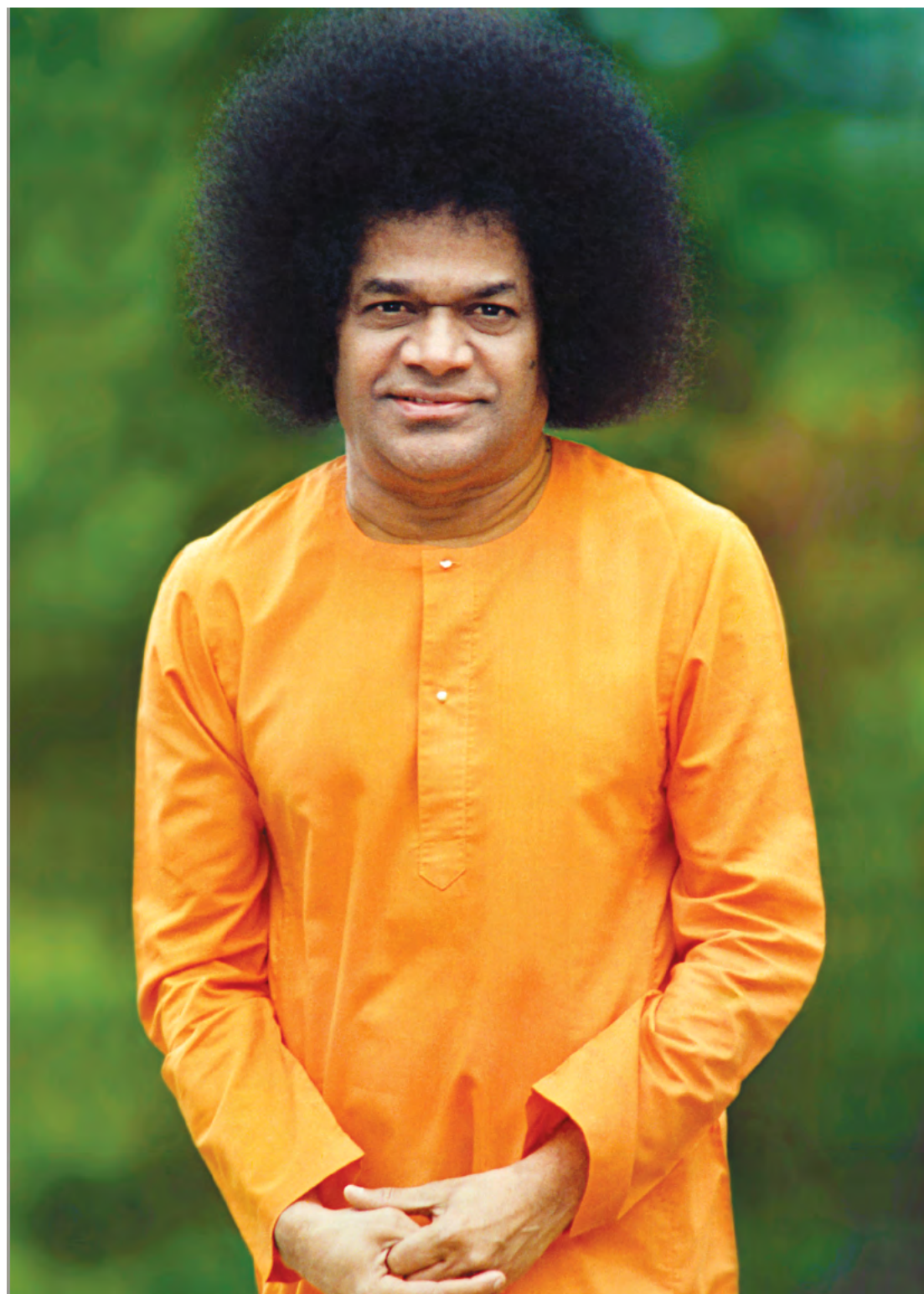
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*"Sanathana Sarathi" wishes
devotees a holy and prosperous New Year*



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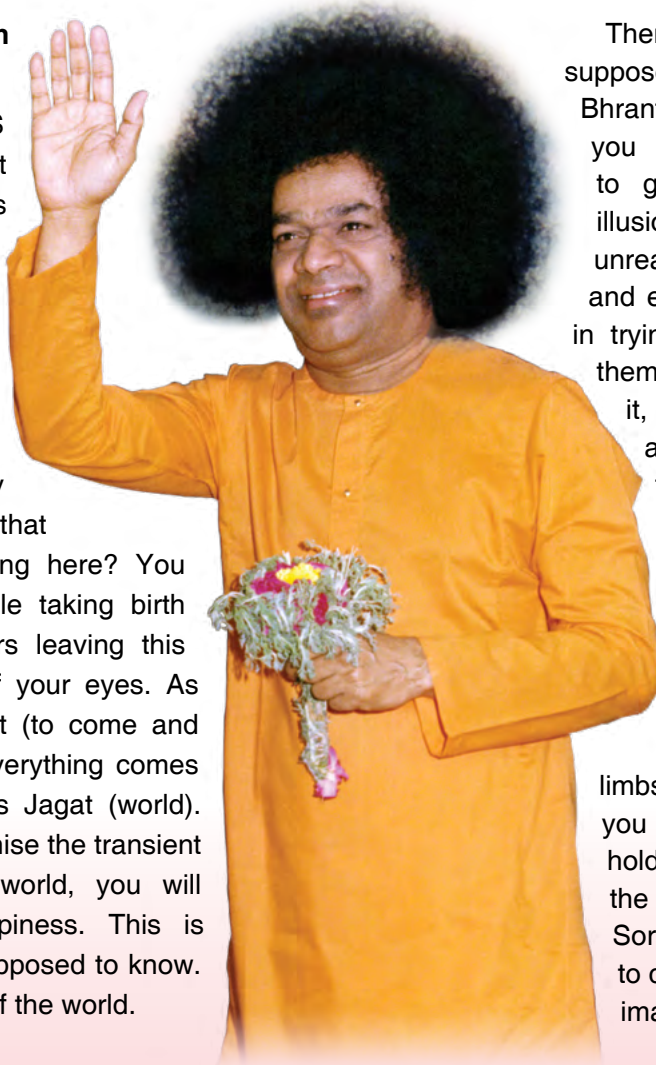
BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
4TH SEPTEMBER 1996: PART 2

LOVE FOR GOD IS THE ONLY REAL WEALTH

SWAMI'S LOVE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU

**Develop Firm
Faith in God**

*W*HAT IS it that man is supposed to know? He should enquire: What is the nature of this world? How long is my stay here? What is it that I am experiencing here? You see many people taking birth and many others leaving this world in front of your eyes. As the name Ja-gat (to come and go) indicates, everything comes and goes in this Jagat (world). Once you recognise the transient nature of this world, you will experience happiness. This is what you are supposed to know. This is the way of the world.



Then what are you supposed to give up? Bhranti (illusion) is what you are supposed to give up. In your illusion, you consider unreal things to be real and experience sorrow in trying to cling on to them. On the top of it, you think Maya and sorrow have taken you in their grip and are not leaving you. Does sorrow have hands, feet, eyes, nose, etc? Only you have these limbs. Therefore, it is you who have caught hold of sorrow and not the other way round. Sorrow has no hands to catch you. But you imagine that you are

in the grip of sorrow which is the cause of your suffering. This is ignorance, and this is what you are supposed to give up. Only then can you experience true happiness.

Lastly, where are you supposed to reach? You should reach where you have come from. It is but natural for all living beings to go back to their source of origin. You have come from the Atma; you have to go back to the Atma. There lies the real happiness. The same is stated in the Vedic prayer: *Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya* (lead me from unreality to reality, from darkness to light, from death to immortality). It is a prayer to God to lead the seeker from untruth to truth. Untruth follows truth like its shadow. *Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya*. What is light and what is darkness? There is only one thing and that is light. When you don't see light, you experience darkness. Light and darkness do not exist separately. The absence of light is darkness. You can attain happiness when you realise this. *Mrityorma Amritamgamaya*. What is it that has birth and death? It is only the body, and not you. You have no birth and no death. That which is born is bound to die. Therefore, birth and death are related to the body and not to the Atma. The Atma alone is true, eternal and immortal. When you realise this truth, you can experience real happiness.

Everyday you recite this Vedic prayer, but you do not try to know what you are supposed to know. Hence, you should know what you are supposed to know, give up what you are supposed to give up and

All the Leelas of Krishna are meant to remove the sufferings of man. He utilised all His divine powers only for the sake of devotees. When you try to understand the significance of the sacred Bhagavata, you will realise the supreme power of Divinity.

reach where you have to reach. Only then can you experience real happiness. Until then the happiness that you experience is only temporary and not permanent. The state of permanent happiness is termed as immortality. This state of happiness is described by the Vedas as *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Suddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (It is attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). You should develop firm faith in God to experience true and eternal happiness.

Avatars Come to Demonstrate Great Ideals

Where was Krishna born and what was His property? He was born in a prison, brought up in the house of Nanda and lived in Mathura. But He attained great name and fame in the world as He never considered the worldly wealth as real. Worldly wealth is temporary and, in fact, it is no wealth at all. Bliss was His real wealth and Krishna was always blissful.

Here you should understand the difference between the two Avatars, Rama and Krishna. Krishna performed everything



always in a state of happiness, whereas Rama derived happiness from the work He performed. Rama fought battle with the enemy after being provoked, whereas Krishna Himself would provoke the enemy and fight battle with him. Both the Avatars acted according to the need of the times. Krishna signified bliss, whereas Rama symbolised responsibility. Rama incarnated to demonstrate the matchless power of truth and righteousness to the entire world. Rama + Ayana is Ramayana, meaning Ramayana is the story of Rama's earthly sojourn. The principle of Krishna was different from this in the sense that He was a world teacher. He never desired anything for Himself nor was He attached to anything. He offered all that He had to His people. He killed His maternal uncle Kamsa, but did not take his kingdom. He gave it to Kamsa's father Ugrasena. Likewise, He took the side of the Pandavas, defeated the Kauravas and anointed Dharmaraja as the king. He never aspired to become the king. He was the king without a crown. He was the King of kings and Lord of lords without any kingdom. In fact, He was the emperor of the hearts of everyone. This is the truth demonstrated by the Krishna principle. When you enquire deeply, you will understand that every Avatar comes to demonstrate an ideal.

Krishna Stole the Pure Heart of Gopikas

Krishna always uttered truth even when He spoke something in fun. He never uttered a lie even in a lighter vein. But those who do not understand the import of

Krishna's words think that He indulged in untruth. In every Yuga (aeon) and during the time of every Avatar, there are people who are afflicted with this type of malady.

Once Gopikas came to Mother Yashoda and complained:

Mother, your Krishna came to the top of our terrace in the middle of the night and tied the plaits of our hair when we were fast asleep. Ask Him, oh mother, ask Him.

(Telugu Song)

Then Yashoda asked Krishna:

What work do You have in others' houses at midnight? It seems You tied the plaits of their hair and came back running. I am not going to leave You now.

(Telugu Song)

Krishna replied with a smile:

Mother, was I not lying by your side without moving anywhere at night? When did I go and when did I come back? You yourself tell Me.

(Telugu Song)

What Krishna meant to convey was: "I am here, there and everywhere, wherever you see." He demonstrated such supreme truths by His divine sports.

Another group of Gopikas once came and complained to Mother Yashoda:

Oh mother, when we were carrying pots of buttermilk for sale, Krishna accosted us and asked us to pay tax. Then He hit the pots making holes in them. Oh mother! Ask Him.

(Telugu Song)



Then Krishna said to Mother Yashoda:

They wanted to offer those pots of buttermilk to God, and God Himself came and made holes in them. But unknowingly, they are pushing the blame on Me. I don't know anything about it; I am innocent. (Telugu Song)

Here Krishna conveyed to Yashoda indirectly that He is God Himself. He was trying to explain to His mother in a way she could understand His Divine nature.

Many a time, Krishna would steal milk and butter from the houses of Gopikas and would run away when they tried to catch Him. What do the milk and butter symbolise? Butter and milk are white in colour which symbolises purity. Therefore, Krishna accepted the pure and Sattwic (sublime) feelings of the Gopikas.

Once Mother Yashoda chided little Krishna:

Oh Krishna! You do not eat what I serve You at home.

But You go to the houses of the Gopikas and steal their butter.

Oh dear Krishna! It spoils our good name. (Telugu Poem)

She complained, "Oh Krishna! You are such a small child, but You are creating such a great commotion in the entire village by Your mischievous acts. Does not the butter prepared at home taste good to You? Is the butter in the houses of Gopikas so tasty to You"? When Yashoda chided Him in this manner, Krishna said to her, "The hearts of Gopikas are pure, sacred

and without any trace of selfishness. But there is an element of selfishness in your motherly love towards Me. Therefore, I am not interested in the butter you prepare at home. What I am stealing from the houses of the Gopikas is not butter, but their pure and selfless hearts. I steal the hearts of those who are pure and totally devoid of selfishness". That is why devotees praise Krishna singing the song, *Chitta Chora Yashoda Ke Bal Navaneeta Chora Gopal* (Oh Krishna, the son of mother Yashoda, You are the stealer of butter and the hearts of devotees). People think Krishna stole butter but, in fact, He stole the pure hearts of the Gopikas.

What is the point in offering worship to the Lord if the heart is not pure? Without inner purity, what is the point in following ritualistic practices? What is the point in cooking delicious items in a vessel which is not clean? The word of Sai is verily the truth. (Telugu Poem)

Krishna's Leelas Reveal His Divinity

If you chant the Name of Rama even once with purity of heart, He will at once respond. He alone can bestow on you real happiness. Purandaradasa said, "Rama and Yama are not different from each other. Both are one and the same". The same Rama appeared as Yama (god of death) to the wicked Ravana and as God to the pious Vibhishana who totally surrendered to Him. He appeared as Rama or Yama based on the feelings of the respective individuals. The same Krishna appeared as God to Ugrasena who had faith in



Him, and as Yama to wicked Kamsa who considered Him to be his enemy. Similarly, He became Yama to Hiranyakasipu who hated God and appeared as Narayana to Prahlada who all the time contemplated on Him.

Once Gopikas became tired of Krishna's mischievous pranks. In spite of their best efforts, they could not catch Him. Therefore, one day Krishna thought: "Poor Gopikas are pure-hearted; they are innocent and totally devoid of selfishness. It is not proper on My part to escape from them whenever they try to catch Me. I am Bhakta Paradhina (servant of devotees), and I should not put My devotees to hardship. This time, I will allow them to catch Me". Then He devised a plan by which Gopikas could know His whereabouts and catch Him. Sensing that Krishna was in the house of a particular Gopika, all others stood like soldiers around the compound wall so that He could not escape from them. What did Krishna do? He poured down all the milk from a pot hung to the ceiling, dipped His tiny feet in it and ran away when Gopikas came to catch Him. Gopikas followed His footprints and could catch Him. There was a message for the Gopikas in this episode. Krishna conveyed to the Gopikas, "Follow in My footsteps, and you will be able to attain Me".

There are many such incidents in the Bhagavata which convey a profound message to devotees. But they appear to be mere pranks to those who consider them so. *Munde Munde Mathir Bhinnah*

(opinions vary from person to person). When heads are different, thoughts also vary. The Bhagavata is nothing but the story of the Lord. The divine pranks of Krishna are the basis of understanding His Divinity. All these stories of Lord Krishna demonstrate great ideals. They cannot be made a subject of ridicule as some people have a tendency to do.

Radha pined for Krishna endlessly. Krishna churned her heart with the churning rod of Jnana and granted her the precious jewel of devotion. She considered Krishna as her only refuge and never relied on her kith and kin.

I have no refuge other than You. Oh Krishna, I am carrying on this burden of life only for Your sake. My mind becomes restless if I don't see Your smiling face. At least appear to me in my dreams. I cannot live without You even for a moment. (Telugu Song)

God is ready to grant anything the devotee asks for. In fact, He is ready to give Himself. You cannot find such supreme spirit of sacrifice in your friends, relatives or anyone for that matter in this world. Radha had become completely weak and was about to breathe her last. At that moment, Krishna appeared before her and asked, "What is your last wish"? Radha replied, "Krishna, I don't want anything. My only wish is to listen to the melody of Your flute for one last time".

Oh Krishna! Sing a sweet song, and fill my heart with nectarine words and bliss. Distil the essence of the Vedas,



transform it into divine music, play it on Your enchanting flute, and captivate me with Your melody. Sing, oh Krishna! Sing for me! (Telugu Song)

Human body is the flute that has nine holes. Radha prayed to Krishna to make the essence of the Vedas flow through this 'flute'. Accordingly, Krishna played a sweet song on His flute, listening to which Radha gave up her mortal coil. Then and

were not known as they are today. People would offer milk or curd to guests. In her exuberance of happiness, Rukmini offered her hot boiling milk in a glass. Radha used to offer everything to Krishna before partaking of it. She said, Krishnarpanam (I offer it to Krishna) and gulped the boiling hot milk. In the evening, when Krishna came to Rukmini, she performed His Padaseva (pressing His feet). At that



Never observe differences with regard to Divinity based on name and form. Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma (God is one without a second). You may call Him by any name, Allah, Jesus, Zoroastra, Buddha, Rama or Krishna. Don't observe any differences whatsoever. There is only one religion, the religion of humanness.

there, Krishna left His flute for good. From that day, He never touched it again as a gesture of Radha's great devotion towards Him.

The Devotion of Gopikas is Worth Emulating

Once Rukmini invited Radha to her house. On receiving invitation from Rukmini, Radha at once came to her house. Those days Idli, Dosa, cakes, etc.,

time, she was shocked to notice blisters on His feet. She asked, "Oh Lord! What has happened? Who has caused blisters on Your feet"? Then Krishna replied, "It is your own doing. When Radha came to you in the morning, you offered her hot boiling milk without bothering to check whether it was fit for drinking. She offered that milk to Me before drinking. Therefore, these blisters have come on My feet".



Some people think that these are mere Kathas (stories). They are not Kathas, but divine sports which are meant to remove the Vyathas (sufferings) of man. All the Leelas of Krishna are meant to remove the sufferings of man. He utilised all His divine powers only for the sake of devotees. When you try to understand the significance of the sacred Bhagavata, you will realise the supreme power of Divinity.

Gopikas led their lives in the constant contemplation of Krishna while discharging their worldly duties. They had no formal education nor any degrees. They neither went to any university nor did they study any Upanishads. The Name of Krishna was the only Upanishad and Sastra (scripture) they knew. The Name of Gopala was the only Veda they studied. In this manner, they sanctified their lives in the constant contemplation of Krishna. They enjoyed all types of worldly happiness also. The Gopikas were united in their love and devotion for Krishna. All the devotees should emulate them in this regard and give up all differences based on caste, race and religion. What is the caste of the five elements which are present in us? What is the caste of fire, wind, ether, water and earth? There was a great spirit of unity among the Gopikas. Where there is unity, there is purity. When unity and purity come together, divinity manifests.

Suguna had the Vision of Krishna

People in the village Gokul lighted their oil lamps from the lamp in Nanda's house. They believed that they would

attain plenty and prosperity if they lighted their lamps from the lamps lit in the houses of prosperous people. One day, a newly-married Gopika by name Suguna arrived in that village. She desperately wanted to see Krishna having heard so much about His Leelas. But she could not express her feelings to either her husband or her in-laws. Her mother-in-law commanded her not to go to the house of Yashoda lest she should see Krishna and become His devotee. But, in fact, no one has the right to prevent anyone from having the vision of God. Everyday, the mother-in-law herself would go to the house of Yashoda to light the lamp. One day as she developed high fever, she was left with no choice but to send Suguna to Yashoda's house for lighting the lamp. Suguna was overjoyed, thinking that she had a chance to see Krishna at last. In that feeling of extreme happiness, she forgot herself as she entered Yashoda's house. As she lighted her lamp from the lamp kept in Yashoda's house, she could see Krishna in the flame. She was so much lost in the vision of Krishna that she did not realise that her hand was getting burnt.

In the meantime, other women from the neighbouring houses also came there to light their lamps. They were wonderstruck on witnessing this scene. They noticed that Suguna was not moving away from the flame even though her fingers were in contact with the flame. Mother Yashoda also came running and asked her, "What is this? Don't you realise that your hand is getting burnt"? But Suguna was not able to hear the words of Yashoda as her mind



was totally focused on Krishna. Krishna was smiling at her and she too was smiling at Him. Therefore, she did not feel any pain. Later on, when Gopikas asked her about this incident, she told them, "I had the vision of Krishna in the flame. He smiled and made me also smile". When they know something like this, will the women keep quiet? In a moment, this news spread in the entire village. Then Gopikas joined together and sang a song describing the incident.

*It seems Suguna had a vision
Of Gopala in the house of Nanda.
She saw Krishna in the flame!*

(Telugu Song)

The mother-in-law of Suguna also came to know about this incident. But Suguna was not worried. She was happy that she could have the vision of Krishna. It is not possible to describe the glory and grandeur of the Leelas of Krishna. He was a woman among women, a man among men, a child among children and an elder among elderly persons. That is why the Bhagavadgita says, *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Srutimalloke Sarvamavrutya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). He resides in the hearts of everyone.

Therefore, never observe differences with regard to Divinity based on name and form. *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). You may call Him by any name, Allah, Jesus, Zoroastra,

Buddha, Rama or Krishna. Don't observe any differences whatsoever. There is only one religion, the religion of humanness. There may be something wrong with Mathi (mind) and not with Matham (religion). Therefore, set right your minds. Do not give scope to conflicts and hatred based on religious differences.

Students! You should propagate the principle of oneness to the entire world. Never give scope to differences. This is the real education you have to acquire. Only students have the capacity to revive the ancient culture of Bharat by adhering to the path of devotion and surrender.

Swami's Word is Swami

There is another important subject I want to tell you. Devotees coming to Prasanthi Nilayam are increasing in number day by day. As they are happy having My Darshan, I am also very happy spending My time with them. Since I am busy with My devotees, I have no free time. Therefore, it will not be possible for Me to perform marriages in Prasanthi Nilayam. Those who want to get married can happily do so wherever it is convenient for them and come here. I will happily bless them. However, I will continue to perform mass marriages and mass Upanayanams (thread ceremonies). Swami's love is always with you wherever you are. But from now onwards, I will not perform marriages either in the interview room or anywhere else. If anyone wants to get married, he can do so in the Kalyana Mandapam. I have no objection to that.

continued on page 15...



BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE MISSION OF TRANSFORMING MANKIND

Gene Massey

I am indeed so very very fortunate to have been blessed in this manner, having seen Bhagavan's Mission in person and having met so many wonderful devotees doing such dedicated service. However, I do know that this blessing was given to me as part of my own transformation.

THE DIVINE MISSION OF Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is to change our hearts, to bring about our transformation from ordinary people to divine beings. Everything that He teaches, and everything that He has instructed us to do, is directed towards the singular purpose of the transformation of the heart of mankind.

Curing the Disease of Worldliness

Those of us who have been blessed to be a part of His Divine Mission are administered whatever medicine is necessary for us to affect this change. Sometimes, the medicine is extremely bitter and painful to take, and sometimes He gives us the medicine that is wonderfully sweet and blissful. Bhagavan has given me both. While on the one hand, He took away all my material wealth and my 'toys', on the other hand, He blessed me with the opportunity to travel to 26 countries to see His marvellous work and meet His most

dedicated devotees who are living only to serve Him.

I was for many years a television commercial director and cameraman and I made quite a bit of money, which I often spent unwisely in search of material pleasures and in satisfying my personal

He let Gene see what Divine Love is, and how it can change even the hardest of hearts. He let Gene 'lose' all the things he (wrongly) valued, and let him realise how temporary this world is, and He helped him see real "Sai Love in Action". He helped Gene transform his bad tendencies into good tendencies. And finally, He let Gene see how much more joyous it is to be a part of His Mission to transform the heart of all humanity.

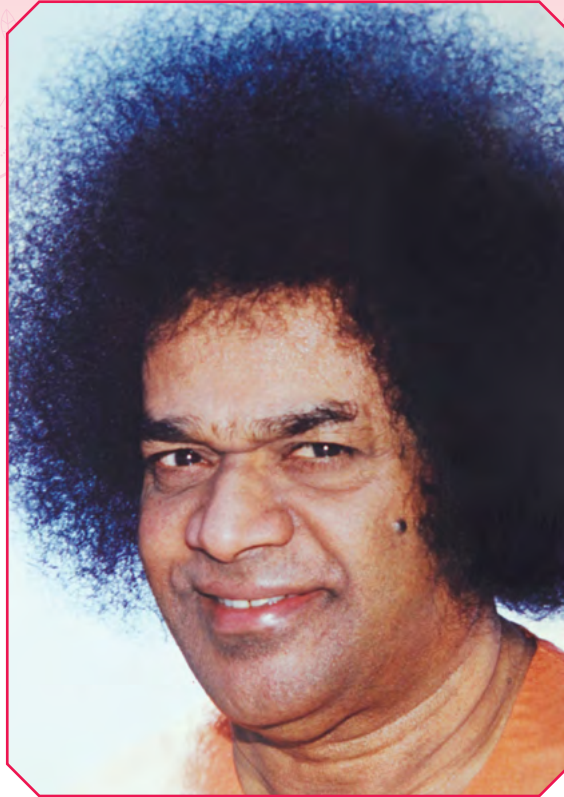


desires. I sought fame, fortune and comfort and craved for mostly those things that bind. In short, I was completely filled with Malina Vasanas (bad tendencies). And yet, I claimed to be a Sai devotee. I did service, yes, but it was the wrong kind of service. I was doing service for enhancing my ego, and feeling important because I thought I was helping those “poor people”.

The Joy of Being a Part of Bhagavan's Divine Mission

What was Bhagavan to do with a fellow like this? No doubt, He must have pondered over how to save me! A rich “Hollywood Director” with a head the size of Texas, misusing his money, seeking fame and fortune, doing service so that he could tell others what a great guy he was, and yet claiming to be a devotee, and basically giving Swami a bad name! What to do?

Well, of course, Bhagavan knew exactly what to do with Gene. First, he had to get rid of all that money! And then He sent Gene



around the world to see some starving people. And He let him meet some real devotees, who were working as God's true instruments, and who were spreading His Love to all. He let Gene see what it really means to be a “Devotee of Sathya Sai Baba”. He let Gene see what Divine Love is, and how it can change even the hardest of hearts. He let Gene ‘lose’ all the things he

(wrongly) valued, and let him realise how temporary this world is, and He helped him see real “Sai Love in Action”. He helped Gene transform his bad tendencies into good tendencies. And finally, He let Gene see how much more joyous it is to be a part of His Mission to transform the heart of all humanity.

And so, this wonderful grace of Bhagavan is what I have been experiencing the past few years. He has given me some very very bitter medicine, but that medicine was necessary for one in such dire need. But let me tell you now about the medicine that Bhagavan gave me that is joyous and delightful... a medicine from



His wonderful grace that comes only once in many lifetimes. A grace beyond words to express, and yet I will try.

A Wonderful Filming Trip

As I said earlier, I am a cameraman. (I have dropped the “director” nomenclature now, because Bhagavan is the real Director.) I am blessed to have travelled all over the world filming Sai Schools and Sai Service. I have met great devotees, many of whom would be considered saints if all was known of what they have done to serve humanity. But the greatest filming trip I ever experienced was in 2013 where I was asked to film Sai Service and Sai Schools all over India.

It began with a phone call from Nimish Pandya who asked if I would be interested in filming Sai Schools in India. Of course, I said yes, but added, “Why not shoot the service projects as well”? It was agreed that I would come to India and travel all over India filming Sai Schools and Sai Service. I called a young director of mine, Naresh Sharma, who is a Mumbai director in his own right and asked him to accompany me.

In January 2013, I came to India and Naresh and I began a filming tour only found in dreams – we went to 21 Indian States. We had the opportunity to meet and interview dignitaries and celebrities all over the country, and more importantly, we filmed every manner of Sai Service

in every part of India. We filmed loving service in many remote villages throughout India. We even filmed the inauguration of the 100th Sathya Sai School. In this way, Bhagavan blessed Naresh and me beyond imagination. Many devotees along our way commented that even after living their whole lives in India, they had not seen so much of India.

I am indeed so very very fortunate to have been blessed in this manner, having seen Bhagavan’s Mission in person and having met so many wonderful devotees doing such dedicated service. However, I do know that this blessing was given to me as part of my own transformation. I do know that this gift was given to me by Bhagavan to change my heart, and to give me the joy of being allowed to participate in His Divine Mission. I will do my best to deserve this grace, and live the rest of my life as Bhagavan’s humble servant, and hopefully making more films. We now have over 115 hours of footage of magnificent Sai Schools and Sai Seva being done all over India and the world. We will create a one-hour film to play around the world and on Indian television, to show the whole world that Swami’s Divine Mission, to bring about the Golden Age, is now bearing fruit.

– The author, Gene Massey, a Hollywood Director and cameraman, is connected with Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Hollywood, U.S.A.

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- Convener

From our Archives

SANCTIFY TIME BY GOOD ACTIONS

All things happen according to the dictates of time;

Both good and bad depend on time;

Prosperity and poverty likewise depend on time;

Time is the determinant of all things.

There is none who is not subject to time

in this entire world; that's the Truth.

(Telugu Poem)

TRANSFORM YOURSELVES EVERY MOMENT

Knowledge of the Self is True Knowledge

IN THE WORLD, YOU ARE continually experiencing the same round of days and nights. You perform the same daily routine and indulge in the same process of filling the stomach. Thus, you go on from year to year. But what efforts are you making to lead a purposeful and ennobling life? If you go on in this way, what is the worth of your life? What is the goal of life? What is its primary purpose? Few care to enquire into this basic question.

Hence, what we have to examine is how we can lead an ideal, bliss-filled, spiritually-oriented life which will serve as an example to others. People are engaged in spiritual practices. But when the outcome of these practices is examined, it is found

to be without meaning. All these exercises are purely designed to provide some sort of mental satisfaction and nothing more.

In My view, neither Sadhana (spiritual practice) nor Sadhyam (goal) exists independent of each other. Sadhana and Sadhyam are one and the same. It is a trick of the mind to make Sadhana as the means to Sadhyam. True Sadhana consists in giving up the Anatma Bhava (idea of non-self). To turn the vision from the physical to the spiritual constitutes real Sadhana.

Today we have knowledge of many sorts in the world. All these categories of knowledge do not constitute what is regarded as Jnana in Vedantic parlance. Atma Jnana (knowledge of the Self) alone is true knowledge. Ordinary knowledge may be knowledge of material



objects, sensory knowledge, or any other kind of knowledge acquired by investigation. But none of these can be Atma Jnana. In the highest sense, Atma (Self) and Jnana (knowledge) are not two different things. They are one and the same. That is why the Vedas declare: Sathyam, Jnanam, Anantham Brahma (Brahman is Truth, Wisdom and Infinity). Truth, Wisdom, Infinity and Brahman are all different names of Paramatma (Omni-Self). They are synonymous. They are not different from each other.

Time is the very Form of God

What is Jnana? The awareness of Swaswarupa (true Self) is real knowledge. Devotion is the means to achieve oneness with this knowledge. Jnana implies freedom from all thoughts. The Jnana Marga (path of knowledge) calls for the control of thoughts by appropriate efforts. Whether one

takes to the Jnana Marga or the Bhakti Marga (path of devotion), the resulting illumination is the same.

For instance, the light of the sun is reflected by the moon. The light from the sun is warm and effulgent. When the same light is radiated by the moon, it is cool and soothing. It is the same light that is present in the sun and the moon. The principle that illumines both the sun and the moon is the Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self). The sun's light has been compared to Jnana and the moon's light to Bhakti. Jnana is effulgent, while Bhakti is blissful. Thus, Bhakti and Jnana are the beginning and the end of the same process.

The fruits of your actions are determined by time. All your experiences, whether of happiness or sorrow, affluence or poverty, are the result of your actions. Hence, good and bad depend on what you



do. As are your actions, so are the fruits thereof. The way you utilise your time determines the outcome. Hence, time, which is a form of the Divine, should be put to right use.

The basic reality is the Atma in everyone. The Vedas have described all as “children of immortality”. People talk about the Atma, but behave in a manner that belies their belief. There should be unity in thought, word and deed. To achieve this triple unity, one has to understand the truth about the Atma.

This Atma is time and time is God. Therefore, you should not waste time. Fill your time with good actions. There is no greater Sadhana than this. Sanctify the time given to you by good thoughts and good actions. For this, you need to cultivate the company of the good, which will in due course lead you to liberation. Fill your mind with thoughts of God. Engage yourself in godly actions. This is true Sadhana.

Sublimate your Life

If you want to experience God, you have to do it through your duties and

...continued from page 9

Get married and come to Me; I will bless you with all love. Lead an ideal married life by serving the country and propagating the principle of oneness.

Today is Gokulashtami (Birthday of Lord Krishna). But what is birthday for God? This is only the birthday of the physical form. Do not give importance to birthdays; instead give importance to the teachings and ideals of Krishna. Krishna is

actions. This is not so easy. You have been listening to Me for many years. You take down notes and listen to tape records. Is there even the slightest change in you? Such is your life! Only when some change (for the better) takes place in you, that alone is the fruit of your Sadhana. You go on spending your days and nights in the same routine, but are you making any efforts to sublimate your life?

Students!

Regard every second as New Year and act on that basis. You need not wait for the passing of twelve months to embark on any enterprise. Transform yourselves every moment. Get rid of the bad old ideas; that will herald the birth of the New Year. Take part in service activities to sanctify your lives. Adhere to righteous conduct. Live up to the motto: Help ever, Hurt never. This is the essence of the message of Vyasa's eighteen Puranas (mythological texts).

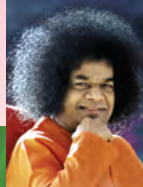
– Excerpted from Bhagavan's New Year Discourses.

not different from His teachings. Krishna is Gita, Gita is Krishna. Likewise, Swami is not different from His teachings. Swami's word is Swami.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “Govinda Krishna Jai...”)

– Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 4th September 1996.





RAKESH MENON

A THOUSAND MOTHERS' LOVE

WAS BLESSED TO BE AT SWAMI'S feet between the years 1994 to 1997.

I was not a devotee before I joined Swami's University, neither was anybody in my family. But we had heard of Baba's college as a unique institution which imparted human values. One of my uncles got me the application form and brought me to Puttaparthi, where I wrote the entrance examination. Thus, in the summer of 1994, when I joined the Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Whitefield, Bengaluru, I was yet to physically see Swami as He was in Kodaikanal at that time. Now I was not a devotee but already a Sai student. And I was very eagerly looking forward to the 'Big Change' that was to manifest in my life.

The first step to the change lay in my acceptance of Swami as God. But how could I accept someone as my Guru and God, when I had not even seen Him? Wasn't it foolhardy to invest my faith on a person, of whom I had only learnt from hearsay? So, I decided to test Bhagavan! After some time, Swami came back to Whitefield from Kodaikanal.

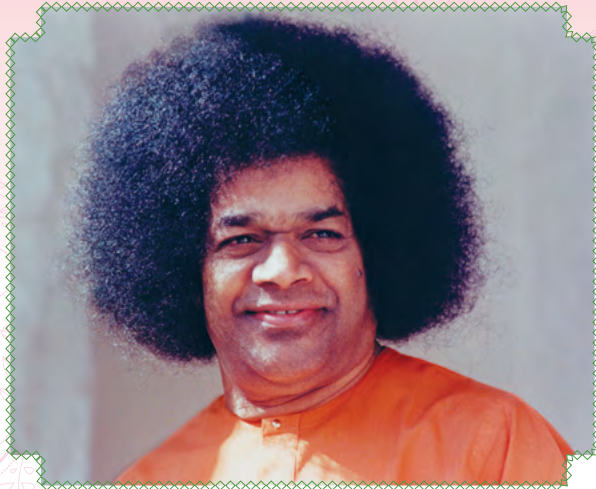
Testing Divinity and What an Answer!

We were a group of three boys from the same place who wrote the entrance examination together. And all three of us got through the test. There was one amongst us who had the habit of smoking. And as the hostel and Ashram rules strictly forbade this habit, this boy would go out on the sly, unknown to anybody else, to take the vital puff.

I was aware of his furtive habit and so was the other boy. And we both advised him against persisting with his covert ways, knowing fully well that it might result in his expulsion from the institution altogether. But he remained adamant. Instead, he pointed a finger at a photograph of Swami in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall and said, "Let Him say and I will stop".

I looked at the hall; there were at least 5,000 devotees seated there, waiting for Swami's Darshan. It seemed Swami now had two more tasks to accomplish in such a massive gathering before two doubting Thomases could accept His Divinity. First, to correct the cigar boy and second, to trigger a big change in me.





Two days later, this boy got the chance to wave Arati to Swami. I was sitting close to him. When the Bhajans ended, Swami picked up the match box, lit the Arati, and told him in Tamil, “You said that if I ask you to stop smoking, you would do that”. He put the match box back into the boy’s shirt pocket and then continued as if nothing had ever happened. I was flabbergasted! Nobody else knew about that conversation except the three of us.

And I can never forget the expression on this boy’s face – of utter disbelief, shock and fear. Swami’s words were also heard by the third boy. And we all looked at each other, astounded beyond words. In a crisp one-liner, the Omnipresent Lord had neatly packaged the lesson of a lifetime; it was powerful and unforgettable. This was my first direct experience of Swami’s omnipresence.

When Swami Touched my Heart

More was to come. Nine days later, I received a letter from home. It was from my

sister and the contents went thus, “We were very strict with you because we wanted you to grow up in the right way and become a respected individual. Now that you are far away, we do miss you”. My sister and I were very close to each other ever since my mother died when we were very young.

The letter made me homesick. And when, in the evening, there was a soul-stirring Bhajan extolling Swami as Sai Ma (Mother Sai), I was reminded of my mother and was actually in tears. Soon, I was convulsing hard, with my head bent down I was trying to stem the cascade of sorrow that streamed down my face.

A few boys nudged me during the Bhajans saying that Swami was looking at me. But I did not believe them. The Trayee Session followed soon after the Bhajans. These sessions are close interactive sessions wherein Swami would give Discourses and move closely among students, interacting and sharing valuable insights peppered with humour. It was a great opportunity for us to listen and learn both from Swami and as well as from the elders.

That evening, I was sitting quite far away from the Jhoola (the swing on which Swami generally sat). When Swami came, He looked around, searched among the boys, spotted me and then asked me to come towards Him. Had I committed a grievous mistake I wondered, as I went up to Him? But when I came closer, Swami



pulled me towards Him, held me in a warm, loving embrace, and said, "This boy lost his mother. He lost his one mother but I will give him a thousand mothers' love". And then, He created a ring for me.

I was too overwhelmed, lost in His love, lost for words. And I was wondering how Swami knew my story; He was mentioning so many facts of my life to people nearby. This was the first time He spoke to me. That day, He touched my heart with His love. And I accepted Him as my Mother.

Surprise Gifts of Grace for Sisters

Another of my memorable experiences happened when I was in Kodaikanal with Swami. Kodaikanal is a place where one can witness the parental aspect of Swami like nowhere else. I am reminded of an evening when Swami actually gave money to all the students, and asked them to go and buy something for themselves. I went along with Prof. Anil Kumar to the shop. On the way I thought to myself that here I was with the Lord, pampered with His love, and absolutely taken care of, while my family back in my hometown was still facing life in its coldest.

So, I thought I should buy something for them; that was the least I could do with the money Swami gave me. Therefore, as the professor shopped for something for his wife, I bought two pairs of earrings, one each for my two sisters. These were not very expensive, but I thought this was what I could do. I had these earrings packed and put them in my shirt pocket. When I returned, Swami instantly started

When people ask me about my personality and the secret of my professional growth, I only talk about my University, the Ashram in Puttaparthi and my Guru and Mother Sai. What I am today is only because of Swami.

looking about as if He was searching for something. He then came to me and asked, "What did you buy"? and before I could reply, He put His hand in my shirt pocket and took out the earrings.

There was a look of dismay on His face when He saw those jewels, as if to say that they were not really of a good quality. And I was very disappointed, that I had not bought the right gifts for my sisters; that Swami had not approved of them. If Swami did not approve, then surely these were not really good, I thought to myself. That evening went by. That night even after everyone had retired, I was still ruminating over what had happened, and praying for my family.

At breakfast the next morning, Swami went around looking to everyone's needs like He did everyday. And when He came to me, He started waving His hand. Out came two identical sets of earrings from the Divine Palm! Swami said, "Those were not good. Give these to your sisters", and humorously added, "I gave you two identical ones because they might fight". That was one unforgettable instance of pure maternal affection that stands evergreen in my memory!



Success in the Corporate Space – the Sai Way

Time went on and I was not fortunate to secure an M.B.A. admission in Swami's University and I was not sure about my future, because I was going to leave the protected shelter where I was so comfortable. This indeed was a huge transition and the following year I returned five times to Swami for support and strength which I desperately needed. And only Swami could have made that possible.

When I completed my M.B.A. in another institution, I started my career with HSBC Bank. The corporate environment was cold, emotionless and unforgiving. Although the stress levels were critical, it was to percolate, at least through team work. But the fact remained that it was mostly every man to himself, so completely different from the brotherhood I enjoyed in Swami's hostel. And in this new scenario, one didn't have any choice but to dive within and look for inner reservoirs of courage and strength.

That is when I realised that whatever Swami has been teaching works in the corporate environment, that values give one the growth. And practising Swami's teachings did wonders for me – His directions on the right attitude towards work, dignity of labour, the right man

management through leading by example, and practising what one preached.

These simple messages of Swami actually helped me move ahead in my career right from HSBC in India, to the Middle East with Standard Chartered Bank and Citibank where I was handling quality assurance and operation risk audit. Tackling different individuals, impressing them by being a silent worker and leading by example – that is something which I really learnt in Swami's college and I still hold on to it. And when people ask me about my personality and the secret of my professional growth, I only talk about my University, the Ashram in Puttaparthi and my Guru and Mother Sai. What I am today is only because of Swami.

What words of gratitude can I have for my Swami, who, time and again, showered His love on me, treating me more like a son than a student? He has given me the love of a mother and the guidance of a father – the love that keeps me joyful and brings me back to Him, the love that gives me strength in my career and helps me face life and all its challenges. And I know that I never need to worry, for my Mother's watchful eyes are always on me – caring, protecting, guiding, comforting and loving.

– *Courtesy:* Radio Sai Global Harmony

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

Effulgence of Divine Glory

A HEALING ROSE

*D*URING THE YEARS I LIVED IN Brindavan, a recurring painful condition with my shoulder, that began after my daughter's birth, returned. In the States, I could visit a chiropractor to adjust the shoulder. But in India, at that time, chiropractic treatment was not available.

The longer the shoulder remained out of place, the more severe the pain and restriction of movement became. After a few months, the shoulder pain intensified and my arm became practically immobile.

Talking to a friend of mine who was a nurse and had lived in India many years, I discovered that, for my condition, treatment with an orthopaedic surgeon was the only solution. After being introduced to an orthopaedic surgeon, I decided to ask Swami's permission for treatment.

I stood with letter in hand in an area of Swami's house where His guests, who wished to speak to Him, would gather and

wait. Swami emerged with a lovely pink rose in His hand. He looked at me and then glanced at the letter in my hand, moving towards me a few feet, before abruptly stopping. Locking His eyes with mine, and breaking into a heart-melting Divine smile, He gracefully tossed me the rose and left.

I immediately understood that I did not have His permission to go to the orthopaedic surgeon. I felt a sense of relief as it was against my belief to take

such extreme measures when I knew all I needed was an adjustment. But then, I wondered how I would deal with the pain. I was so absorbed with the rose that when I finally remembered the pain, I discovered it was gone, completely gone, and has remained gone to this day. I was filled with immense gratitude and love for Swami's wondrous healing with a rose, the symbol of love.

– Excerpted from “Divine Lessons from Sathya Sai Baba” by Diana Baskin.



Students Corner

BAL VIKAS HAS CHANGED MY LIFE

HUMAN BIRTH IS A RARE gift given with a purpose, i.e., to go back to the source of origin. The purpose emerges from the realisation of one Atma in all beings. This realisation is the absolute truth and the process is called Educare. Values are embedded in the conscience of man. They have to be brought out for Atmic realisation and practised in life. The methodology of linking values and life is called discipline.

Childhood is the stage of celibacy when the mind is free and pure, and when subjected to discipline yields nobility in later stages of life. Nobility is the carrier of human values, which begets sacrifice and sacrifice in turn begets service. When man is served until God is seen in him, the Atmic principle is realised and human birth becomes fruitful. This is the main objective of Bal Vikas. It employs methods and techniques to bring out values and induce discipline. In fact, Bal Vikas is that machinery, which uses the child as the input, discipline as the process and nobility as the output. Such a child grows with one attitude, i.e., service. When he speaks with the strength of his virtues, it becomes an education for others and when his virtues are translated into a action, it becomes service. He becomes a gift to society. Thus Bal Vikas leads to Lok Vikas.



Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas has changed my life. It has taught me to dedicate all actions at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan. This has strengthened my confidence and driven away my pessimism. At the age of adolescence, when many students take to wrong ways, I find Swami as my friend and guide leading me through all situations and protecting me. Thus, I would forever remain indebted to Swami for choosing me as a Bal Vikas student.

Bhagavan Baba out of His infinite love and compassion selects us, and in the process of making jewels out of us heats, melts, kneads, pounds and bakes us to reform and transmute us. We must surrender to His Will and prove ourselves to be His worthy instruments.

– From the article of Prachi Bulbul in “Educare for Lok Vikas”.





Swami's Tips to Students

Values are necessary for acquiring education. Education is for life. Life is for love. Love is for service to the nation and the world. Make your studies useful to the country. Then there will be peace. Starting with values, you end up with peace. There can be no peace without values.

When students acquire education in this manner, they will promote the well-being of the country and the world. Students should take a resolve to develop their native places and make their lives meaningful. This is what Sai expects from you. This is what you should offer to Me. Be good and make the country better. Be ideal students. Ensure security and prosperity of the country. Experience bliss by taking to the spiritual path.

No Harm Can Come to My Devotee

Chinna Katha

A PRIEST NAMED DEVESH used to perform worship of the idol of Lord Krishna in a temple built by the Maharana of Udaipur in Rajasthan. After offering Arati to the idol of child Krishna every night, the priest removed a flower garland offered to the idol during the day, reverentially touched it to his eyes, wore it on the tuft of his hair tied at the back of his head and went home.

One day as the priest was about to close the door of the temple, the Maharana entered it and asked for a garland from the idol as Lord's Prasadam. Alarmed at this order of the Maharana, the priest rushed into the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, went behind the curtain, removed the flower garland from the tuft of his hair and offered it to the Maharana in a plate. The

Maharana touched the garland to his eyes as a mark of reverence. When he opened his eyes and saw the garland, he noticed a grey hair in it and said to the priest, "What sir, the hair of our child Krishna has become grey even at this age"! The priest was bewildered at this question of the Maharana and did not know what to say to Maharana in reply. He blurted out, "Yes sir, Krishna's hair has turned grey". "I will come and see tomorrow morning," said Maharana and went to his palace.

The priest did not have sleep that night; he passed the entire night sitting and crying. Repenting at his mistake, he thought, "Alas! What a sin I have committed by telling that child Krishna's hair has turned grey when He has shining black hair! Can Krishna ever grow old? He is eternally young. Have I not to bear the punishment for the sin committed by me!"

In the morning, the Maharana also entered the temple along with the priest. When they saw Krishna's head in the light of the lamp, they found all the hair of Krishna grey! Beset with doubt as he was, the Maharana pulled hard some hair of Krishna. When he did so, blood started oozing from the head of Krishna. God can assume any form and do anything to save the honour of His devotee.



Noticing a grey hair in the garland, the Maharana asked the priest if Krishna's hair had turned grey.

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

NATYANJALI: A DANCE PRESENTATION

DEVOTEES IN SAI KULWANT Hall witnessed a sterling dance performance made by the renowned Kuchipudi exponent Kalaimamani Madhavapeddi Murthy from Chennai on 21st December 2014. Beginning his presentation at 5.15 p.m. with a dance dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the noted dancer performed five beautiful dances and concluded with an excellent dance to the tune of the song “Mana Ke Gahare Andhiyare Mein Sai Naam Diye Jaisa” (the Name of Sai is like a lamp in the thick darkness of the heart), signifying the glory of reciting God’s Name. The dancer was honoured with a shawl at the conclusion of the dance.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

True spirit of Christmas came to the fore at Prasanthi Nilayam when devotees from all parts of the world joined together in the sacred precincts of this spiritual capital of the world to celebrate this holy festival with unity, piety and gaiety. Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with various types of Christmas decorations which included Christmas trees, Christmas stars and

nativity scenes. Colourful lights on various buildings and many beautiful figures in light in the lawn of the Western Canteen at night were a source of great attraction for



International Adults Choir presented by over 400 overseas devotees.

devotees who thronged Prasanthi Nilayam in large numbers to participate in this holy festival. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, was exquisitely decorated and a nativity scene was set up in front of the Samadhi of Bhagavan. The four-day celebrations from 24th to 27th December 2014 comprised International Adults Choir, International Children’s Choir, Canadian Youth Choir, Christmas carols by overseas devotees, a devotional music presentation by students, talks by distinguished speakers, a Christmas Discourse of Bhagavan and a drama by the students of Canadian Sai School. (A detailed report of these celebrations will be given in the next issue of “Sanathana Sarathi”).

From the Bal Vikas Classroom

Experiences of a Bal Vikas Teacher

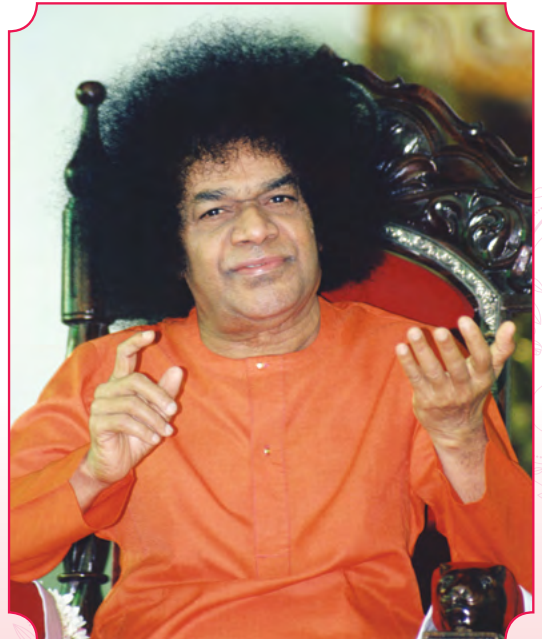
Sumathi Ravindraraj

IT WAS A WARM, SUNNY AUTUMN day in the central Pennsylvanian town of Mechanicsburg. The students came bounding down the steps to attend Sai Class or as some of them call it, God Class. Most students on this warm Saturday afternoon would have been outside playing. Instead, the students came to learn about our Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Some of the students have parents who are devotees already; most do not, however. So, what makes them come regularly, giving up all other recreational activities available in the United States? It is only the love of Baba in their hearts.

The Sai Class in this quiet small town has already largely succeeded. This experience is being shared to encourage Bal Vikas teachers all over the world to lovingly but boldly encourage Baba's teachings and not compromise for popularity's sake. After all, the only thing that matters is that the children become strong loving messengers of Baba to carry His teachings forward to make the world a better place.

Impact of Bal Vikas Class on Children

How did they come to love Baba so much and be committed to coming to class every week? It is, of course, the loving work of our Beloved Lord. Parents, through word of mouth solely, enrol the children in the class. In the United States, it is difficult for the children. Parents are constantly pulling them to live the Indian way, while the children want to be American. The Sai Class provides the teachings of Baba while inculcating the good values of integrity, generosity and courtesy, among others.



Taking the bold philosophy of Swami as the guide, the Sai teacher goes forward to firmly but gently encourage Baba's teachings, without apology. Baba has said no smoking, no eating meat and no drinking alcohol. Some children in the class have completely stopped eating meat; further, their parents have also followed suit. They understand the negative Karmic effects of eating meat from the person who kills the animal, the cook, the server and ultimately, the consumer. In some cases, however, the Sai students are practising vegetarianism completely on their own, at the ages of eight and nine, etc., even while the parents continue to be non-vegetarians.

Sai students, after learning that Baba wishes them to never drink as it alters their thinking, have never touched alcohol. The Sai teacher asked one male college student, "How do you cope with peer pressure when your friends ask you to drink beer at a party"? Immediately came the response, "The way I tell them no the first time they ask me makes it clear to them to never ask me again"! That is the miracle of Baba's classes. Not only can the Sai students distinguish between right and wrong for themselves and practise it, but also they can do it with strength of their personality. The Sai Class graduates state, "What is the point of Sai classes if the basic requirements are not inculcated by the time we grow to be young adults"? For devotees' and non-devotees' children to love Baba so much that they are compelled by what the teacher is teaching

to immediately implement, is in itself a miracle of Baba.

Periodically, the Sai teacher asks the students, "Is all of you spending your time in class worth it"? The following were some of the answers of the Sai students: "I do Bhajans by myself in my room every Thursday night even though my parents never join me" (8 years old). "I have given up eating meat forever because I only want good Karma" (9 years old). "Instead of inviting 50 people for my birthday party, I invited five and that, too on a Sunday so that it would not interfere with the Saturday God Class. I gave the savings to the needy" (9 years old).

Success Lies in Imparting Values with Conviction

I could go on and on to share the outcomes of the students. So, many of you might be asking how is it that these results are being achieved? The answer is to go bold; in other words, stand completely by Baba's teachings with conviction and share them as He states them. Do not sugarcoat them so that the parents will not get upset by what you are teaching. Also, take the teachings to the children directly. They get it. Tell them when you are happy and when you are not happy with their behaviour, in a loving way. Most of all, share that their lives are Baba's message. Would Baba be proud of the message they are sending? From the youngest to the eldest, they get it.

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NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

U. S. A.

ON 3RD MAY 2014, THE SATHYA Sai International Organisation of U.S.A., Region 10 organised an inaugural SAI (Service-Awareness-Integration) event, titled “Loving All and Serving All: The Role of Human Values in Society,” in Dallas, Texas. The conference



Conference on raising awareness about providing societal needs in Dallas.

brought together 300 community leaders and more than 70 organisations to raise awareness about pressing societal needs and key service initiatives, and to develop collaborative and individual commitments to take action. Ms. Monica Alonzo, Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore, Dallas, conveyed a special “City of Dallas Recognition” to the SSIO from the Mayor of Dallas, Mike Rawlings. Panel discussions were held on educare, healthcare and sociocare, with the active engagement of the audience.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Tampa Bay, Florida, in partnership with the

St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Pinellas County Health Department and Northside Hospital, held a dental camp on 26th July 2014 at the health department facilities in St. Petersburg, Florida. One dentist, eight dental hygienists, five nurses, two physicians and 18 volunteers offered dental services to 60 low-income, uninsured patients who were pre-screened. All patients were tested for blood pressure and blood sugar. Sathya Sai volunteers also served breakfast and lunch. After dental examinations and teeth cleaning, each patient received a dental care kit.

PHILIPPINES

A team of 12 Sathya Sai devotees organised medical camps from 21st to 25th June 2014 in the municipality of



A medical camp in Philippines.

Dulag, which had been hit hard by cyclone Yolanda. Medical services were provided to 2,095 patients in the specialities of pulmonary medicine, rheumatology, dermatology and dental care. The camps

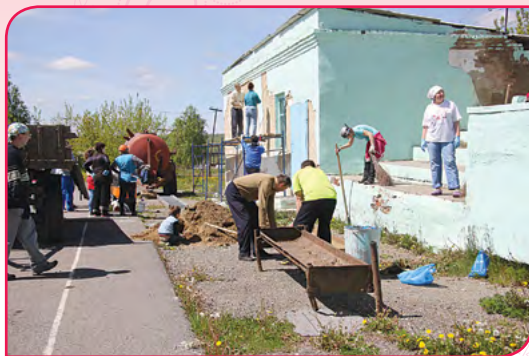


took place on consecutive days at San Jose, Combis, Cabacungan, Tigbao and Dulag. Services also included S.A.I. (stress alleviation intervention), exercise and stress management education to alleviate ongoing stress issues and sleeping problems. Advice was given on proper nutrition, dental care and the dangers of alcohol and smoking. The local people were touched by the loving care of the Sathya Sai volunteers who had come from all over the world.

RUSSIA

On 21st June 2014, 28 volunteers from six Sathya Sai Centres and Groups participated in a service project in Shepovalovo, near St. Petersburg, to clean the forest and the coast of the Baltic Sea. The beautiful area, with sandy beaches, pine forest and blooming wild flowers was previously littered with debris and garbage. The volunteers cleared the area, filled 150 large bags with waste and placed 60 posters bearing gentle reminders to protect Nature.

Twenty-six volunteers from seven Sathya Sai Centres and Groups organised a service camp in Zarubino, a village in Siberia from 12th to 15th June 2014. The volunteers came together from five cities to repair, plaster and paint the village stadium, including the seats, gymnasium and utility rooms. The work also included whitewashing and electrical repairs. Lights were hung in a sewing workshop and at a boarding school for children with mental disabilities. Sathya Sai volunteers lovingly



A service camp in Siberia.

distributed toys and educational games to the children, as well as stationery, wallpaper and wall panels. The head of the village thanked the volunteers for their services in a letter of appreciation. The villagers, including the children, also assisted the volunteers with the repairs and paint work.

BELARUS

A First National Conference on Education held on 7th and 8th June 2014 in Vitebsk, Belarus was attended by 23 people from four cities of Belarus. The conference focused on the philosophy of Educare and the role of SSE teachers.



First National Conference on Education in Belarus.

Information was given on the impact of television and computers on children's development, including their physical and mental abilities, adaptation in society and ability to make right decisions. Round table discussions were held by the Education Wing of the Sathya Sai International Organisation of Belarus.

B H A R A T

Jammu and Kashmir: Severe floods caused great damage in many areas of Jammu and Kashmir in September 2014. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir immediately provided items of daily need including about 2,500 blankets to flood-affected people of more than 35 villages in the districts of Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Ramban, Kathua, Doda and Jammu to meet the urgent requirements of people in these areas.

Punjab: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Batala organised a programme on the theme "The End of Education is Character" on 26th October 2014 in Sai Seva Sadan in Batala. Bal Vikas students who passed the Group II examination for certificate course and Group III students for 9 years diploma course were awarded the certificates and diplomas in the programme. Some alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning shared their experiences how they implemented the teachings of Bhagavan Baba in their personal and academic life. Sri Pankaj Gupta, a Bal Vikas Guru and also the State Coordinator, Sri Sathya Sai Digital Archives and Techno and

Media Wing told how Bhagavan guided the children on the spiritual path, through simple and moral living. On this occasion, Bal Vikas students and Gurus of Batala took an oath that they would plant 90,000 or more trees in different areas as a gift to Bhagavan before His 90th Birthday on 23rd November 2015.

TamilNadu: The 89th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated in a very grand manner over an 8-day period starting from Sunday 16th November 2014 till Sunday 23rd November 2014. As part of these celebrations, a grand "Bike Rally cum Awareness Programme" was organised by the Sai Youth of Chennai and neighbouring districts on 16th November 2014. The rally consisting of 90 motorbikes, 10 cars and 7 specially decorated vans carrying banners depicted various public welfare projects and highlighted the Seva activities of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. There were also two vans which were decorated



Bike rally cum awareness programme.

with Swami's photos. A total of 200 Sai Youth and over 50 members of the Sai Organisation took part in this rally. Before the start of the rally, a public meeting was held and clothes were distributed to about 700 villagers from Thombarambedu and nearby villages.

The rally was flagged off by the State President at around 8.55 a.m. It was led by pilots and youth on bikes and was followed by mini vans which were decorated with banners depicting the service activities

undertaken by the Sai Organisation. In the middle was Swami's chariot. This was followed by vans which carried Swami's Prasadam and pamphlets that were distributed to the public.

Covering a distance of 70 km, the rally reached Sundaram at 4.15 p.m. where it was received by Sri N. Ramani, All India Vice President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation and by Dr. V. Mohan, Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu. The programme concluded with Arati to Swami.

...continued from page 26

The teacher's strong conviction of Baba's teachings (without adjusting them so that they are less bold) shared with love and care for the students when combined with the genuine hearts and the true learning nature of the children, results in a winning formula. It takes much patience and fortitude to stand firmly by Baba's teachings; most want to compromise to be more socially acceptable, to not ruffle others' feathers. But it is all worth it in the end if you do not compromise. Even if one child carries forth His teachings in the

purest way, the class has been a success. The Sai Class in this quiet small town has already largely succeeded. This experience is being shared to encourage Bal Vikas teachers all over the world to lovingly but boldly encourage Baba's teachings and not compromise for popularity's sake. After all, the only thing that matters is that the children become strong loving messengers of Baba to carry His teachings forward to make the world a better place.

—The author, Smt. Sumathi Ravindraraj, is a Bal Vikas teacher from U.S.A.

What is the happiest day in your life? All are happy days to a person of true knowledge. Happiness is an internal conscious experience which comes as an effect of the extinction of mental or physical desire. The less the desire, the greater is the happiness, so that perfect happiness consists in the destruction or satisfaction of all desires in the Absolute Being.

- Baba

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

Applications: **1 January 2015 to 28 February 2015.**

Admissions Tests & Interviews: **April 2015** 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 for the application form and Admissions Handbook.

+91 9441 911 381 / 391 | musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in

Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School

Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, (A.P.)

ADMISSION NOTICE 2015-2016

Admissions to Class I (Boys and Girls) and Class XI (Boys and Girls) of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Anantapur District, (A.P.), for the academic year 2015-16 will take place in June 2015. The medium of instruction will be English and the school will be wholly residential school.

Admission criteria for Class I ** Age limit: 5 ½ years to 6 ½ years as on 30th September 2015 (Duplicate copy of Date of Birth certificate - “issued by competent authority” shall be produced). The Date of Birth should be between 30.3.2009 and 30.3.2010. ** **Selection through RTE method.**

Admission criteria for Class XI

Only English Medium students are eligible to apply. Prospectus and Application forms can be obtained from 1st January 2015 onwards till 15th February 2015 from the following: The office of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi (or) can be downloaded from our Website: www.ssshss.edu.in

The last date for submission of filled in application form will be 1st March 2015. The downloaded filled in application should be sent along with a Demand Draft drawn in favour of Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, on State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch (code no: 2786) for the value of ₹ 100/- with self addressed envelope (size: 15 cm x 24 cm). Phone: 08555-289289. E-mail: ssshss@gmail.com

– Principal

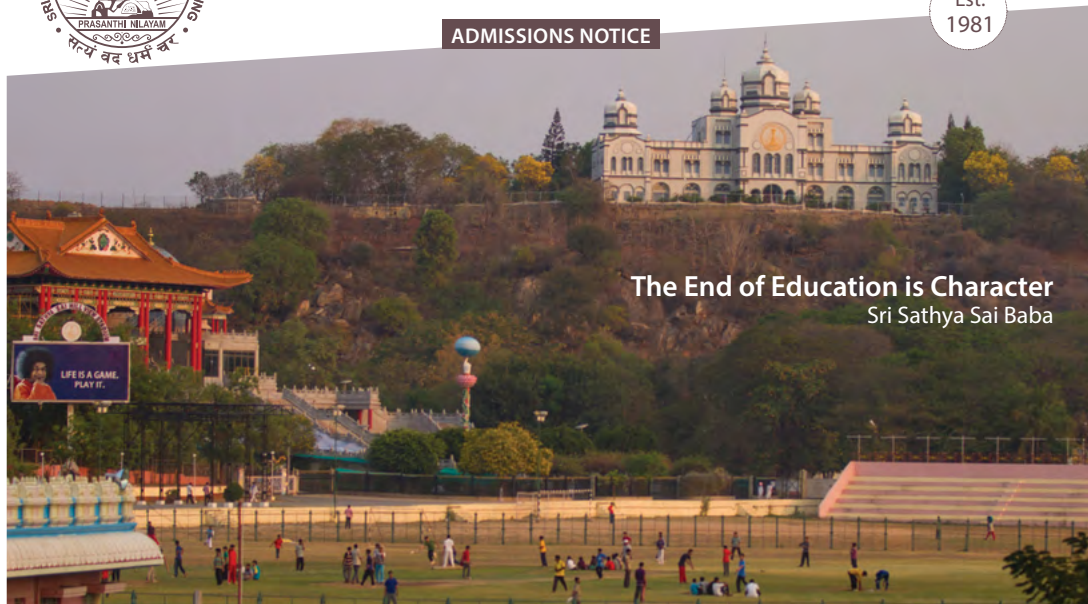


SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

Est.
1981

ADMISSIONS NOTICE



The End of Education is Character
Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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 visit the Admissions section of sssihl.edu.in

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- Candidates should have completed 10 + 2 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 2015.

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 2015.

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 based on the marks in the qualifying examinations and only those who meet the eligibility criteria 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. They are entitled to a relaxation of 5% marks below the eligibility criteria.

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POST: Apply in writing to the Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Dist. Anantapur, A.P., along with an IPO or Bank Draft for Rs. 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 the Admissions section of **sssihl.edu.in**

Women's Campus at:
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Admissions for the academic year commencing 1 June 2015 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.

- B.B.A.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- M.A. (English Language & Literature)

- M.Sc. (Biosciences)

- M.Sc. (Food Science & Nutrition / Food Technology)

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- M.B.A.

- B.Ed.

- M.Ed.

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.B.A.

- B.A. (Hons.) in Economics

- B.A.

- B.Com. (Hons.)

- B.C.A. (leading to M.C.A. - Master in Computer Applications)

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- M.A. (Economics)

- M.Sc. (Mathematics)

- M.Sc. (Physics)

- M.Sc. (Chemistry)

- M.Sc. (Biosciences)

- M.Sc. (Nanoscience & Nanotechnology)

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- M.B.A.

- M.B.A. (Finance)

- M.Tech. (Computer Science)

- M.Tech. (Optoelectronics and Communications)

- M.Tech. (Analytical Methods and Chemical Instrumentation)

admissions@sssihl.edu.in | +91 9441 911 381 / 391

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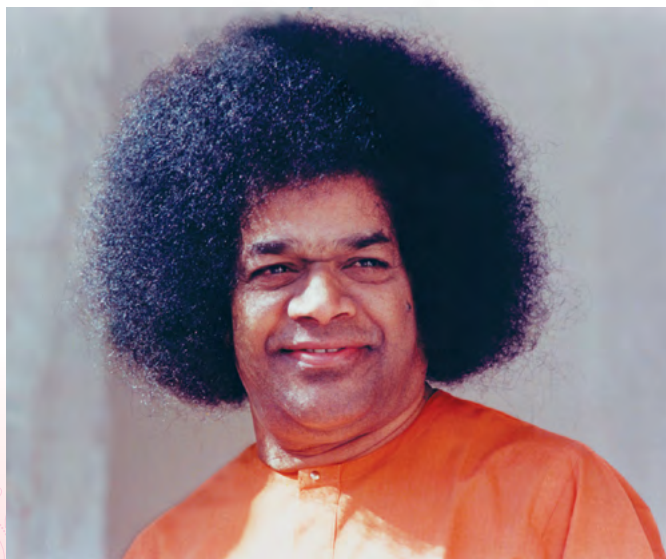
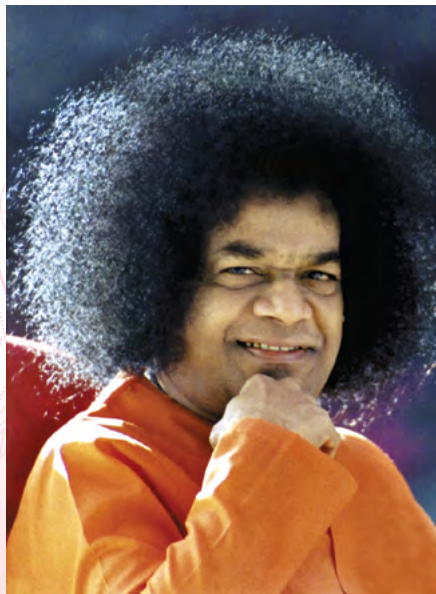
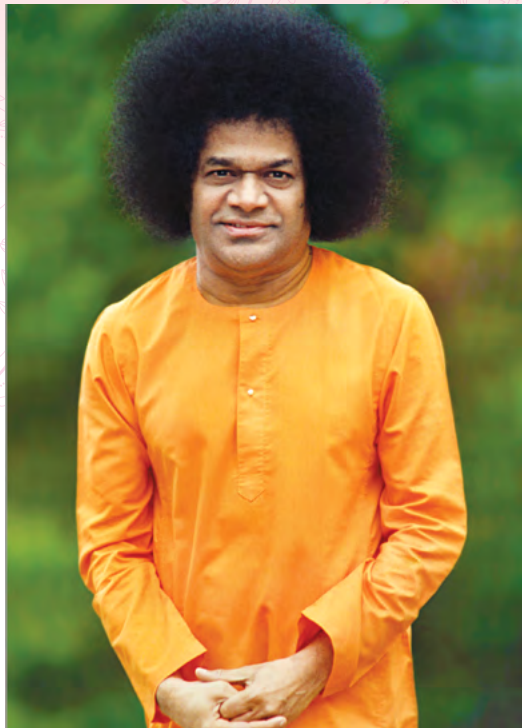
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About SSSSTPD

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

The Publications Division (SSSSTPD) caters to:

- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries, educational software etc for the benefit of visiting pilgrims and devotees all over the world. All the literature and publications are based on the teachings, philosophy, message, and values of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- 2) The publication and distribution of Bhagawan Baba's monthly spiritual journal - Sanathana Sarathi - in English and Telugu languages. Since 2011, e-versions of the magazine are also released simultaneously and are available in PDF and EPUB formats on www.sanathanasarathi.org.
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers'- for free distribution.
- 4) Organising and conducting seminars

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5) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of various spiritual and religious books.

Other Books By SSSSTPD (In English)

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Nativity scene in Sai Kulwant Hall.



Christmas carols by overseas devotees.

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Consider all as members of one divine family. Regard yourself as a trustee and use your wealth and talents for the good of others. Use every opportunity to help others. Be compassionate at all times. Students in particular should always be ready to go to the help of people in distress. God today is in search of good men. Everyone should strive to be sincere in thought, word and deed. Then you need not go in search of God. God will discover you.

– Baba



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