



# Sanathana Sarathi

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# Sanathana Sarathi

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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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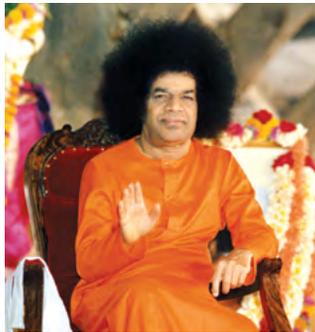
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*"Who is the one who provided red  
beak to green parrot? What a perfect  
matching of colours is this! There is a  
bird in the egg, a giant tree is hidden in  
a tiny seed, man is born out of man.  
How great are the mysteries of God's  
creation! Which engineer has designed  
the entire Nature? This is all the  
Will of God."*

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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:  
5TH SEPTEMBER 1996: PART 2

# TURN YOUR VISION TOWARDS GOD

*One may don ochre robes, wear garlands and tell one's beads, but ultimately one has to seek refuge in You, become recipient of Your grace to redeem one's life. One cannot move Your heart and win Your love and grace merely by performing Japa, by holding breath or offering salutations to You repeatedly or pleading with shedding tears.*

(Telugu Poem)

NEVER THINK GOD IS SEPARATE FROM YOU

**P**EOPLE TODAY PERFORM various types of spiritual practices. However, in order to attain divinity, first of all you have to develop friendship with God who is changeless and immortal. I have told you many times about the nine forms of devotion: *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship) and *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender). Friendship comes before total surrender. Therefore, first of all develop friendship with God.

## Worldly Friendship is Temporary

Worldly friendship is no friendship at all. It is limited to hello, hello, how are you and goodbye. So long as there is water in the tank, you find many frogs in it. When the water dries up, you don't find even a single

frog there. When you have money in your pocket, and your father has a high position as an M.L.A., M.P. or a minister, everyone will act like your friend. When there is no money in your pocket and your father is not in a high position any more, everyone will desert you without even saying goodbye.

Oliver Cromwell was a military commander in England. He was also an astute politician. He spent thousands of pounds on his friends. He also spent a lot of money to get the votes of people. But, ultimately, when his end came near, he started repenting, "Fie on me, I have misused my body, time, money and energy. If only I had offered all these to God, how happy I would have been and what an exalted position I would have attained! This is my fate after having spent so much money and effort". He took a vow if there was another life for him, he would never enter politics.



## Sanctify your Body by Undertaking Sacred Activities

Once a devotee prayed, “Oh Lord! What for are these hands which do not serve You”? He declared, “Oh Lord! I am Angaheena (without limbs)”. His disciples who were by his side wondered, “What is this? Is he out of his mind that he calls himself an Angaheena when all his limbs are intact”? Then the devotee explained, “Yes, I have hands, but I am unable to serve Him. I have eyes, but I am unable to see His beautiful form. I have ears, but I am unable to listen to the divine music of His flute and

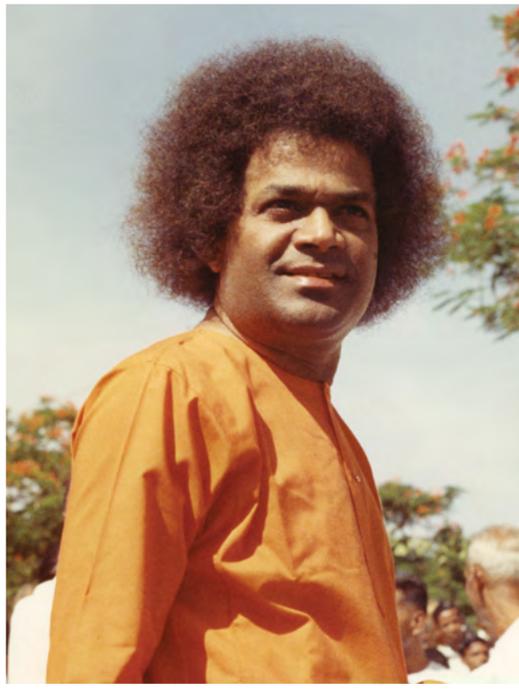
roaming in the streets. Therefore, what is the use of all my limbs? It is as good as I don't have them”.

*Oh ears, you are interested in listening to vain gossip and tales about others, but you pay least attention when the wonderful stories of the Lord are narrated.*

*Oh feet, you keep roaming here and there like dogs who have no work.*

*Is it that difficult to stand before the Lord even for a minute? (Telugu Song)*

What is the use of all the limbs if they are not utilised to serve the Lord? The same truth was stated by Surdas also



*God has given you the physical body with various limbs not to misuse them or take to wrong path, but to sanctify them by undertaking sacred activities.*

*True humanness lies in understanding this truth and acting accordingly. When you offer your everything to God, He will take care of you in all respects.*

sweet words. I have legs, but I am unable to do Pradakshina (circumambulation) and offer my salutations to Him. Instead I am

when he said, “Though people have eyes, they have become blind as they are unable to visualise the most auspicious



form of God". When Lord Krishna offered to restore his vision, he said, "Oh Lord! I don't want my eyesight back. There are many who have eyes, but are they able to see You? People have ears but they have become deaf as they are unable to listen to the sweet music of Your flute. Though they have the Lord right in front of their eyes, they crave for mundane pleasures". God is present in your heart, but you forget Him and run after worldly pleasures. What for are the eyes given to you? Are they meant to see anything and everything in this world? Saint Purandaradasa echoed the same feelings when he said, "Oh Rama! What for are the eyes that do not see You"?

### **It is God who Sustains all**

God has given you the physical body with various limbs not to misuse them or take to wrong path, but to sanctify them by undertaking sacred activities. True humanness lies in understanding this truth and acting accordingly. When you offer your everything to God, He will take care of you in all respects. Some people question, "Who will give me food if I spend all my time in chanting Ram, Ram, Ram"? One who has planted the sapling, does He not water it too? If you sincerely and wholeheartedly think of Him, will He not look after you? Will one person become a burden to the One who provides sustenance to the entire creation? He will look after everything. You find big trees growing on the top of hillocks. Who is the one who puts manure and water for their growth? Who is the one who provides food to a frog that lives inside a boulder? It is God who does all these.

Samartha Ramdas was a great devotee of Lord Rama. Once when Shivaji visited him, Ramdas broke a rock into two pieces, from which a frog came out right in front of Shivaji's eyes. Then he told Shivaji, "Oh Shivaji, don't pride yourself that you are the ruler of the kingdom and you are looking after everyone. Are you the one who has provided food to this frog all along? It is God who does everything and looks after everyone in His creation". This incident was an eye-opener to Shivaji.

How wonderful are the colours of a peacock? Who has painted it so beautifully? One may be a great painter, but no mortal can reproduce the original colours of a peacock on a canvas. Howsoever beautiful painting you may do, the colours will look only artificial but not 'heartificial'. Who is the one who provided red beak to green parrot? What a perfect matching of colours is this! There is a bird in the egg, a giant tree is hidden in a tiny seed, man is born out of man. How great are the mysteries of God's creation! Which engineer has designed the entire Nature? This is all the Will of God.

Saint Purandaradasa expressed the same truth in his song:

*Who gave the wonderful colours to the feathers of the peacock? Who gave the red beak to the green parrot? Who planted the tree on the mountain top and watered it? Who provides food to sustain the tadpole in the crevices of a rock? God is the fundamental basis of all creation.*

(Kannada Song)



People don't understand such sacred divine power. On the other hand, they go on extolling the achievements of man which are trivial when compared to the mighty power of God. Man's power is like a small pebble compared to the power of God which is like a mountain.

### One God is called by Many Names

When Rama and Lakshmana came to Rameswaram, Rama wanted to install a Siva Linga at that place so that when people came to Rameswaram, they would remember the Lord and chant His Name. He wanted to demonstrate that Siva and Vishnu are one and the same. Rama taught this truth to Hanuman in a very subtle way. Hanuman had great love only for Rama Nama and nothing else. Rama asked Hanuman to go to the Himalayas and bring a Linga for installation at Rameswaram. God derives pleasure in making people do things which they don't like. Though Hanuman did not show any interest or enthusiasm to perform the task assigned to him, Rama commanded him, "Go at once and bring the Linga as we have to perform the installation at a particular auspicious time for which not much time is left". As he had no other choice, Hanuman went and brought the Linga.

*Sraddhavan Labhate Jnanam* (one with steadfast faith attains wisdom). When one has no Sraddha, his wisdom will also desert him. As Hanuman lacked Sraddha in performing this task, he came ten minutes after the stipulated time of installation. Meanwhile, Rama made a Linga out of

sand on the seashore and performed the installation at the auspicious time. Hanuman was sorry that he could not bring the Linga on the auspicious time. He was quite upset and even questioned Rama's divine power. He thought, "Do I lack Bhakti (devotion) or there is no Shakti (power) in Rama"? He pulled out a strand of hair from his body and put it near his ear. He could hear the Name of Rama. Then he gave a certificate to himself, saying, "I have Bhakti, but there is no Shakti in Rama". You can see, sometimes even great devotees are carried away by the sense of ego. Then Hanuman thought for a while and realised his folly. "How mistaken I am! If really there is no divine power in Rama, would it be possible for me to cross the ocean? Could I have achieved such a stupendous task?"

Once Thyagaraja also had a doubt about the power of Rama. Then he sang the song:

*But for the power of Rama, could a mere monkey cross the mighty ocean? Would Lakshmi Devi, the goddess of wealth, become His consort? Would Lakshmana worship Him? Would the intelligent Bharata offer his salutations to Him? But for the mighty power of Rama, would all this happen? Indeed, Rama's power is beyond all description.*

(Telugu Poem)

"The entire world worships Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Everyone prays for the grace of Lakshmi. If such most worshipped goddess of wealth in turn worships You, how great must be Your power! What an



intelligent person Bharata is! Would he worship You for nothing? Therefore, oh Rama, Your power is unparalleled,” said Thyagaraja. Similarly, if there is no power in Sai, will people from various countries like Argentina, Australia, Germany, China, Japan come to Him? We are not sending any invitation to anyone. This sacred Divinity attracts everyone.

### Test is the Taste of God

After the installation of Linga at Rameswaram, one day Rama decided to test Hanuman. God always likes to test His devotees. Test is the taste of God. As He was walking one day, Rama pretended to have tripped over a small stone. Lakshmana, who was walking behind, asked, “Brother, what happened”? Rama said, “Nothing, it is a small stone”. Hanuman said, “I will uproot this stone and throw it away, lest someone should trip over this”. Rama said, “Hanuman, you have carried huge mountains. This small stone is nothing before you. Therefore, leave it. It was My mistake. Next time, I will be more careful while walking”. But Hanuman was adamant to remove the stone from there. Monkey is known for its fickleness. That is its natural quality. Therefore, without paying heed to Rama, Hanuman tried to remove the stone with his left hand. But he was not able to move it. Again he tried with both hands, using all his power but all in vain. Hanuman was extremely surprised. He said, “Rama, this must be Your Leela (divine play)”. Rama said, “Hanuman, you

don't need to take that much trouble”. Saying so, Rama pushed the stone with little toe of His foot. The stone at once flew away to a great distance. What was that stone? It was the Linga Hanuman had brought for installation. Instantly, a light emerged from the Linga and merged in Rama. Likewise, another light emerged from Rama and merged in the Linga, symbolising the oneness of Siva and Vishnu. Siva rides on the bull, whereas Vishnu rides on the eagle. But both are one and the same. Rama exhorted Hanuman to realise the oneness and equality of both. Likewise, in the world today, some people have their chosen deity as Rama, Krishna, Easwara and Sai Baba. But why observe such differences when God is one? *Ekam Sath* (God is one), *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many). You may like any sweet like Mysore Pak, Gulab Jmoon, etc., but the sugar is same in all of them. Similarly, you attribute various names and forms to God to suit your taste. But God is one. When you develop this principle of oneness, you become one with God.

### *Students! Embodiments of Divine Atma!*

Never consider God as someone separate from you. Give up the idea that you can visualise Him merely by worshipping Him. Understand that you are He and He is you. Offer yourself to God completely. That is the easiest way to attain Him. You don't need to make any special effort for this.

*continued on page 8...*



# DEVOTIONAL FERVOUR MARKS SIVARATHRI

**S**IVARATHRI CELEBRATIONS at Prasanthi Nilayam had an exhilarating start when students of Bhagavan constituting Prasanthi Dance



*Dance dedicated to Lord Siva.*

Group presented a dance presentation “Om Namah Sivaya” on the eve of Sivarathri in beautifully decorated Sai Kulwant Hall on 16th February 2015. Beginning their programme with Swagatam (welcome) and Vandanam (adoration) dances, the students followed it up with exceedingly beautiful dances to the tune of devotional songs and Stotras (praise songs) dedicated to Lord Siva and Bhagavan Baba which kept the audience spellbound for nearly 30 minutes. This was followed by a brief session of Bhajans which concluded with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

## **Students’ Musical Offering**

Sivarathri programme on 17th February 2015 began at 8.20 a.m. with an enchanting spell of Nadaswaram music followed by Panchavadyam by

music group students of Prasanthi Nilayam. This was followed by recitation of Bilvashtakam and Lingashtakam Stotras, which are traditionally chanted on Sivarathri. The students then presented hymns, songs and Bhajans interspersed with brilliant commentary and supported by video screening of appropriate scenes illustrating the Bhajans line by line. Truly, it was an exhilarating, enlightening journey to Kailash Manasarovar, the abode of Lord Siva, for the viewers, explaining at the same time the quintessence of Siva principle. The programme concluded with video screening of Panchakshari Mantra “Om Namah Sivaya” recited by Bhagavan which the devotees followed in chorus, suffusing the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. A brief session of Bhajans dedicated to Lord Siva followed this which concluded with Arati at 10.00 a.m.

## **Linga Abhishekam**

The evening programme began with Abhishekam of Sayeeswara Linga. The Linga was brought out from the Bhajan Mandir at 4.45 p.m. in a ceremonial procession led by Nadaswaram and Veda chanting groups of students and was set up on a specially raised platform in front of Bhagavan’s Samadhi. The Abhishekam was performed with 18 items amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram musicians. As the chief priest performed





*Sayereswara Linga after Abhishekam.*

the Abhishekam and made the offering of these items, the significance of each offering was explained by two students in English and Telugu. After the Abhishekam, the Linga was decorated with flower garlands and Arati was offered to it.

### **Sivarathri Akhanda Bhajan**

Bhagavan's Discourse was thereafter aired on the public address system which the devotees listened with rapt attention. In His Discourse, Bhagavan dwelt upon the significance of good company for man's spiritual progress and exhorted one and all: See no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil, think no evil and do no evil; see,

*...continued from page 6*

Offer yourself to God. Then you will realise your true Self. God is the only Master. There is no other master in the world. There are some who are called headmaster, stationmaster, postmaster, etc. But they are not real masters. There is only one Master and He is God. Therefore, contemplate on Him incessantly and attain Him. That is the truth. Truth is God. That is

the real knowledge. Knowledge is infinite and God is infinite. (Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma...")

– Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th September 1996.

speaking, hear, think and do good. This, He said, was the way to God. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram". With this Bhajan of Bhagavan, Sivarathri Akhanda Bhajan for 12 hours started at 6 p.m. at Prasanthi Nilayam. The Bhajan was thereafter led by the groups of students, devotees and Ashram staff. A large number of devotees participated in the Bhajan all through the night. At the conclusion of the Akhanda Bhajan at 6.00 a.m. on 18th



*Devotees participating in Sivarathri Akhanda Bhajan.*

February 2015, Prasadam of sweet and tamarind rice was offered to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

the real knowledge. Knowledge is infinite and God is infinite.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma...")

– Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th September 1996.

From our Archives

# SANCTIFY EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE

WELFARE OF THE NATION IS YOUR WELFARE

**A**LL HOLY FESTIVALS IN Bharat are invested with profound inner significance. Today is Ugadi. It is commonly believed that this marks the beginning of a new year. But it is not so. It is really a beginning of a Yuga (aeon). God is the beginning and the end of every aeon.

Hence, He is called the creator of Yuga. But God is not only the creator of each Yuga, He is its sustainer also.

## **Festivals have Profound Spiritual Significance**

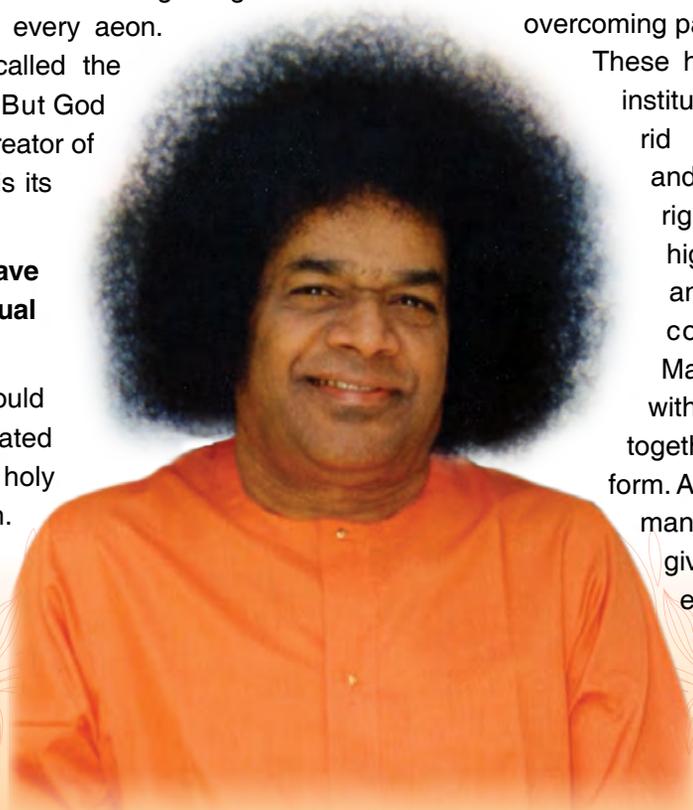
Ugadi should not be treated merely as a holy festive occasion.

It must be regarded as a day dedicated to the Divine.

All festivals observed by the Bharatiyas

have an important inner meaning. But people in general view them only in terms of external observances and celebrate them with fun and frolic. These festivals were really intended to be used for the exclusive worship of the Divine, for enjoying the bliss of that devotion and overcoming pain and sorrow.

These holy days were instituted for getting rid of ignorance and cultivating right knowledge, higher wisdom and cosmic consciousness. Man is endowed with intelligence together with human form. Along with these, man has also been given temporary existence. He has, therefore, to use the life-span allotted to him for leading a



purposeful existence by the use of his intelligence. But, unfortunately, he misuses his intelligence and gambles away his precious life.

Man should strive to use every talent and skill given to him not only for his own benefit but also for the good of the world. He owes everything to society and should be grateful to society for all that he receives from it. Expressing gratitude for this is man's foremost duty. This gratitude has been described as Bhakti (devotion). Chanting the names of the Lord is one of the ways of expressing this gratitude. All the nine forms of worship are different ways in which this gratitude is expressed. The Ugadi celebration is an annual reminder of man's obligation to express his gratitude to the Divine for all the benefits received from Him.

### Recognise Divinity in all

We hail the New Year as Samvatsara because it signifies the omnipresence (in time and space) of the Divine. Samvatsara does not merely mean period (of the year) made up of minutes, hours, days and months. Every moment is Samvatsara, because without seconds, minutes, etc., there cannot be a year. If the year is to be sanctified, every moment is to be sanctified. Every second makes a year. It is not merely the New Year that matters; every new second is significant.

Hence, you should fill every moment with sacred thoughts, pure feelings and pure actions. Every moment you should try

*People ceaselessly talk about Bhakti (devotion). But what is this devotion? What are you doing for the land of your birth? Gratitude to your native land is the real index of devotion. Your Deha (body) and your Desa (nation) are one. Therefore, the welfare of the nation is your welfare.*

to get rid of bad thoughts and fill the mind with good thoughts.

### *Embodiments of the Divine Atma!*

From ancient times, Bharat has been holding forth to the world great ideals and the highest wisdom. It has not been concerned merely with the physical and material welfare of man but has laid stress on Divinity that permeates the universe. Man should recognise this Divinity and respect every being as the embodiment of the Divine. Forms may vary but the Indwelling Spirit is one and the same in all. Hence, you should bear no ill-will towards anyone. Control of speech is most important. Excessive talk should be avoided. Speech should be sweet and well intentioned. Vyasa summed up the essence of his eighteen Puranas in two maxims: It is meritorious to help others, and sinful to cause them harm. "Help Ever, Hurt Never". The damage done by a bad

*continued on page 18...*



# I WILL NEVER DISAPPOINT MY DEVOTEES!

Leonardo Gutter

*In the afternoon before Swami came for Darshan, Teodoro started crying like a little baby; he was sobbing without control. So, I tried to calm him and asked him what had happened to him. He told me that Swami came and stood in front of him a moment earlier, put His hand in his mouth and took something from it telling him he had no more cancer. After some days, we returned to Ecuador. He later went to see doctors in the hospital of U.S.A. and they could not find the cancer any more. He was completely cured.*

I HEARD ABOUT BHAGAVAN SRI Sathya Sai Baba in Argentina and started attending meetings where later the first Sai Centre of Argentina was set up. My first Darshan of Bhagavan was in Madras (now Chennai) when I came to India in January 1982 to know more about Him. I was not yet a devotee at that time. I was waiting for Him at Sundaram together with more than 50,000 people and no one knew when Swami was going to arrive as He was on a tour to some places in the area. Suddenly, my heart started beating very intensely; I thought I was having some cardiac problem. At that very moment, Bhagavan arrived in His car. From that moment, I knew every time when Swami was coming for Darshan because my heart would start beating intensely as it did when I saw Him the first time. I realized

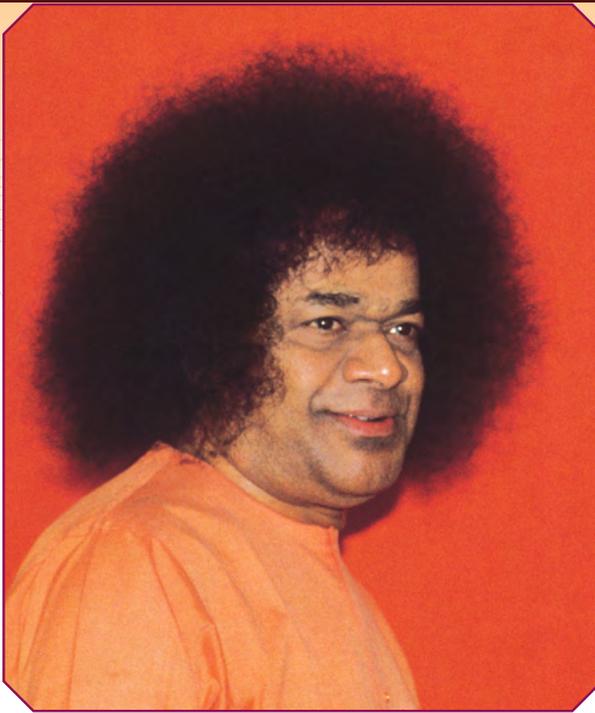
then that my heart recognized Him before my mind did.

## My First Interview with Swami

Swami stayed in Chennai for some days and then went to some other place before going to Whitefield. I asked for His permission to go to Whitefield and wait for Him there. Thirty days later when we were at Prasanthi Nilayam, one day in the evening in my room in the Ashram, it dawned in my mind that Swami was the Poornavatar (full incarnation of God) and I had to surrender fully to Him. At that time, I was Vice President of a Raja Yoga organisation in Argentina. So, I decided to write on a piece of paper my resignation from the position I had in that organisation because I wanted to work in the Mission of the Avatar. Next morning, I was in Darshan lines and Swami came out of His room in



the Mandir. But instead of giving the usual Darshan, starting with the ladies side and then coming to the men side, He came straight to where I was seated and stopped in front of me. He looked at me and said: "Yes, I will see you today; this evening I will see you". Then He went to give Darshan.



verandah looking straight into my eyes and from there He said: "You"!!! It was so loud that I stood up immediately and ran to Him. When I reached Him, He said the most beautiful word: "Go"!!! giving me the so much coveted interview. I asked Him if the rest of the group from Argentina could also join me and He said, "Yes".

When Darshan was over, I thought that I could go to the verandah and wait there in front of His room for the afternoon Darshan. One Seva Dal volunteer stopped me and explained to me that this was not the procedure, and that I had to come back in the afternoon, and if Swami wanted, He would call me in the afternoon. I felt that this Seva Dal volunteer was spoiling my opportunity to have my first interview with Bhagavan. I thought that Swami might not remember in the afternoon, and even if He remembered, He might not find me among all the devotees. With this thought, I felt really sad.

During afternoon Darshan, Swami came out of His room and without any need of looking for me, He just stood in the

When we were all seated in the interview room, He started talking to us about spiritual matters, and suddenly looked at me and coming closer to me, He told me all the things I had been thinking since the morning, that He was not going to remember, that He might not find me, etc. And then coming even closer to me, He whispered into my ears something that I will never forget and neither should any other devotee. He told me: "I will never disappoint my devotees"!

This message from Bhagavan should always be remembered by all of us. He will never disappoint us. It is for us also to be very careful not to disappoint Him. For me the word 'disappointment' also means



not to fail being in the appointment with the Lord. He is there now, waiting for us. Sometimes, our minds are in the world and we forget that He is always waiting for us. Let's not miss this incredible chance that we have earned after so many lives of intense effort. Let's focus on Him and His message. Let's not lose His Divine Hand. He is here now, at our side wherever we are, in our hearts waiting for us. We must just be aware of it and be so full of happiness and confidence. He will never fail the appointment with us; He will never disappoint us!

### **A Wish Fulfilled**

At that moment, I felt in my heart the desire to return in September. I don't know why this thought came to my mind but it was very strong. So, I prayed to Swami to bring me back.

I left the Ashram to go back to my country in March 1982. I had been travelling for almost three months and I had no money to return to India so soon. But as I prayed to Him in my heart, I said goodbye to the brothers and sisters I made in the Ashram, telling them not to miss me so much because I was going to return in September.

In Argentina, I came back to my work. At that time, my monthly income was between one to two hundred dollars. So, to pay for my living and save enough to buy another ticket to go to India was not going to be so easy.

At that time, I was starting a new project, representing film companies in Argentina

for what is called "consumer products". This was something completely new for me and even something almost unknown in my country. I had no idea how this new project was going to function. By the middle of June, a producer of live shows who wanted to produce a children's show with some of the characters I represented, came to me. This gentleman wanted to present a live show in Ecuador. So, I negotiated a deal with him, and as part of the agreement, I had to travel with this producer and the actors he was hiring to Ecuador and stay with them during the time of their tour in that country.

At the end of July, we went to Ecuador. The show lasted 29 days and on the last day prior to my departure to Argentina, I thought that no one in Ecuador knew about Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and I had to do something to let the people of Ecuador know about the Avatar of this Age that was living in India.

My return trip to Argentina was scheduled for the next day, Tuesday. I went to the airline's office and asked them to change my ticket for the next flight, that was scheduled for next Friday, so that I could stay at least a few more days and have the chance to speak about Swami. The ticket I received from the producer was valid only for one month, and it was expiring the next day. The airline officer did not want to extend it even till the next flight to Argentina. The more this lady officer refused, the more determined I was to stay. After a long discussion, I asked this lady



how I could extend my ticket. She said: "Well, you can pay the difference to open your ticket for one year and stay as long as you like". I asked her how much was it, and she replied: "One hundred dollars". I

paid that amount and left the airline office, not realising at that time how I could speak about Swami in a city where I did not know anyone. I could not go to a park, stand on a bench and start speaking about Bhagavan.

Suddenly, I remembered that a former friend from Argentina moved to Ecuador and I found out that he was living in Quito, the capital city and I was in Guayaquil, a coast city in the east of the country. I got his phone number, called him and explained to him my desire to speak about Swami and let the people of Ecuador know that the Avatar was living now in India. He told me to fly to Quito, saying: "At least we will be two trying".

### **Prasanthi Nilayam Again in September**

So, I took a plane and went to Quito. By Swami's grace, I was giving a talk about Swami next Friday in a hall filled with people in Quito. My friend from Argentina was able to contact a Catholic priest who was leading a Hatha Yoga association, and let me speak about Swami in one of his weekly meetings. When I finished my talk, this priest came to me and told me that

*From that moment, I knew every time when Swami was coming for Darshan because my heart would start beating intensely as it did when I saw Him the first time. I realized then that my heart recognized Him before my mind did.*

the talk was very interesting. He also told me that he was publishing a monthly magazine on spiritual issues and asked me to write an article about Swami. Also, if I had a photograph of Sai, he would publish it in the magazine.

Imagine my happiness. I wanted to let some people of Ecuador know about Swami and not only I was able to give a talk in a hall filled with people but then this priest was going to include an article and a photograph in his monthly magazine.

The next day, my friend invited me to attend a concert of classical music. So, we went together. When the concert finished and we were leaving, he met a person named Teodoro for whose company my friend was preparing some work. They started to talk to each other. It was already midnight and it was getting really cold. While they were talking, I started shivering, and that gentleman looked at me and told my friend to stop their conversation because I was going to get a cold. He told my friend to continue this conversation the next day in his house. He invited him to lunch in his house, and looking at me he invited me as well. I did not want to participate in a lunch where they were going to discuss about business. But my friend told me that I had nothing else to do, so I ended joining them in the lunch.



That gentleman, who was our host, was a very important businessman of Ecuador. He was an industrialist and also former Ambassador of Ecuador to Israel, but not interested at all in spiritual matters. When he asked me why I was in Quito, I started to explain to him my desire to speak about Swami as the main reason why I was there. Surprisingly, he became very interested; hence, I started telling him about my experiences with Bhagavan.

After ten minutes, he stopped me and asked me if I could accompany him to India. I said, of course I could do it. He then gave me an address and asked me to be there the next day at 10 a.m., because he was going to buy two tickets for both of us to go together to India. The next day, on Monday I was in front of a travel agency at 10 a.m. waiting for Teodoro. He came and bought two tickets for India, and on September 2nd I was in the Ashram at Whitefield with him. When Swami came out for Darshan, I heard His voice clearly in my head, He said: "You wanted to be here in September, here you are".

### **A Miraculous Cure of Cancer**

On the plane to India, I learnt why Teodoro wanted to visit Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In my talk with him during lunch, I had told him about the materialisations that Swami made and also how Swami cured so many diseases. Teodoro told me that he was suffering from an incurable cancer in his palate. He had surgery in a very important hospital in U.S.A., but the doctors could not do anything for him, and now that he had just little time left to live, I came speaking

to him about Swami and the miracles He performed. So, he decided that he had nothing to lose coming to see Swami.

Teodoro was not used to the austerities of an Ashram and he was complaining all the time. We were in Whitefield where Bhajans were held from morning Darshan till evening Darshan on all Thursdays and Sundays. One Thursday, to my surprise, Teodoro remained seated for long in the hall after Swami left in the morning. In the afternoon before Swami came for Darshan, Teodoro started crying like a little baby; he was sobbing without control. So, I tried to calm him and asked him what had happened to him. He told me that Swami came and stood in front of him a moment earlier, put His hand in his mouth and took something from it telling him he had no more cancer. After some days, we returned to Ecuador. He later went to see doctors in the hospital of U.S.A. and they could not find the cancer any more. He was completely cured.

When Teodoro came back to Ecuador, he wrote his experiences and published them in a magazine and distributed 10,000 copies free of charge in Ecuador. All this started by the intense desire I had of speaking about Swami to people in Ecuador, so that they could know that the Avatar was on earth.

Swami will never disappoint His devotees!

**– The author, Sri Leonardo Gutter, is a Member of Prasanthi Council, the administrative body of Sathya Sai International Organisation.**



VENKAT JAYRAM

## CALL OF THE DIVINE MASTER

**F**OR SWAMI'S STUDENTS, spending time with the Divine Master is what they really love to do.

Most of the students of Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College, Brindavan therefore decided to go by bus to Prasanthi Nilayam to stay in the Divine Presence of Swami after the end of the annual examination in April 1979. At that time, our college was affiliated to Bangalore University. As I was also eager to have Swami's proximity as other students, I joined them.

### **Basking in the Divine Ambience of Prasanthi Nilayam**

I had then written the last exam of second year graduation. After finishing our lunch, we left Brindavan taking permission from the Warden, and reached Prasanthi Nilayam by late evening. As soon as we got down from the bus, we rushed inside through Ganesh Gate. The Mandir looked majestic, and we could feel the divine vibrations shaking our body and stirring our mind. The beautiful aroma of divine fragrance filled the atmosphere. As it was already late, we reached the allotted shed for students – which was then next to the present South Indian Canteen.

Next day, we went early and sat in the verandah outside the interview room to

get the coveted Darshan of Swami. The interview room opened suddenly and there stood Swami in all His Divine splendour – smiling and beckoning us. After the Padanamaskar, He enquired about us individually and then He asked us to go to the Mandir for the morning Bhajan. We were lost in the divine ecstasy enjoying the divine bliss of Prasanthi.

After a few days, I received a message from my mother asking me to come to Chennai as she was eager to see me. I was worried how I would face Swami after getting this message from my mother. True to my thinking, Swami came straight to me and asked me in a serious tone to go to home town and spend time with parents. I tried to say something but the stern look of Swami made me nod my head in affirmation. As I was leaving for Chennai very sadly, my fellow students patted me and tried to cheer me up.

### **The Inner Call**

I reached Chennai as instructed by the Divine Master and spent most of the time with my parents, trying to serve them in whatever way I could. After a few days, one afternoon when I was sitting outside the verandah of my house, I suddenly heard the Divine Voice of Swami asking me to

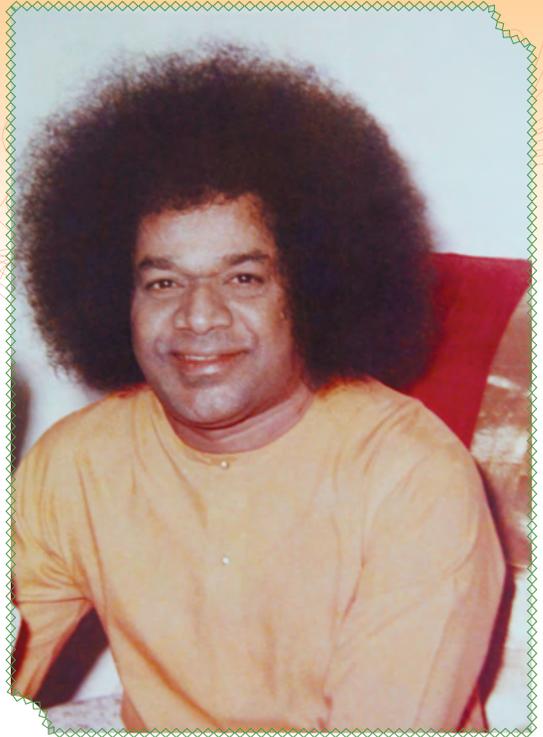


pack up and reach Brindavan. I tried to brush aside this – thinking I was imagining. But this continued many times and by next day noon I could no longer keep quiet. I therefore approached my mother and told her about this inner call of Swami asking me to pack up and come to Brindavan.

My mother looked at my face and could understand my seriousness. She called my father to take me to Madras Central Station and put me on a train to Bangalore (now Bengaluru). I fell at her feet for her understanding – packed and left for Madras Central. It was almost 12 noon and the next train to Bengaluru was around 1.30 p.m. We rushed and reached the station at about 1.20 p.m. just 10 minutes or so for the train to leave. But when the Lord decides, things happen just like that, and I was on time to reach my compartment. As soon as I boarded, the train left and I took leave of my father who had come to the station to see me off. I could see the pain felt by my parents as I was leaving suddenly, but then it was Divine call.

### **The Divine Mystery Unfolds**

I got down from the train at Krishnarajapuram station at around 8 p.m. and tried to catch a bus to Whitefield. Today the area has developed beyond recognition but during those early days, it had no facility whatsoever, and roads and transport facilities were very inadequate. At last, I reached the gates of Brindavan. I was expecting Swami to be at Brindavan as the inner call had urged me to reach Brindavan. But it appeared that Swami



was at Prasanthi Nilayam as the whole area was totally silent and the gates were locked, and there were no activities.

When I came to the hostel, the watchman told me that the hostel was locked and there was no student at the premises. I was totally confused as my inner call from Swami was very clear. I went inside the bungalow and approached Sri Ramabrahmam for permission to sleep in the hostel.

Ramabrahmam – most loving soul – chided me for my coming at that odd hour and then gave me the keys to the hostel. I opened the hostel outer verandah door, dumped my luggage and slept on the dining bench. It was pitch dark outside. Brindavan of those days was full of gigantic



trees. There was the famous Sairam Shed with Lord Krishna idol. I woke up at 4.30 a.m. and after bath went and sat near the idol of Lord Krishna, praying Swami for His directions.

At around 5 a.m., I heard the horn of Swami's Benz car. I thought I was imagining. But no, again the horn sounded and I rushed to the main gate and jumped with joy on seeing Swami's white Benz outside the gate. My classmate Sri Radhakrishnan was at the wheels and Divine Lord was sitting behind. The watchman was nowhere

to be seen. So, I opened the gate and the Benz entered Brindavan.

As I stood with my folded hands, Swami opened the window of the car and called me near. He looked at me – smiled and said, "Happy. Get ready in another one hour. We are leaving for Ooty. Pack your bag and come inside".

Swami waved His hand and the car went inside. I stood perplexed with the Divine Master's Leela, unfolding the mystery of the Divine inner call, tears rolling down my cheeks at the Lord's compassion and love.

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*...continued from page 10*

word may cause more lasting injury than any harm done to the body.

### **Develop Good Thoughts and Lead a Noble Life**

Bear in mind that India has been in the past an exemplar to the world. It has been the birthplace of great sages and scholars, valiant heroes, renowned artists and poets and many who have excelled in all the arts. Having been born in such a great country, it is the duty of all to uphold the sacred Dharma of Bharat. People ceaselessly talk about Bhakti (devotion). But what is this devotion? What are you doing for the land of your birth? Gratitude to your native land is the real index of devotion. Your Deha (body) and your Desa (nation) are one. Therefore, the welfare of the nation is your welfare. Remember this always.

#### *Embodiments of the Divine!*

Do not forget God, who is the embodiment of the Yuga. He is the Lord

of Time. If you take refuge in the Lord of Time, no one can cause you any harm. Make the best use of time by chanting the Name of the Lord or engaging yourselves in sacred activities.

The New Year Day is celebrated not merely to partake of delicious dishes. You have to imbibe sacred feelings and resolve to lead a fruitful life. The good and bad of the world depend on your conduct, which in turn depends on your thoughts. So, develop good thoughts. Only then will you be able to lead a noble life. Set an ideal to your fellowmen. Give them happiness. Show compassion towards them. Talk to them lovingly. All this is possible only when you acquire Divine Love. So, strive to become the recipient of God's love. Chant His Name wholeheartedly.

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

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## VIDYA VAHINI PROGRAMMES

THE STUDENTS OF VARIOUS schools under Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini project presented a series of cultural and music programmes for three days on 13th, 14th and 15th February 2015, which also highlighted the main features of this project.

The first presentation was jointly made by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Rayalpet and Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh on 13th February 2015 which comprised a drama entitled “Daivam Moolam Idam Jagat” (God is the basis of the universe). Set in the background of the magnificent Siva temple of Amaravathi (Guntur district), the drama depicted the annihilation of the demon Tarakasura by Kartikeya as the demon became a terror for Devas (gods) and even reviled Lord Vishnu after obtaining a boon from Lord Siva. The drama highlighted the fact that Siva is no different from Vishnu.

The second presentation entitled “Gyan Pradayini, Vidya Vahini” was made by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Gurukul Vidya Niketan, Bejjanki, Karimnagar district, Telangana. The drama showcased a model of Vidya Vahini project using technology as enabler for the dissemination of values-based education to a wide network of schools all over the country. The programme was interestingly



*Showcasing the use of technology in Vidya Vahini.*

introduced by an illuminating dialogue between Hanuman and Narada who hailed this education programme inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to elevate and transform student community by inculcating values in them.

On 14th February 2015, more than 150 students from ten different schools of Maharashtra and Goa, where Vidya Vahini programme has been introduced, made a enthralling musical presentation



*A scene from the drama “Vidya Vahini: the River of Knowledge”.*

entitled “Vidya Vahini: the River of Knowledge”. Beginning their programme at 5.00 p.m., the students first portrayed the rich cultural heritage of Maharashtra and Goa by presenting scenes of its great heroes, freedom fighters, renowned saints, famous festivals and prominent temples. Thereafter, the students elaborated on the methodology of Vidya Vahini using computerised lesson plans, depicting how it was inculcating values, imparting lessons in ethics and spirituality and developing spirit of service in the students, making at the same time the process of learning enjoyable and interesting. The programme was embellished with excellent dances and songs of students which made the presentation all the more enriching. This was followed by a programme of devotional music by promising tiny tots who won the praise of one and all by their immaculate rendition of devotional songs and Bhajans.

Two drama presentations on 15th February 2015 marked the third and final programme of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. The first drama titled “There is only one God, He is Omnipresent” was performed by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vihar, Kolkata, West Bengal. Highlighting the teachings propounded by the Avatars and prophets of different faiths, viz., Adi Sankara, Buddha, Jesus Christ, Mohammed and Guru Nanak, the drama illustrated how different faiths followed different paths, yet all of them led to the same goal – God. The drama concluded



*Highlighting the unity of all faiths.*

with Bhagavan’s message of unity of faiths followed by a group song “Sab Ka Malik Ek Hai”.

The next drama titled “Guru Devo Bhava” centred on the theme of the supreme significance of Guru as the most potent instrument of elevating a student to higher levels of consciousness. Embellished with melodious songs and beautiful dances of the students, the drama depicted interesting flashbacks from the glorious spiritual tradition of Bharat which illustrated this theme. This excellent drama was performed by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Matriculation School, Mathigiri, Tamil Nadu. The drama was followed by Bhajans which concluded with the Bhajan “Bhava Bhaya Harana Vandita Charana” (adoration of Lord’s feet gives freedom from fear of worldliness) sung by Bhagavan.

### **PILGRIMAGE OF ADILABAD DISTRICT DEVOTEES**

More than 1,500 devotees came to take part in the 9th Parthi Yatra (pilgrimage

*continued on page 28...*



## Effulgence of Divine Glory

# LINGA WORSHIP IN URAL MOUNTAINS

**T**HE MEDICAL TEAM'S TASK was to visit a 'colony', an erstwhile prison, screen the people there and conduct the medical camp. When Dr. Upadhyay asked them if he could visit the colony before conducting the camp, they at once agreed. Upadhyay and the Russian Sai brothers and sisters decided to go there the next day. That afternoon, Valerie decided to take Upadhyay to the Ural Mountains which form the natural border between Asia and Europe. There is a line in this region marked by a metal strip which separates the two continents. A person standing with one foot on either side of this strip can claim to be in the two continents simultaneously! When they reached that point, it was snowing heavily and it was piercingly cold. Therefore, they took some photographs quickly and decided to head back, but the car broke down on the way. As they waited for the driver to repair the engine, a young Russian youth, who had accompanied them, asked Upadhyay whether he would like to visit a Siva temple in that area. Upadhyay was astonished that a Siva temple existed in the Ural region of Siberia and readily agreed to go there.

They reached the temple after walking for about twenty minutes. It was a typical Ural styled wooden structure. Even

as they approached it, Upadhyay was stunned to hear the melodious chanting of Lingashtakam (prayer to Lord Siva). He entered the temple along with the three Russian gentlemen and saw something which was beyond his imagination. A tall Russian was performing Abhishekam (ceremonial bathing) to a Linga, chanting 'Brahma Murari Surarchita Lingam...!' A candle placed at the base of the Linga dimly lit the place. The rhythmic chant and the fragrance of the burning incense filled the place with a celestial tranquillity. They sat down on the floor absorbed in prayer. When the worship ended, the bearded Russian priest turned towards the guests, greeted them with a smile and served the Teertham (sacred water). He looked like a sage from the Himalayas. He went on to introduce himself as Boris and explained that his name was a perverted form of the Sanskrit phrase, 'Bho-Rishiah', which means 'O sages'!

The amazed Upadhyay asked him, "Sir, have you visited India? Where did you learn this chant"?

"I have never visited India. My Master taught me the chanting in a vision!" replied the priest.

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## Students Corner

# BAL VIKAS IS THE KEY TO CREATE A BEAUTIFUL NEW WORLD

I FEEL BLESSED TO HAVE been part of this endeavour called Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas. It has made me more compassionate, more patient and more resilient and filled my heart with peace and love. These classes have brought about a transformation in my life.



I joined Bal Vikas when I was six years old, and since then I have believed that Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas has been the greatest boon of my life. Swami has been very considerate to teach us discipline, service and patience through these classes. Apart from this, I have also learnt Vedic Slokas (verses), Bhajans, value songs and value games.

Bal Vikas has helped me understand that divinity is present everywhere and in everyone. It has made me realise the importance of selfless service, mental peace and time management. It has brought out the good in me – that is just what Bhagavan means by Educare. Earlier, I was an introvert and liked to remain in my comfort zone. But after joining Bal Vikas, I learnt to get out of my shell, to expand my heart and enjoy life in a positive way.

I personally believe that this is the essence of Bal Vikas: to thank God and appreciate everything in life, and to lead our life while keeping the welfare of others

in mind. The value of these teachings lies in the fact that they have the power to change individuals (like they changed me) and ultimately society. If this type of education is imparted to each and every child, the world would be a wonderful place to live in. In His own unique way, Bhagavan has simplified all His teachings so that they may be easily understood and practised by every Bal Vikas child, thus leading to the transformation of society. When these teachings are put into practice, they will lead to Lok Vikas. Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas and Educare are the key to creating a beautiful new world, the Golden Age!

It is very important to imbibe values in life, and Bal Vikas is the best platform for such a thing. I believe the ideal of Bal Vikas is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience and this is exactly how the foundation of Lok Vikas is destined to be laid.

– From the article of **Suhani Arora** in “**Educare for Lok Vikas**”.



## *Swami's Tips to Students*

Students! The future of the country, for good or ill, depends on you. The older generation cannot reform the nation. Only a disciplined and well-educated younger generation can serve the nation well. Treat the whole world as a vast mansion. Strive for the well-being of all nations equally with Bharat. Sri Sathya Sai Institute has been established to promote sacred ideals among students. Adhere to your principles and beliefs regardless of what others may say. Consider truth as your life-breath. If you speak the truth and practise righteousness, you will attain the highest state. Truth and righteousness are interrelated. Together they constitute humanness. Bear in mind the glorious example of Harishchandra, who sacrificed everything for the sake of truth.

Adhere to truth in earning a living or in experiencing anything in life. Ill-gotten wealth will be lost in the same way. Engage yourselves in some kind of socially useful activity in the educational, medical or other fields. Sacrifice is more important than earning money. Do not use your diplomas as begging bowls for jobs. Make proper use of your education to render service to the nation and to lead a noble life. This is My benediction to all of you.

## Valuable Maxims

Here are two valuable maxims given by Bhagavan. Remember these and search the following words in the given word maze:

*Love, peace, bliss, truth, righteousness, character, harmony, order, nation, world, beauty.*

1. Where there is faith, there is love,  
Where there is love, there is peace,  
Where there is peace, there is truth,  
Where there is truth, there is bliss,  
Where there is bliss, there is God.
2. When there is righteousness in the heart,  
There is beauty in character.  
When there is beauty in character,  
There is harmony in the home.  
When there is harmony in the home,  
There is order in the nation.  
When there is order in the nation,  
There is peace in the world.

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

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“Who is your Master?”

In answer to the question, the sage-like Russian smiled and lifted up the candle above the Linga. As a dimly-lit portrait of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba revealed itself on the wall behind the Linga, waves of bliss passed through the entire being of Upadhyay. It was the same posture of Bhagavan that he had seen in the interview

room of the Mandir at Prasanthi Nilayam, when Baba had blessed him to organise medical camps in Russia with the words, ‘Do not worry, I will be there’!

Bhagavan Baba had transformed the snowy Ural Mountains into Kailash!

– Excerpted from “**Sathyam Sivam Sundaram**” Vol. 6.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## ARGENTINA

**S**INCE 2005, SATHYA SAI devotees have lovingly served the residents of Florencio Varela, an extremely poor neighbourhood in Buenos Aires. With the help of 10 volunteers, they provide food to 50 children, thrice weekly, along with free healthcare. A general



*Lunch for the needy.*

physician, a paediatrician, a dermatologist, an otolaryngologist, a dentist and a psychologist render medical services to about 100 needy people every month. The children also receive human values education and participate in school-support activities, crafts, games, and music. Christmas Day and the birthday of every child are celebrated. On Sundays, a special breakfast is served with freshly baked bread, milk and tea; other meals include cakes, cookies, pizza and vegetables. In the beginning, people used to come only

for the food; now they come in search of peace and love.

## NEPAL

On 5th and 6th September 2014, the Institute of Sai Spiritual Education (ISSE) of Nepal conducted a two-day introductory training programme on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) in eastern Nepal for 300 private school teachers. In an inaugural speech, the District Education Officer of the Government of Nepal spoke about the significance of SSEHV in the present educational system.



*Training in SSEHV in Nepal.*

The ISSE of Nepal has trained 10,690 private school teachers and 3,848 master trainers in the Department of Education, Government of Nepal, besides providing talks on values parenting to 2,238 parents.

On the occasion of Fathers' Day, 25th August 2014, the SSIO of Nepal served lunch to 1,809 male inmates of five prisons.



In Kathmandu, Bhajans were sung for 645 prison inmates, after which a talk was given on the practice of human values in day-to-day life. On the occasion of the Hari Talika Teej festival on 26th August 2014, the Ladies' Wing served lunch to 492 female inmates of five prisons. Bangles, beads and ornaments were also distributed. The prisoners were touched by the love and care showered on them by Sathya Sai devotees.

## GREECE

A third spiritual camp on "Sai Prema" was held in Greece from 27th July to 5th August 2014. More than 30 Sathya Sai Organisation members from Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Finland and Greece came together to sing Bhajans, meditate, conduct prayers and organise other activities. Study circles



*Spiritual Camp on "Sai Prema" in Greece.*

were held daily with the theme, "Sai WWW: Work, Worship, Wisdom," and each country focused on a different aspect of the topic, everyday. A highlight of the camp was a day spent in silence and fasting – when all camp activities, including yoga exercise

and housekeeping, were performed in silence.

## U. S. A.

On 20th September 2014, the Sathya Sai Centre of Tampa Bay, Florida organised a vision care camp with the support of government and community organisations. The camp, held at the Pinellas County Health Department in St. Petersburg, served 105 patients. Volunteers included three ophthalmologists, four optometrists, three eye technicians, three doctors, 11 nurses, and 44 general volunteers. Each person's blood-sugar was measured, after which the patients were served breakfast. Eye examinations were followed by individualised services, on a case-by-case basis. If reading glasses were required, the patient received reading glasses. If prescription eyeglasses were required, patients received vouchers from the Lions Club to pick up their eyeglasses after two weeks. Before exiting the camp, each individual received a boxed lunch.

On 23rd August 2014, Sathya Sai Young Adults of the Mid-Atlantic Region organised an Annual Sports Day event at St. James School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As part of this all-day event, the Young Adults cleaned the school church pews, cleaned and painted the classrooms, and laundered school uniforms, in preparation for the fall session. The youth also donated much-needed school supplies to be used throughout the year by St. James School.



## B H A R A T

**Gujarat:** A three-day winter camp for Group II and III Bal Vikas students was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat from 26th to 28th December 2014, in which over 80 Bal Vikas students and



*Winter Camp for Bal Vikas students.*

30 Gurus took part. The topics covered in the camp included: "Importance of Prayer", "Veda Chanting", "Leadership and Communication", "Positive Thinking and Mind Training", "Importance of Human Values", "Ceiling on Desires", "Indian Culture and Spirituality", "Importance of Seva" and "Nine-point Code of Conduct". Students were guided to play value games which taught them co-operation and understanding. On the last day, children enacted skits based on values in the afternoon session.

**Kerala:** A conference of the State Organisation was held on 13th and 14th December 2014 at Kalady. On 13th December, a workshop for office bearers attended by more than 800 office bearers

was held. On 14th December, there was a camp for active workers and this was attended by 1,700 active workers. Planning for the 90th year of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Advent and golden jubilee year of the Sai Organisation were the themes of the conference.

A motivation camp for senior office bearers (District and State Level) and Bal Vikas Gurus was held on 27th December at Shornur. It was attended by more than 300 participants.

At the request of District Collectors, awareness programme on Disaster Management was arranged for government officers in Kannur and Kozhikode districts. In Kannur, this training was arranged



*Awareness programme on Disaster Management.*

for Sub-Inspector trainees of the Police Department.

**Odisha:** The 39th State Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Odisha was held at Nehru Stadium from 16th to 18th January 2015. The conference with the participation of nearly 1,800 delegates was significant as it coincided with Bhagavan's



90th year of Advent and the golden jubilee of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. The conference deliberated at length on how to expand the organisation with the enrolment of more devotees and at the same time improve the quality of work already undertaken by the organisation. Six groups were formed, namely, Spiritual,

Seva, Education, Organisation, Youth and Mahila and the delegates were asked to attend the group meetings in accordance with their functional areas. The resolutions passed in the conference were compiled in the form of a booklet entitled "Sankalpa – 2015" for distribution to all the units to facilitate implementation of the action plans.

*...continued from page 20*

to Prasanthi Nilayam) organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Adilabad district of Telangana. As part of this pilgrimage, Bal Vikas children and youth of this district performed a dance drama entitled "Bhakti Niranjanam" (worship of the Lord with devotion) which depicted how the deep devotion and total surrender of the Pandavas earned the grace of Lord Krishna who saved them from all difficulties and led them to the path of redemption. The drama was embellished with beautiful



*A dance sequence in the drama "Bhakti Niranjanam".*

dances of the children which made it all the more absorbing.

## **Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital**

**Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Puttaparthi, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh**

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

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Junior Consultant: Pay band ₹ 15,600 - 39,100, Grade pay ₹ 7,600 Gross Pay ₹ 75,700/- • Junior Residents / Medical Officers for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on Consolidated Pay / Regular scale – Qualification: M.B.B.S. Apply to the Medical Superintendent, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam, with full bio-data and a photograph.

*– Medical Superintendent*

# *Our Everlasting Refuge*



**O** Lord of Puttaparthi,  
Source of all Love divine,  
O benign, holy refuge  
Within this heart of mine,  
By Your lake of peace and stillness  
I shall in silence stay  
To hear Your words of Truth and Love  
To guide me through this day,  
Along the narrow way.  
I gaze upon Your beauty,  
Enchanted by Your form  
That draws me in devotion;  
My haven from life's storm.  
I shelter at Your Lotus Feet;  
I cling to them with tears  
Of joy and bliss and gratitude;  
All anguish disappears,  
O Destroyer of all fears.  
More brilliant than ten million suns  
And moons, Your radiant face,  
Dispels darkness of the mind,  
By Your mercy and Your grace.  
Your Lotus eyes that see within  
And search each deep recess,  
Transform every wayward heart.  
They purify and bless;  
They fill with happiness.  
Upon Your hair's a steady flame,  
Like Krishna's peacock plume,  
And from Your tongue a spring of Love  
All evil does consume.

Your perfect hands, that only give,  
Heal, guide, protect and bless,  
So graceful in their every move,  
To comfort and caress,  
To banish all distress.

Unfathomable Mystery, beyond all human ken,  
Your will alone creates with speed  
Such precious gifts for men  
And women who have won Your grace;  
And knowing all their need,  
You feed them with Your Love divine;  
Their hearts and minds are freed  
From anger, hatred, greed.  
O, grant us all Your Darshan!  
That sight removes all care:  
To see You face to face,  
To breathe Your fragrance on the air,  
Vibhuti from Your holy hand,  
Received with gratitude -  
The symbol of protecting Love,  
Eternal, sacred food -  
Uplifts the multitude.  
So humble, peaceful, gentle,  
You show us how to live,  
With soft, sweet words and willingness  
To love, to serve, to give.  
So quietly, yet swiftly,  
Among the throng You move -  
A touch, a glance - a life is changed,  
By nothing but Your Love,  
Your all-embracing Love!

- *Deirdre West*

# You Get What you Aspire for

**A** RICH MAN USED TO GO TO many countries on his business trips. He had four wives. One of them was always sick and suffered from one disease or the other. His second wife had great craving for good clothes, ornaments and articles of luxury. The third one had great interest in reading spiritual books. His fourth wife was always engaged in the performance of household duties and serving her husband. Whatever spare time she got after performing her duties, she spent it in chanting the Name of God.

Once the businessman went to a foreign country on a business tour. After finishing his business engagements there, he decided to return to his country and wrote to his wives, saying, "I am coming back soon. Write to me whatever you want me to bring for you from here". His first wife gave details of her ailments and asked the businessman to bring good medicines for her. The second one wrote to him to bring clothes of latest fashion for her. The third wife wanted to have good books on spirituality. His fourth wife wrote to him, "Dear husband! I don't need anything. The only thing I want is that you should come back safely. I am waiting for your arrival".

After one week, the businessman came back. He sent to the houses of his first

three wives the articles wanted by them, and himself went to stay in the house of his fourth wife. After mutual consultation, his other three wives asked him, "Dear husband! Is this right? You have come back after spending so much time in a foreign country. Should you not stay with



*The businessman told his three wives that he had given them what they wanted.*

each of us for some time at least"? The businessman said to them, "Whatever all of you wanted I have given to you. But this lady's main concern was my safety and she wanted me only and nothing else. Therefore, I am staying with her".

What is the inner meaning of this story? The businessman in this story represents God and his four wives are like four types of devotees – distressed, wealth seekers, spiritual seekers and wise. God gives to each what he aspires for.



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)



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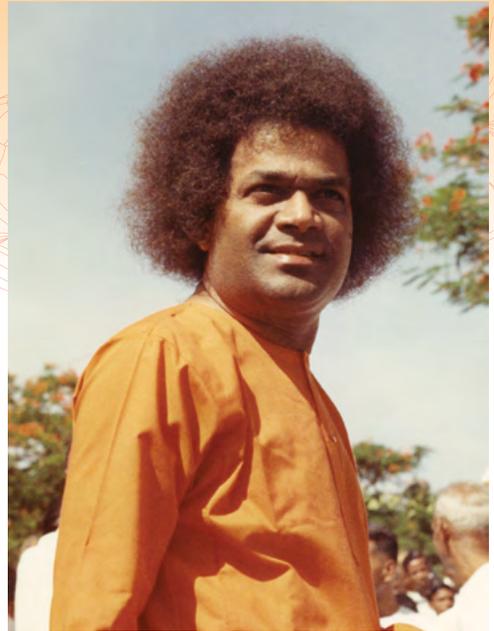
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On 1st January, 2009, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust (SSSST) commenced operations with four divisions; the Bhakta Sahayak divisions (one in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi and another in Brindavan, Bangalore), the Publications division, and the Media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



*A scene from the drama "Daivam Moolam Idam Jagat".*



*"Guru Devo Bhava", a glimpse from the drama.*

## *Thyaga is Yoga*

Detachment alone can give happiness. Thyaga is the real yoga. Three evil qualities have to be renounced before man can rise to his real state: Anger which smothers Jnana (wisdom), lust which pollutes Karma (deed) and greed which destroys one's love for God and man. The touchstone which pronounces an act as meritorious is renunciation. If an act is self-directed, if it helps to inflate ego, it is a sin.

*– Baba*

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