



Sanathana Sarathi

OCTOBER 2019



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Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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"Develop good thoughts, remove differences, foster unity and enhance spirituality. Then only will you enjoy bliss. You should understand first that you are the embodiment of Nityananda (eternal supreme bliss). When you develop firm faith that you are the embodiment of bliss, you will be able to face and overcome all troubles and obstructions that come your way."

CONTENTS

- 4 **Understand the Divine Nature of Yoga**
Bhagavan's Discourse: 17th April 1996
- 8 **See the Divine in Everyone**
Bhagavan's Dasara Message
- 11 **Bhagavan Writes for Sanathana Sarathi**
Leela Kaivalya Vahini
- 15 **My Experiences in Bhagavan's Divine Proximity**
Srivilas Suri
- 20 **Old Mandir - The Divine Abode of Bala Sathya Sai**
Kuppam Vijayamma
- 27 **Waiting for God is Nothing but Sadhana**
Ajit Popat
- 29 **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**
A Report



Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



9th November 6 p.m.

to 10th November 6 p.m ... Global Akhanda Bhajan

18th November Rathotsavam

19th November Ladies Day

22nd November 38th Convocation of

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

20th & 21st November Spiritual Programme by Sri Sathya Sai

Seva Organisation, India

23rd November 94th Birthday of

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

24th November Spiritual Programme by Sathya Sai

International Organisation

25th December Christmas

AVATAR VANI

UNDERSTAND THE DIVINE NATURE OF YOGA

INFUSE LOVE IN ALL YOUR ACTIONS

Embodiments of Divine Love!

THE VEDAS AND VEDANGAS ARE sacred texts which reveal the nature of God and the universe. These texts convey to man that the mind acts as a curtain to block the awareness of Divinity. On one side of this curtain is the effect, man; on the other side is the cause, God. The entire universe embodies this relationship between cause and effect.

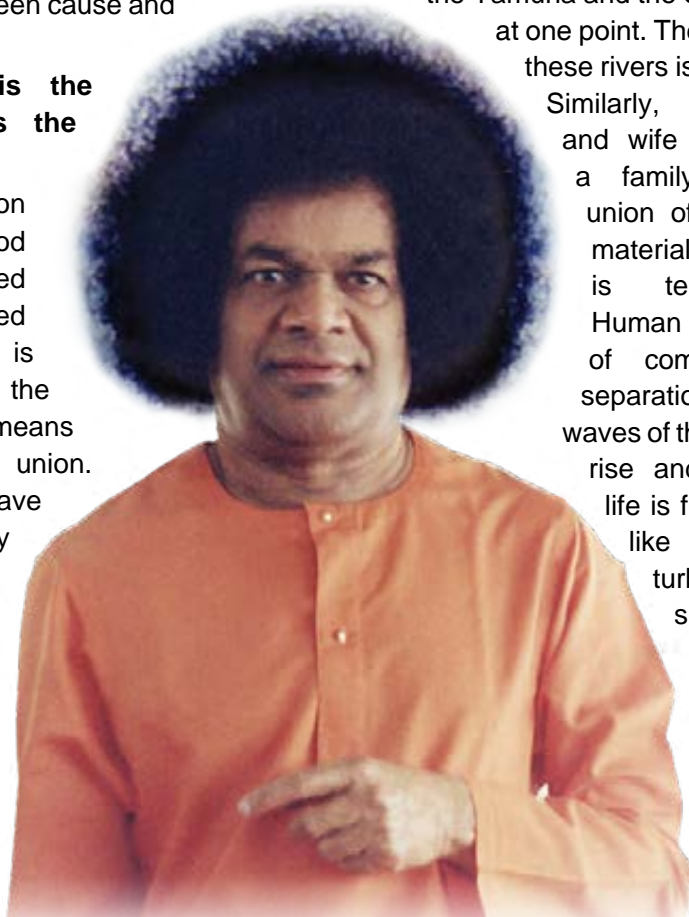
God's Name is the Boat to Cross the Ocean of Life

The combination of the two, God and the manifested universe, is called yoga. Yoga is derived from the root "yu" which means combination or union. But people have not correctly understood the meaning of yoga. Yoga does not mean leaving hearth and home and subsisting on leaves in a

forest. This is not true yoga. In the science of Ayurveda, yoga means a combination of various herbs to cure physical, mental and emotional ailments. The word Samyoga means the unification of several things into one. In the science of astrology, yoga is considered to be the science of the relationship between time and the position of the stars. Three rivers in India, the Ganga,

the Yamuna and the Saraswati unite at one point. The confluence of these rivers is called Triveni.

Similarly, the husband and wife together form a family. Thus, the union of two or more materials or aspects is termed yoga. Human life consists of combination and separation, just like the waves of the ocean which rise and fall. Human life is full of problems like the periodic turbulence on the surface of the ocean. God's Name is the boat which can help man to cross the ocean of life.



Make Yoga the Basis of your Life

Maharshi Patanjali, a great Indian sage, says in his Yoga Sutras, *Yoga Chitta Vritti Nirodha* (yoga is the control of mental modifications). That is, the control of the vagaries of the mind is yoga. Yoga also means the unification of one's thoughts, words and deeds and directing them towards God. Then all work is transformed into worship. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavadgita, *Yoga Karmasu Kausalam* (perfection in action is yoga). It means man should analyse what action he should do, when, where and how. This expertise and skill is yoga.

Yoga is taught by many people in several ways. When it concerns the family, living in unity is yoga. Similarly, earning wealth is yoga, doing household work is yoga, developing strength and capacity is yoga, experiencing happiness is yoga. Therefore, everything in the world is yoga. Because we do not understand the divine nature of yoga, we end up in Roga (disease). Man knows what is good and what is bad, what is right and what is wrong. It is the ego of man that blurs his understanding. He takes to the wrong path due to his distorted intellect and lack of understanding. Some people are jealous of others' happiness. Whenever we feel jealous, we should overcome it by yoga. The Bhagavadgita says, *Samatvam Yoga Uchyate* (equanimity is called yoga). True yoga lies in seeing goodness in everything and maintaining equanimity. Samatvam is being happy at the well-being of others and be at peace. Gita teaches yoga in several ways. It teaches man to purify his heart by thinking always about God who is ever pure and all-pervasive. Man should therefore purify his heart by contemplating on the omnipresent Supreme Principle.

Worship, Dhyana, etc., are nothing else but means for developing pure love for God. There is nothing greater than love. You see your face in the mirror. If the mirror does not have mercury coating behind it, then you cannot see your reflection in it. You cannot see your reflection in a plane glass. Similarly, if you give a coating of pure love on your heart, then you can see the reflection of God in it. That is Atma Darshanam (Self-realisation). Prema is the most important of all the means of Self-realisation. This is Bhakti (devotion).

Being proud of his strength and sharpness of intellect, Arjuna started an argument with Krishna and asked Him many questions. The Bhagavadgita is full of Arjuna's arguments. Arjuna brought forth all his doubts. Krishna let Arjuna finish all that he wanted to say. Then only he became peaceful. After that, Krishna asked him, "Arjuna, have you finished what you wanted to say? What do you want to do and how do you want to act"? Arjuna finally became silent and surrendered to Krishna, saying, "I shall from this moment follow Your command". Krishna said, "Now you have become My devotee". So, Krishna commanded him:

Manmana Bhava Madbhakto

Madyaji Maam Namaskuru

Maam Evaishyasi Satyam

Te Pratijane Priyo Asi Mey.

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

This is God's reply. We call ourselves devotees of God. Some call themselves Sri Ramadasa, servant of Sri Rama. Some call themselves devotees of Lord Siva and recite the Mantra, Namah Sivaya. Thus, everybody thinks that he is close to God. This cannot be called true devotion. You may proclaim yourself a devotee. But, did God say that you are His devotee? How can you call yourself a devotee before God accepts you as one? You send a registered letter to your friend. To confirm that he has received it, you should get an acknowledgement from him. Similarly, God should acknowledge that you are His devotee. Your conscience will tell you whether God has accepted you as His devotee. Your conscience itself is God. In Vedanta, conscience is referred to as Chit. Chit is awareness. Awareness is total understanding.

Karma Yoga

There are four types of yoga: Karma Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Dhyana Yoga and Jnana Yoga. Dedicating all your actions to God and doing all work as God's work is Karma Yoga. You should have this firm conviction: Nothing is mine; everything is Yours; You are everywhere. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Srutimalloke Sarvamavruithya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe).

God listens to those who have full faith in God's omnipresence. When you pray to Bhagavan, "Swami, are You listening to my prayer? Do You not know my problems"? Then You will feel His Presence and see His two eyes. God is always with you, in you, above you, below you, in front of you and behind you. You may have a human

bodyguard who walks beside you. But God says, "I am not in front of you. I am behind you. I am protecting you. I am like your bodyguard. Standing behind you I am watching you". But the devotee does not have full faith. He immediately turns back and does not see God. He wails, "O God! You have betrayed me". God says, "God's words are eternal; they do not change. You do not understand them. When you turn back to see, it means that I am in front of you, am I not? How can You see Me? Your eyes are in front of your face, are they not? So, I am always behind your eyes only".

This is God's assurance. You cannot understand this on the basis of words and actions. You should experience your oneness with God. Yoga is union with God. You must be one with God in actions, worship, work and everything. Karma Yoga is performing actions selflessly without expecting the results thereof. The work must be Nishkama, without desire. An action done for the good of others is Karma Yoga.

Once an old man was planting a mango sapling and tending it by watering it. He did not expect to enjoy its fruits. He thought that others would enjoy the fruits and be happy. The sun was blazing hot and his body was drenched in sweat. His nephew saw him planting the tree and asked him, "What are you doing in this hot sun? What benefit will you derive from it"? People of those days did not have the present-day modern education. All their actions were done as service to others. The old man replied, "This body has been gifted only to serve others. Seva is my duty. This is my motto". The old man then offered his nephew a tender coconut. After drinking



the coconut water, the nephew said, "This tastes very good. From where did you get it"? The old man replied, "In earlier days, my father planted coconut saplings. We are now enjoying the sweet coconut water of those trees. Likewise, the mango tree I am planting now will benefit others. It does not matter if I do not get any benefit from it now. Similarly, somebody else will plant useful saplings just as I am doing now". There is a reaction and resound of every action. A good action has a good result and vice versa. Selfless action done in this way is Karma Yoga. There may not be any direct benefit to us from such an action; somebody else may get the benefit. Therefore, man should undertake any work that helps society. This is Karma Yoga.

Bhakti Yoga

Bhakti Yoga signifies doing all work to please God without any trace of selfishness. Selfless love for God is true devotion. God is the embodiment of total bliss. You do not need to say "Happy Birthday" to God because God is always happy. Say it to those who are unhappy. God is always blissful. He does not wait for getting bliss from you. God is the source of love and bliss.

God is like a very large water tank. Your devotion is like the pipe which is connected to this tank, and your selfless actions are taps. Open the tap and fill yourself with love and bliss. If the water in a tank is pure, the water that comes out will also be pure. As are the feelings, so are the experiences. As are the actions, so are the results. You will be happy if you are full of love. God is the embodiment of purity. You can please God with pure love. This is your duty. This should be the goal of your life.

Life is very precious. Time is limitless. The heart is very vast. We are going in a narrow path without knowing the greatness of these three. Without bothering in the least about what others think of you, surrender to God with sacred love. Take refuge in Him. This is the principle of Prema (love).

Worship, Dhyana, etc., are nothing else but the means for developing pure love for God. There is nothing greater than love. You see your face in the mirror. If the mirror does not have mercury coating behind it, then you cannot see your reflection in it. You cannot see your reflection in a plane glass. Similarly, if you give a coating of pure love on your heart, then you can see the reflection of God in it. That is Atma Darshanam (Self-realisation). Prema is the most important of all the means of Self-realisation. This is Bhakti (devotion). True spiritual practice is to infuse and develop Prema in all our duties and actions. That is the true spiritual message.

Dhyana Yoga

Next is Dhyana (meditation). The entire life of man consists of Dhyana. Walking is Dhyana, cooking is Dhyana, reading is Dhyana, writing is Dhyana, and all our life is Dhyana. How can we read if we do not give attention to the letters? You plan what you will write before you start writing. You think about it. Planning and thinking thus are all Dhyana only. You think Swami is coming, let me take Padanamaskar. You get that thought, don't you? That thought itself is Dhyana. All experiences are Dhyana only.

(To be continued ...)

– Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 17th April 1996.



BHAGAVAN'S DASARA MESSAGE

SEE THE DIVINE IN EVERYONE

"It should also be realised that there is a divine energy latent in man – like fire in the wood – which enables the eyes to see, the ears to hear, the mind to think and the body to move about. All organs are able to function because of this divine energy. Man feels proud that he is the doer of all things. There is no basis for this pride. Such egoism is a fatal disease," said Bhagavan in His Dasara Discourse on 5th October 1997.

DEVELOP FIRM CONVICTION THAT YOU ARE THE ATMA

Embodiments of Love!

THE BODY, THE SENSE organs, the mind and the intellect are the instruments for a human being. Only the person who understands the secret of these instruments will be able to comprehend the Atmic principle. If a man cannot understand the vesture he is wearing, how can he understand the mystery of the infinite indwelling spirit?

Realise the Impermanence of Human Body

First comes the body. It is called Deha because its ultimate destiny is cremation. The body is burnt after life goes out of it. The body may be judged by its form. But it is in fact a receptacle for all kinds of garbage and is subject to numerous ills of the flesh. Recognising its impermanence, man should turn his mind towards the Feet of the Divine.

The body has also another name, Sarira, which means that which is



subject to decay. The body at the beginning is a lump of flesh (as foetus). Then it acquires an attractive form. Youth confers on it special charm. In old age, it develops deformities. The body is consumed by the fire of worry when a man is alive or is burnt on the funeral pyre when he is dead.

The scriptures declare that man is endowed with a body primarily to lead a righteous life. The Bhagavadgita describes the body as Kshetra. One meaning of this term is that it is the abode of the Divine. Places of pilgrimage are called Kshetras. Another meaning of the term Kshetra is “a field”. If you want to grow a crop in a field, you have to prepare it suitably for the purpose. Ploughing, sowing and watering have to be done for the crop to grow. As is the seed, so is the crop. Likewise, the actions of the body determine the nature of one's life. Everyone should resolve to perform good deeds to enjoy good results.

Offer all Actions to God

The body as Kshetra is a temple in which the Divine dwells as Kshetrajna, the knower of the Kshetra. The Kshetrajna is the Atma (the Self). The Gita declares that both the body and the Atma are divine.

However great a scholar may be, however profound his knowledge of the scriptures, he has to learn all about the body because it brings with it the consequences of the previous lives of the individual. The body is the basic instrument for all actions in this life and for the acquisition of all knowledge and skills. Everyone at the time of birth brings with him a necklace from the Creator made up of the results of his good and bad actions in past lives.

Everyone reaps only the fruits of what he sows. Only good actions can produce good results. Your happiness or sorrow is

related to the nature of your actions. In a sense, all actions of man can be regarded as Yajnas. To cross the ocean of Samsara (the cycle of birth and death) all that is necessary is service to good people and no other religious observance. By such service, one receives the grace of the Divine. All actions have to be done as an offering to God to secure His grace. They then become Yajnas (ritual sacrifice).

One should think of God and offer prayers, at least four times a day – at dawn, at noon, at sunset and before going to bed as food for the soul.

Get Rid of Envy and Ego

The body should be regarded primarily as an instrument for the realisation of the Divine through the nine forms of devotion. Attachment to the body for physical pleasures should be given up. It is essentially sacred and precious as the abode of the Atma and should be used only for sacred purposes. God is one, whatever the name or form in which He is worshipped. God blesses a devotee according to the depth of his devotion, without regard to the name or form used for worship.

Today, before the commencement of the Yajna, the Ritviks (Vedic priests) rubbed two sticks against each other to produce fire for the Homa (oblations). What is the significance of this procedure? It indicates that for a Yajna the fire should be started in a natural way and not by any artificial means. Two sticks are used for the purpose. Similarly, the body and the mind should be rubbed against each other to generate Jnanagni (fire of wisdom). It should also be realised that there is a divine



energy latent in man – like fire in the wood – which enables the eyes to see, the ears to hear, the mind to think and the body to move about. All organs are able to function because of this divine energy. Man feels proud that he is the doer of all things. There is no basis for this pride. Such egoism is a fatal disease. Egoism is accompanied by another dire disease called Asuya (envy). There are cures for all kinds of diseases in the world. But there are no remedies for egoism and envy. Total ruin is the only cure for these two diseases.

Man should realise that there should be no excessive indulgence in any desire, whether it be food or other necessities. This is the lesson we have to learn from our ancients, who practised self-restraint in every aspect of life. In ancient days, you did not have the kind of education that is imparted today. They did not secure high degrees. But they led a life of purity and integrity with the name of Narayana on their lips.

Develop the Spirit of Spiritual Oneness

Today people should develop pure hearts and unwavering minds to secure peace. Not all the wealth of the world or the great advances in space technology confer peace on people who have not found it within them. When at the end of a Bhajan, we say Santhi three times, the prayer is for peace of the body, the mind and the Spirit. Without this triune peace, man cannot have real peace. And this three-fold peace can be conferred only by God. This means that spirituality is essential for the health of the body, the peace of the mind and the bliss of the Spirit.

The Cosmic Spirit is one only, though it may be called by many names and worshipped in varied forms. You should see the Divine in everyone, including those whom you may regard as aliens or enemies. True spirituality consists in this sense of spiritual oneness. It can arise only when the attachment to the body is given up. People imagine that it is difficult to give up this attachment. It is not so. When you develop the conviction that you are the Atma (the Self), then it will be easy to give up attachment to the body. When people in general develop this feeling, there will be a great transformation in the life of mankind. Peace should spread from the individual to the family, to society, the nation and the world and not vice-versa.

Spiritualising Effect of Vibrations from the Vedic Mantras

Embodiments of Love!

Today the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna has been inaugurated for promoting the welfare of the universe. Every individual has to play a part in this endeavour for world peace and prosperity. Whether you understand the meaning of the Mantras or not, the vibrations emanating from the chanting of the Vedas will have a spiritualising effect on the listeners. There is bliss in the vibrations of the Vedic hymns. Brahman (the Cosmic Self) is described as the embodiment of cosmic vibrations which permeate the universe, fill it with effulgence, wisdom and bliss. Make use of the opportunity provided by the Yajna to purify your life and raise yourself from the human to the Divine.

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse
in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on
5th October 1997.





BHAGAVAN WRITES FOR SANATHANA SARATHI

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

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



తెలంగాణలో తెలంగాణ ప్రజల విప్లవ వాదనలను తెలుగులో
చేరి ప్రచురించేటందుకు ఆసక్తి. తెలుగులో తెలుగు
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వాదనలను ప్రచురించేటందుకు ఆసక్తి.

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சிறு-காலம், சிறுமனம், சிறுதொழில், சிறுநிலை
அவ் வடி சிறுமனம், சிறுதொழில், சிறுநிலை
அவ் வடி சிறுமனம், சிறுதொழில், சிறுநிலை

[illegible]

వీలాకైవల్య వాహిని

(సాయి సాధకుల సంభాషణ)

సుఖరూపుడై అందరిచే అర్థింపబడువాడగుటచే పరమేశ్వరునకు అర్థః అని పేరు. అట్టి పరమేశ్వరుని కొరకు వినియోగింపబడే తత్త్వాప్తి సాధనమగు ధనము లేక జ్ఞానము వేదస్ అగునని వేదమే తెలిపినది. అట్టి ధనమే ఆరాధకునకు, ఆరాధ్యుడగు దైవమునకు తృప్తిని కలిగించునని శ్రుతియే తెలిపినది. వేదవాక్కుచే వేదవిహిత ధర్మాద్యాచరణముచే సిద్ధించెడి ధనమే వేదః అగుననెడి అర్థము వేద తాత్పర్యము. కావుననే, ఇట్టి ధనమును 'శ్రుత్యమ్' అని ఋగ్వేదము కీర్తించుచున్నది.

సాధకుడు : శ్రుత్యమ్ అనగా ఏమి?

సాయి : పుత్ర పౌత్రాది రూపమున నిరతిశయముగా వర్ధిల్లెడి ఐశ్వర్యము ననుగ్రహింపుడు, అని అర్థము. ధర్మము వేద స్వరూపమగుటచేతనే పరమేశ్వరునకు ధర్మః అని పేరు ప్రసిద్ధము. 'రామో విగ్రహవాన్ ధర్మః' అని రామాయణము కీర్తించినది. 'సర్వ భూతానాం ధారణాత్ ధర్మః' సర్వభూతములను ధరించుటచేతను, ధర్మముచే ఆరాధింప బడుటచేతను పరమేశ్వరునకు 'ధర్మః' అనునది సార్థకనామము.

'ధర్మో విశ్వస్య జగతః ప్రతిష్ఠా' ఇలాంటి పవిత్రమైన ధర్మమును, ఎవరికి తోచినట్లు వారు వ్యాఖ్యానము చేసి వారి స్వార్థమునకు తగినట్లు అర్థములు తెలుపుచూ ధర్మస్వరూపమును విరూపము చేయుచున్నారు. వేద, దేవ అను పదములు, శబ్దములు రెండును పర్యాయ పదములై వర్ధిల్లుటయు శ్రుతులయందు స్పష్టముగా కనిపించు చున్నది. 'స్వయం సర్వం వేత్తీతి వేదః' అని వేద శబ్దము నిర్వచింపబడినది. అనగా సర్వజ్ఞుడు వేద స్వరూపుడైన బ్రహ్మ అని అర్థము.

సాధకుడు : స్వామీ! వేదమంత్రములందు తరచుగా 'స్వాహా' అను పదము ఉపయోగింతురు కదా! స్వాహా అనగా ఏమి?

సాయి : నాయనా! స్వాహా అను పదము వేదవాచకము కాదనియు, ఇది సామాన్యముగా హోమార్థమైన మంత్రమనియు, ఇది హోమసూచకమైన సాంకేతికపదమనియూ తలంతురు. ఈ పదమునకు స్వాహాదేవి అనియు, హవిప్రధానమనియు రెండు అర్థములున్నవి. దేవతలను ఉద్దేశించి స్వాహా అనియు, పితరులను ఉద్దేశించి స్వధా అని హవిస్సులు వేయబడుచుండును. స్వాహా అను పదము వేదములో వాగ్దేవత అను అర్థము నిచ్చుచున్నది.

LEELA KAIVALYA VAHINI

Sai Speaks to Sadhaka

The Almighty (Parameshwara) is sought to be known and gained through Sadhana. So, He, too, is known as Artha. The Veda announces that the intuitive wisdom (Jnana) constitutes the riches (Dhana), the means by which the Almighty is attained; this alone deserves the name “Vedas” or Vedic truth. Shruti (Vedic scripture) asserts that such wealth alone can confer the joy of satisfaction (Tripti) to both the worshipper (Aradhaka) and worshipped (Aradhya).

The Rig Veda extols this form of wealth and refers to it as Shrutyam, for it is the type described and recommended in the Shruti. The Veda approves as Vedic only that wealth, which is earned through adherence to the moral codes laid down clearly for human guidance.

Sadhaka: Shrutyam? What does that mean, Swami?

Sai: A prosperous person (Sreemanta) is one, who is happily endowed with sons and grandsons and who is successful in worldly ambitions beyond even surprising heights. Moral excellence is a more valuable possession. This wealth is the concrete result of Vedic injunctions. It is called Dharma. The Ramayana extols Rama as Dharma Personified (Vigrahavaan Dharma). Dharma sustains all beings (*Sarva Bhutanam Dharanat, Dharma*). Dharma is the support (Dharana) for all beings. Hence, it is named Dharma. The Almighty is that support and sustenance; the most effective mode of worship is the offering of Dharma. So, the Almighty Itself is identified with the word Dharma. That name is, therefore, meaningful. The entire Cosmos projected by the Almighty is established on Dharma (*Dharmo Vishwasya Jagatah Pratishtha*). The Dharma imbued with profound sanctity is being interpreted by persons, in accordance with their whims and fancies, their selfish interests. Hence, it has been severely distorted. The words, Veda and Deva, take on new meanings and implications. The process can be clearly recognised in Vedic literature. “*Swayam Sarvam Vetti-iti Vedah*”. (Itself It Knows All) This statement reveals that Veda is the Omniscient Brahman Itself. Shruti is Its embodiment.

Sadhaka: Swami! In the Mantras, which the Vedas contain, we have the word Svaaha occurring frequently. What does Svaaha mean?

Sai: Good! That word is generally taken to indicate only an expression used, while offering oblations in ceremonially-lit fire; people imagine that it is not a Vedic word. They argue, it is a technical expression applicable to rituals only. There is a deity named Svaaha Devi, invoked by that word. It also connotes “the offering of Havis (sacramental food) to the gods”. So, the word has two meanings. When Havis or other offerings are made to Divinity under its various forms and in Its various names, this word, Svaaha, is used. When, however, one invokes one’s forefathers and invites them to accept ritual offerings, the expression used is Svadha, not Svaaha. Since the word is full of potency, it is revered as the manifestation of Vaak Devi, the Deity presiding over speech.



MY EXPERIENCES IN BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE PROXIMITY ❁

Srivilas Suri

THE MARRIAGE OF MY eldest brother was fixed with the adopted daughter of Somina Sureshwara Sarma in Kakinada. I had to request Swami for the permission to attend the marriage. After the marriage, I came back to the Nilayam. Swami then



asked the newly-married couple to come and take His blessings. My brother and his wife came to Bengaluru and I told them to come to Swami to take His blessings. They came and waited for two days but Swami did not call them. As my brother was to report for duty (he was working in Larsen and Toubro, which in later years, were

the biggest contractors for all the works of Swami), he left for Bengaluru. As soon as he reached Bengaluru, he was informed that L&T was on strike and he need not come for another ten days!

As soon as they left the Nilayam, Swami called me and said, “Nee Annayya Thondara Padi Velli Poyadu. Aa company strike Lo Undi. Ataniki Teliyada” (your brother has gone in hurry. Didn’t he know that there was strike in the company?). I was wondering how Swami was aware of the strike. “Sare, Neevu Velli Vallaku Ee Dhotulu Cheera Kumkuma Prasadam Nenu Icchanani Cheppi Raa” (all right, take these clothes and Kumkum for them and tell them that Swami has sent this Prasadam for them). When I reached Bengaluru, and gave the gifts, they felt humbled.

After about two days, my brother-in-law, my sister and my brother along with his wife came to the Nilayam for Swami’s Darshan. Swami asked me to make them sit for the interview. They were disappointed when they were not called and someone else was called! I was also disappointed as I was the Dwarapalaka (doorkeeper) of Swami at that time. Then the four of them were called. When I tried to butt in along with them, Swami said, “You don’t belong to the family. Why are you trying to come”? Swami spent nearly one hour with them.

I think, all of them were thrilled to have spent so much time with Swami and they left for Bengaluru fully satisfied. My sister

**Continued from the previous issue. This is the fourth part of the article of Sri Suri.*

had a complication while she was in her second pregnancy. Swami called me and said, "Go, give this Vibhuti to your sister and come back". I immediately left for Bengaluru with the Vibhuti and returned by night. I learnt later on that her life was in danger during the pregnancy and Swami saved her! Many years later, my sister told me how He had saved her. Swami named the two sons of my sister as Satya Kumar and Siva Kumar.

Akhanda Bhajan in Bengaluru

Some Bengaluru devotees led by Dr. Padmanabhan and others organised an Akhanda bhajan at Gayana Samaj. I don't remember the date. Prior to that I was going everyday to Brindavan for permission from Swami to leave for Jamshedpur. Everyday, Swami would say, "Come tomorrow". Like this, I went for five days. Finally, I purchased the journey ticket and told Swami, "I have bought the ticket and I am going tomorrow". Swami just smiled and said, "Atlaga! Repu Akhanda Bhajana Undi, Nuvvu Akkadiki Raa. Nenu Cheputanu" (Is it! Tomorrow, there is Akhanda Bhajan. You come there and then I will tell you).

Promptly, I reached Gayana Samaj around 8.30 a.m. and told my sister that I will come back by 1 p.m. to catch Brindavan train to Chennai. The Bhajan started and Swami was enjoying thoroughly. Like an eagle, I was looking for permission from Swami.

It was 12 noon and I was getting impatient, but Swami was not at all concerned. Around 12.30, He called me aside and said, "Choodu, Raja Reddy Vontlo Baga Ledu. Ee Adavallu Alasi Poyaru, Veellu Rathri Daka Bhajan Cheyya Leru. Mysore Raghu, Valla Thammulu Chestunnaru. Nee Prayanam

Manuko, Akhanda Bhajan Tarvata Ooriki Veluduganile. Nee ticket Naku Ivvu. Nee Chellaluki Bava Gariki Cheppu. Sayankalam Bhajanki Rammannu. Ippudu Ela Vachhavu? Intiki Karaulo Velli Cheppesi Raa" (See, Raja Reddy is not keeping well. These ladies have become tired, they cannot do Bhajan the whole night. Mysore Raghu and his brothers are doing Bhajans. Postpone your trip. You can go to your place after the Akhanda Bhajan. Give your ticket to Me. How did you come now? Go in car and tell your sister and brother-in-law to come for Bhajan in the evening). I told Swami that I came by bicycle and would come back after telling my sister. I came to know later that Swami had asked someone to cancel my ticket!

The Bhajan was going on very well and Swami was there throughout. Suddenly, He observed that we have not been given water or tea or coffee by the organisers.

At His command, we were given some refreshments. Around 9 p.m., we were taken to the house of Dr. Padmanabhan for dinner. Swami squatted on the floor and I was sandwiched between Raja Reddy and Swami! He told us not to eat a heavy meal, lest we should fall asleep. He gave Padanamaskar and fruits. Then He turned around towards me and said, "Padu Nuvvu Kooda" (you also sing). So saying, He materialised Vibhuti and put it in my mouth! Believe me or not, I sang along with the group almost 100 Bhajans. That was the first and last time I ever sang a Bhajan. It was only the grace of Swami.

Swami came by 4.30 a.m. and stayed till 9 a.m., when Arati was offered. He asked all of us to come in the evening and specially told me, "I will give Vibhuti packets to be given to your mother and you leave for Jamshedpur the next day". There was just

one reserved through ticket to Jamshedpur by Brindavan Train to Chennai and by Howrah Mail to Jamshedpur.

When I arrived in Jamshedpur, I was told by my father that mother was admitted to a hospital for removing a diabetic boil on her back. She had been suffering for the past fifteen days and then, I realised why Swami was postponing my journey, for almost 15 days!

He knew all along about the health of my mother. The operation was scheduled after two days. I gave the Vibhuti given by Swami to my mother and she swallowed. On the day of the operation, she was wheeled into the operation theatre and to the utter shock and surprise of the doctors the boil had vanished! My mother was discharged without operation! This was another miracle by Swami.

During Dasara of 1967, Sathya Sai Seva Dal was formed by one Ramanamurthy from Hyderabad. All Seva Dal volunteers were given badges to be worn. A Seva Dal meeting was held in the presence of Swami in the Mandir and badges were given personally by Swami. Sambasiva Rao and I were also given the badges.

Volunteers were positioned to regulate the crowds which had swelled into thousands. Both Sambasiva Rao and I were not disturbed as we were doing the decoration of the shed.

Moreover, I was also incharge for the mike system and the Dwarapalaka for the shed, where Swami would come. Both of us were not wearing the badges, because due to work, they would get damaged. Someone from the Seva Dal group prevented us from entering the shed, as

we were without badges. Ramanamurthy informed Swami about our indiscipline.

Swami is reported to have told Ramanamurthy, "Don't touch those Kotees (monkeys). They will not listen to anyone. They will only listen to Me. Allow them to carry on their work".

After this, there was no interference from any Seva Dal volunteer. We were the only volunteers without badges. I was a witness to Sivarathri celebrations in the shed, where Swami materialised Agni Lingam, Netra Lingam, each the size of an egg! I could see all the planets going around and with flames of fire! What a thrilling experience! How fortunate I was to witness this!

Memorable Sivarathri 1968

The Sivarathri of 1968 was most memorable for me. For some reason or other, Swami was in a furious mood and everyone was afraid to go anywhere near Him. Vibhuti was flowing all over from His hair and eyebrows!

As usual, Swami hoisted the flag and I was the only person allowed to accompany Him. I carried the Shirdi Sai idol and Swami performed Vibhuti Abhishekam, with His hand swirling inside the vessel, held upside down by Kasturi. Vibhuti flowed through this vessel like a flood. Along with the Vibhuti, pearls, Rudraksha beads, Tulsi beads, gold and silver flakes flowed through the Vibhuti. What a sight! What an aroma of the Vibhuti! People sitting close to the stage got showered with Vibhuti! The Shirdi Sai idol was completely covered with Vibhuti. As I started carrying the idol back to the Mandir, people clutched at my shirt, which was covered with Vibhuti. An unforgettable and Divine experience for me!



There was no shed this time as Swami had constructed a different stage in the open ground, next to the shed. This one had steps to climb to the hexagonal shaped stage with a door which could be closed. Evening came and Swami quickly climbed to the stage. A big retinue of devotees including Kasturi, Bhagavantam, Kistappa, Surayya, Satyamurthy and many more, whom I cannot recall now, were following Swami. As soon as Swami entered, He asked me to close the door and not allow anyone onto the dais. What an embarrassing and difficult situation for me manning the door!

Then Swami called for the commencement of Bhajan, which the devotees also sang en masse. Around 8.30 p.m., Swami put His hand to His head and remained in that posture for about 30 minutes. People sitting in the front like Raja Reddy, Kasturi and other important devotees were getting worried, as there was no movement of any sort from Swami. From below everyone was looking at me, but I cannot disobey the order of Swami and allow anyone on to the dais.

Suddenly, Swami shook His head and started telling the assembled devotees that He had gone into a trance and visited the nine Lokas (ethereal worlds). Everyone was relieved and dumbstruck! He then, gave a small Discourse on His experiences in the various worlds!

The Bhajan commenced once again and it was time for Swami to materialise the Linga. I was sitting in one corner of the dais with a silver vessel filled with water. Swami went on drinking the water and the vessel was empty! I was wondering how to get water if He asked again. Luckily, for me, Raja Reddy's cook was standing

outside and filled the vessel with water. Swami started exhibiting pain and was having convulsions. When the Bhajan was at its peak, Swami took out a Linga about the size of an egg! I could see blood stains at the edges of His mouth and blood was on the handkerchief with which He covered the mouth, when the Linga came out.

He then explained the significance of the Linga and requested the Bhajan to be continued till He came. He placed the Linga in a ball of jasmine flowers and while going out, He told me that no one should be allowed to the dais! I had not eaten anything from the morning as I was fully involved with the work of Swami. Now this was the fresh instruction that I should guard the Linga all night! What am I to do to answer the call of nature? How am I going to eat anything? How can I freshen up in the morning before Swami arrives? Swami may come anytime in the night. He is highly unpredictable. All these thoughts were going through my mind. I cannot request any help, as that would be disobeying the order of Swami.

Somehow, before 4 a.m., I got freshened in Raja Reddy's house which was close to the Vedika after locking the door. In about 10 minutes, I was on to the dais and kept vigil for the arrival of Swami. He came at around 6 a.m., blessed the devotees who stayed all night, gave Padanamaskar to me, and left the Vedika taking along with Him the Siva Linga which He had materialised the previous night.

That was Sivarathri of 1968, an unforgettable experience for me. As I was resting in the verandah of Raja Reddy after the hectic work of Sivarathri, Swami sent word for me. When Swami was told that I was sleeping, He is reported to have



commented, “Papam, Chaala Shrama Paddadu, Padukoni” (poor fellow, let him sleep, he did a lot of work). What can I say to this?

Afterwards, when I came to know about this, I went to Swami and He suddenly asked after giving me Padanamaskar, “Neeku Naa Daggiranunchi Emi Kavali? Dhanama, Bangarama, Golusa, Ungarama, Cheppu, Nenu Istanu” (What do you want from Me – wealth, gold, chain, ring? Tell Me, I will give). I was wondering why He was talking like this? “Swami, I don’t want anything except Your grace.” So saying, I came down. I kept wondering why Swami was talking like this? The answer came to me in about 15 days!

My father, after retirement from Atomic Energy Commission, was diagnosed with cancer due to exposure to uranium mines and was admitted into Tata Memorial Hospital. I told Swami about the health condition of my father. He said, “I will be in Dharmakshetra at Mumbai. Bring him to Me”. I left for Mumbai and went to Dharmakshetra. This was a huge building conceptualised by Swami.

I was prevented from entering at the gate by the volunteers. Now, I knew the difference in Prasanthi Nilayam and here. There, I was a king and could prevent anyone from entering. Here, for the first time, I faced obstruction. I pleaded with the volunteers that I had come from Prasanthi Nilayam at the invitation of Swami. They were not impressed and said, “Everyone says that Swami has asked them to come. You wait. Swami has gone out and will come soon”. There, I was standing in the hot sun from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Swami arrived in His car and saw me standing outside the gate. As soon as He

entered, four volunteers came rushing out, deeply apologising for keeping me waiting saying that Swami was very upset!

I was attended by four people who were serving lunch to me. They told me that Swami had asked me to wait. A royal treatment indeed!

Evening came and Swami was busy suggesting cures for the sick and elderly. With His Vibhuti, He made a paralytic walk! I then told Swami about my father. He said, “Bring your father to me next day. Also give the car number to the volunteers so that they will allow the car to the portico”. What concern and what thinking?

He then asked me how I would go? He summoned a car for me to be dropped! Immediately, four cars came and all of them offered to drop me. I had to go to Tata Hospital in Parel to inform my father about Swami’s direction and return to Thane, where I was staying. The people who took me to Parel dropped me at Thane, which was quite a distance.

Next morning by 10 a.m., I drove my father and mother to Dharmakshetra, where Swami received my father with love and affection. He was taken along with my mother and what He told my father, I do not know, because I was prevented from accompanying my parents.

I was surprised, when Swami told that cancer patients have a concessional fare on the airlines and also for an accompanist! How did He know all this? Swami instructed my father to go to Bengaluru where He would see him in Brindavan.

He told me, “Don’t go anywhere. Go straight to Bengaluru and stay with your father”. But I had other plans! My uncle

continued on page 26...



OLD MANDIR

THE DIVINE ABODE OF BALA SATHYA SAI

Kuppam Vijayamma

THE FOUNDATION OF THE OLD Mandir stands on a small piece of land gifted to Swami by Karanam Subbamma, who is referred to as the foster mother like Yashoda of young Sai Krishna because of her total surrender to Swami from His boyhood days.

Though the number of devotees coming to Puttaparthi to have young Sai's Darshan increased, there was no particular place to accommodate them. Thus, the small piece of land gifted to Swami can be considered as a very thoughtful gift. Though Karanam Subbamma did not live to see the completion of the Old Mandir, she was very much there as Swami had given her a special place in His heart. Many a time, Swami would lovingly speak about her devotion and concern for Him and tears would flow down our cheeks. The divine attachment she had for Swami was surely extraordinary as Swami was still a small boy and hardly known to the world when she fully realised His Divinity.

To start with, the Bhajans in the Old Mandir consisted of only songs and that too quite long with many verses. Only after many years, when the number of newcomers increased, Swami started Bhajans for easy following by the devotees.

Small, cute, like a toy house, Old Mandir captured our hearts at the very first glance. Many have not seen this Old Mandir. Living



in this very simple abode, Bala Sathya Sai revealed His Divinity and showed many fascinating miracles and manifestations beyond human perception. He silently spread His Divine Leelas all over from this place, a veritable paradise on earth. Let us enjoy His boyhood Leelas.

Swami's Invitation in a Dream

My most humble salutations at the Lotus Feet of most Beloved Lord. My heartfelt thanks to Him for calling me and bringing me to this Old Mandir after a gap of 63 years. As I entered, extreme joy engulfed me and torrents of tears flowed down my cheeks, as old most memorable days flashed in my mind. I was drowned in ecstasy!

The Old Mandir is supremely scintillating and most sacred sanctum sanctorum! It was a heaven on earth for us. Now let me narrate, share the greatness, the holiness of this Old Mandir which is so fascinating



and interesting. In 1945, Swami appeared in my mother's dream and personally invited her to come to Him. But she said, "I don't know who You are"? Then He so sweetly replied, "People call Me Sathya Sai Baba. I am staying in Puttaparthi. Come" and disappeared. Mother woke up my father and narrated the dream. Though he said "No", she persuaded him to visit Parthi. Wow! He accepted to stay only for three days there. Good! From our native place Kuppam, a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, we went to Bangalore (Bengaluru) and then reached Puttaparthi after undergoing extremely painful bone-racking journey for two days. (For details, read the book – Anyatha Saranam Nasti).

Swami received us at Chitravathi and took us to the Old Mandir, where He was staying. The magnanimous, mesmerising, mighty role played by Old Mandir is highly laudable, adorable! The very first glance of Swami captivated our hearts. I immediately accepted Him as God and admired His beauty. Very simple with a white long robe, bewitching smile, bushy hair. So charming! We liked Him so much. After we had a hearty meal, He showed us a small room to rest. Our luggage was so heavy. Anyhow, we started dumping it in a corner. It all fitted so nicely. Really a wonder! We were thinking, how we nine people were going to lie down. But it was so spacious and comfortable. How is it possible? Really a miracle!

Old Mandir had no power. There was only a small lamp all over. No kitchen. No stove. We placed three stones and started cooking on the firewood. Tears rolled down because of smoke. The most shocking matter was no bathroom! But we never felt uncomfortable or inconvenient because

Swami kept running, talking, joking, playing all the time and made us forget all discomforts. There was a well in a corner. In spite of all physical discomforts, we really enjoyed every bit in His Presence!

Daily Routine in the Old Mandir

Now let me tell you how we spent our time and what was our daily routine. We had to go to Chitravathi river for bath at 5 o'clock in the morning and have bath, wash clothes and come back. Swami, sitting on a simple cot, would say, "Where is My coffee"? Oh! We rushed to the kitchen, made coffee, sat around Him, talking and joking. It was 8 o'clock. We would again rush back to kitchen, prepare breakfast and sit around Him. He would ask us, how we liked this place. We said, wonderful, Swami. Then by the time we got up, it was 11 o'clock. At Bhajan time, we assembled in the prayer hall. Swami in the centre would start singing. Then ladies and gents joined Him. When we got up, it would be 1 o'clock. Then we had lunch.

At 3 o'clock, we ran to Chitravathi with Swami. He used to shout at the top of His voice, "I am going to Chitravathi. Is everyone ready"? Like the army of monkeys, we followed Him. We would come back at 8 o'clock and do Bhajans till 11 o'clock. Then dinner. After dinner, we would sit around Swami listening to the stories of Rama or Krishna. Sometimes, He used to sing Mira Bhajans. By the time, we went to bed, under the sky, on the ground, it would be 12 o'clock. Though we could sleep only for a few hours, we were never tired or bored or fatigued. All the time happy! happy! happy. From dawn to dusk, we were so close in proximity of Bala Sathya Sai. As we both were teenagers, a perfect time to run around



screaming, shouting. Daily, we sang for nearly eight hours. Why Swami gave so much importance to Bhajans? The secret is, while singing, you have to concentrate. The mind should not be allowed to roam around or waver. Unknowingly, devotion develops in us. Then when one sings with sincere attention and awareness, dedication develops. One should not move one's hands or body but sit quietly and calmly. This promotes discipline. When you are restless, you make others also restless. Then Swami says, you are not a singer but a sinner. So, by singing we are benefited fully and the monkey mind is also controlled. The senses too are controlled. What a fabulous gift is singing the Name of the Lord! This is indeed a great blessing.

Swami used to sing a song in Telugu:

“Bhajanuku Randi. Baba Bhajanuku Randi. Babana Koodi Chesati Bhajanuku Randi” (Come! Hurry up! Attend Bhajan sung by Baba Himself). “Bandu Thanjavur Baagaina Melalu, Bengaluru Sipayilu Baba Bhajanaluku” (Band from Thanjavur, Nadaswaram troupe and military people from Bengaluru have come for Baba's Bhajans). “Nedu Meeru Vedukatho, Bhakthito Randi” (so, today come with all inspiration and devotion. Don't delay. Hurry up). Swami used to personally invite and call everyone to join Bhajans because it had so much impact and good results.

Everyone knows that Swami at the age of fourteen sang, “Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam. Dustara Bhava Sagara Taranam”. Then He sang, “Sai Bhajana Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin, Hari Nama Bina Ananda Nahin”. Nahi! Nahi! There is no joy equivalent to Bhajan. Come. Don't hesitate. Saying so, He commanded all to participate in Bhajan.

After Bhajans, our most charming Bala Sathya Sai, with a bowl of sweets came

to each and everyone singing a most beautiful song – “This is the most sacred Prasadam cooked by Sai Himself. Eat it by reciting the Name of Sai. All diseases will be cured. The mind will be purified. There is no need to give a single pie. Free! Free! Don't bargain or discuss. Just eat it and get sanctified”. How fortunate we were! This Old Mandir is not an ordinary place! A holy temple where God's Name is echoing all the time.

Our Lord surrounded by His devotees was like moon surrounded by stars. He was a Divine Attraction. He was all the time active and energetic and kept all of us busy. He did not like anyone sitting idle. He used to say, “It is already 8 o'clock. Is the breakfast ready”? My mother used to prepare four to five Idlis. Swami used to partake of two Idlis. You won't believe, the remaining two Idlis were more than enough for nine of us to share. A small piece but would be sufficient to fill our stomach. Is this not a great miracle! Most amazing!

Our Lord, young Bala Sathya Sai's every action and deed was packed with great purpose. He had no desires whatsoever; He was always engaged in some activity or the other. Our most Beloved Bala Sathya Sai brought ceiling on desires in action. So, this Old Mandir is a mighty workshop of eternal love.

Fun and Frolic in Swami's Proximity

Now let us enjoy Bala Sathya Sai's fun and frolic. In the afternoon, all elderly people used to relax in the hall. Swami would be busy in His room reading or writing letters. We children used to huddle in a corner. Once Swami slowly came out and called us. On the ground, a big black ant was crawling. He asked a boy to pick it and give it to Him. With wide open eyes, we were wondering what game He



was up to. He went to the ladies side and put the ant in their hair. Oh! They got up in panic, shouting. Laughing loudly, He enthralled all. Then He approached the men's side and put a well-twisted thread into their noses and ears. They got up scared, screaming! Clapping His hands in merriment, He would drown us in laughter and hilarity. We used to wonder, is He God! How can God be so naughty! Then we looked at His bewitching face, shining with divinity. He is verily God.

We all used to sleep around Bala Sathya Sai. One day, at 3 a.m., He woke up my mother and asked her to prepare Dosa (south Indian pancake) as He was hungry. She called me to help her. We prepared the dough and were about to make Dosa on the pan. He said, "Take care that it should not make hissing noise. Otherwise, everyone will get up". Mother was so puzzled, perplexed. She said, "I will make Dosa, kindly take care that it does not make noise". Unbelievable! During the entire Dosa preparation, there was no noise. He ate three Dosas and went away.

Next morning while He sat for breakfast, He started feeling restless and was rubbing His stomach. Sakamma, who was looking after all His needs, came running with so much anxiety. He innocently mumbled, "Last night, Radhamma woke me up and made me eat Dosas. So, I am feeling uncomfortable". All the ladies pounced on us like lions and pierced us into pieces. (Read the book "Anyatha Saranam Nasti" for more details). Sakamma became so perturbed and brought a pill for Swami. He swallowed the medicine in all obedience. We were dazed and stupefied because Swami never had any medicines. Feeling relieved, Sakamma went away. One

cannot guess what He did at that moment. He just shook His hand and the pill dropped down from His shoulder robe side. This is beyond human perception.

One day, devotees from Bengaluru brought a big bunch of bananas. Swami asked them to put it in His room. My brothers Murthy and Amba always used to stay with Him. That night, Swami asked them whether they were hungry. They said, yes and ate the whole bunch of bananas. Then Swami told them not to throw the banana peels outside as everyone would notice it. He told them to put the peels under His cot. They did so and had a sound sleep. The next morning, He called my mother and showed the peels to her. He said, "Lazy fellows, they did not throw them out. I could not sleep the entire night because of the smell". Mother got so angry that she was about to slap them. Then our naughty Bala Sathya Sai told the actual truth. Everyone enjoyed with peels of laughter. He is always full of vigour. Unimaginable!

The Divine Physician

Our sweet Swami is also the Doctor of all doctors. In those days, it was our great good fortune of not having any hospital or doctors or nurses. During times of need, we always approached the Divine Physician. My mother was suffering from acute knee pain. When she told Swami about her pain, Swami nonchalantly said, "Cut it and throw it in Chitravathi"! Though this statement looked ridiculous, she was relieved of her knee pain. One gentleman was suffering with severe back pain. Swami while talking to him jovially, gave him a hard punch in the back. The person screamed with pain but was cured completely later of his back pain. My father used to get giddiness. One day, Swami called him to His room



and made him stand against the wall and started pressing his body from toe to head. Then Swami started pressing his temples hard. Father could not bear the pain. We could personally see the force Swami was using by looking at His face and hands. A black paste came out from the centre of my father's head. Swami said, "One of your relatives has poisoned him out of jealousy. Now nothing to worry". So, Sai's word is always the word of Truth. Is this not a miracle! So, Old Mandir is not an ordinary place. It is a Temple of Healing. He removes all hurdles and gifts bundles of joy. The Vedas declared, *Vaidyo Narayano Hari* (doctor is verily God). Swami is verily God. As Sai Narayana, He is today curing all our diseases. Is it not highly adorable!

Our most benevolent Bala Sathya Sai used to visit His parents living in Parthi in a hut in those days. He used to spend some time with them and come back. Why? He silently taught us that one must serve, worship one's parents who have sacrificed their life for their children. *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava* (revere your mother and father as God). He silently kindled devotion in us. So, this Old Mandir is Premalayam (temple of love). One should respect one's parents. What a wonderful lesson taught silently to us!

In this cute sweet Mandir, nearly twenty of us lived like one family. No jealousy, no hatred. He gave us the message of the scriptures: *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the whole world is one single family). What a holistic message!

Grand Dasara Celebrations

Our Beloved Lord celebrated Dasara festival in a grand manner. I can never forget this most memorable, felicitous, incomprehensible, incredible time packed

with events which left a lasting impression in our hearts. These ten days, devotees would carry Bala Sathya Sai in a palanquin, go round the village singing the Lord's glories.

Well-skilled flower designers from Bengaluru made most attractive designs on the palanquin. We used to bring jewels, rings and decorate our sweet Lord to our heart's content. Decorations were made on the palanquin to match His dress. What striking, matchless, mesmerising beauty! Our Lord gave ten different Darshans on these ten days. Heaps of Vibhuti in silver colour started pouring from His forehead when the palanquin started moving on the first day. On the second day, He wore a red robe with pink veil amidst resounding shouts of Jaikar. The chariot was decked with flowers resembling sun god drawn by seven horses emitting brilliant rays.

Devotees were spellbound and were left speechless by the sparkling beauty of the Lord on the third day. The palanquin was decorated with Trishul (trident) as Jaikars resounded all over. On this day, He was dressed as Ardhanareeswara (left side of His body as Siva and the right side of His body as Parvati). There were streaks of Vibhuti on His forehead as He turned His head towards the left side. River Ganga, moon and Jhatajhuta (knotted hair) adorned His head, serpent dangling around His neck and trident and drum in His hand. He wore a deer skin – His beauty was breathtaking for the eyes to behold. When He turned His head to the right side, He looked verily Mother Parvati with a bright red Kumkum on His forehead. He dazzled with extraordinary beauty donning ornate jewels.

On the fourth day, He came out with a purple robe and rose-coloured veil.



The palanquin was decorated like a beautiful colourful peacock. He resembled Kartikeya. His face was radiant with fresh sandalwood paste, bright Kumkum in the centre and ruddy lips.

On the fifth day, He came out with a dark rose robe and parrot green veil. The palanquin was designed like Sudarshana Chakra. He was decked with a lovely garland and a flute. He had the mischievous look and a beautiful smile.

On the sixth day, He came out with a pure white attire. The palanquin was adorned like Garuda, the vehicle of Lord Vishnu. The divine glow and the matchless beauty stole our hearts. Singing the Bhajan "Garuda Vahana Narayana", we moved happily with the Lord in the procession.

He came out in a dark blue robe with white veil on the seventh day. The palanquin was beautifully decorated like Om as He is Omkara Priya, the form of Om is our Sai. His face shone lustrously in the brilliant light and suffused us with divine bliss.

Bhagavan came in a lemon yellow-coloured robe and matching lotus-coloured veil with decorated palanquin like Adishesha, the thousand-headed snake on the eighth day. Singing the Bhajan "Sesha Shaila Vasa Narayana" (Lord Narayana, who reclines on a serpent coil) happily, we moved with our Lord.

On the penultimate day of Dasara festival, the Lord came in a dark brown robe with light brown veil. The palanquin decorated like eight-petalled lotus was a virtual feast to the eyes. Vibhuti was profusely pouring from Him, which kindled faith and devotion in the devotees gathered to witness this grand spectacle.

On the tenth and final day of the festival, Swami came in a Zari (thread made from thin gold or silver wire) inlaid robe with Zari-embroidered veil. The gathering was very big, and everyone was filled with divine ecstasy singing jubilantly. After Bhagavan reached the Mandir, the men enthusiastically swayed the palanquin singing lullabies for a long time. At last, our Beloved Lord got down and blessed all of us. We too went in after witnessing this grand Dasara festival with ecstatic hearts.

We witnessed this greatest miracle of all gods in one form. So, Old Mandir is not an ordinary place. Our Bala Sathya Sai played predominantly the role of Mata, Pita, Guru and Daivam (father, mother, preceptor and God). This was our holy hermitage. He trained us to lead a peaceful, virtuous, simple life. He taught us: Love All. Serve All.

Irrespective of caste, creed and religion, He immersed us in His pure spontaneous love and filled every cavity of our heart with His serene love. Love was the only weapon with which He conquered the whole cosmos! Even at this advanced age, 84 years, I am leading a happy, harmonious life only because of His benevolent grace and affection.

Today I am sitting on this holy ground (21st January 2019) with a group of Australians, the blessed ones. It is highly adorable to see so many of them come with inspiration in spite of many of them not having seen our Lord in person. Every grain of sand is saturated with His unsullied love which will tell volumes of remarkable stories. There is no need to feel sorry that our Lord is not with us now. We have to get fascinated remembering the good old days. No doubt, He is here, everywhere



with us always. Our family is still sitting in the proximity of Bhagavan and enjoying His grace though the golden years have passed. We still have implicit faith in Him. Yes, it works wonders. He will personally guide you on the spiritual path. This Old Mandir is personally selected by Bhagavan which is proved beyond doubt to us.

So, this Old Mandir is the golden abode of love. A strong fortress and tower of spirituality and wisdom. A dynamic platform that revealed His Divinity. A unique

playground for His divine pranks and plays. A scintillating stage for His manifestations and miracles. A powerful lighthouse to lead us all on the righteous path. A paradise on earth with all gods in its warm lap. A splendid transformation centre. A golden gift for all humanity is OLD (Overwhelming Love Devotion) MANDIR.

– **Smt. Kuppam Vijayamma is the author of the famous book “Anyatha Saranam Nasti” and many other books on Bhagavan Baba.**

...continued from page 19

Avadhani, who became a staunch devotee later on, was in Ahmedabad and I went to stay with him for two days and returned to Bengaluru. When I went to Brindavan, I was roundly rebuked by Swami for having disobeyed His orders. I took my father and mother to Brindavan. Swami and my father sat in the same car up to the portico of Brindavan. My mother and I were waiting outside the room. Swami spent half an hour with my father and when my father came out, he started saying that everything is Krishnamayam (permeated with Krishna)! He advised my mother to take care of my father. He did not allow me inside. He told me to go to Chennai and stay there and not wander around. My eldest brother was transferred to Chennai at that time. Swami gave clear hints that my father will not be living long.

On 22nd November 1968, my father expired around 5 a.m. By then, telephones were connected to Swami and others. I phoned Kasturi to tell him about the demise of my father. When Kasturi went for his morning Darshan to give the news, Swami is reported to have remarked, “Yes, I know, Kolar expired at 5 a.m. this morning! Ask that fellow to come to Brindavan after completing the ceremonies along with his mother”.

After about a month’s time, both of us went to Brindavan and Swami consoled my mother in so many words and asked me to take care of her. He then said, “You do something useful”. I got flared up and told Swami that He had ruined my career! “At 27 years, what job will I get and who will give me any job? You did not allow me to complete the degree and prevented me from joining the clerical post with State Bank of India,” I blurted.

Human mind is very fickle. When Swami offered me all the wealth of the world, I prayed only for His grace, and now I was bothered about a clerical job. Swami just smiled and said that I will be having a lot of work later on in my life. He then told me not to associate with any Sathya Sai Samithis. “You are not to join any Sathya Sai Organisation. You should come to Prasanthi Nilayam only, when I call you.” These were the parting words of Swami to me.

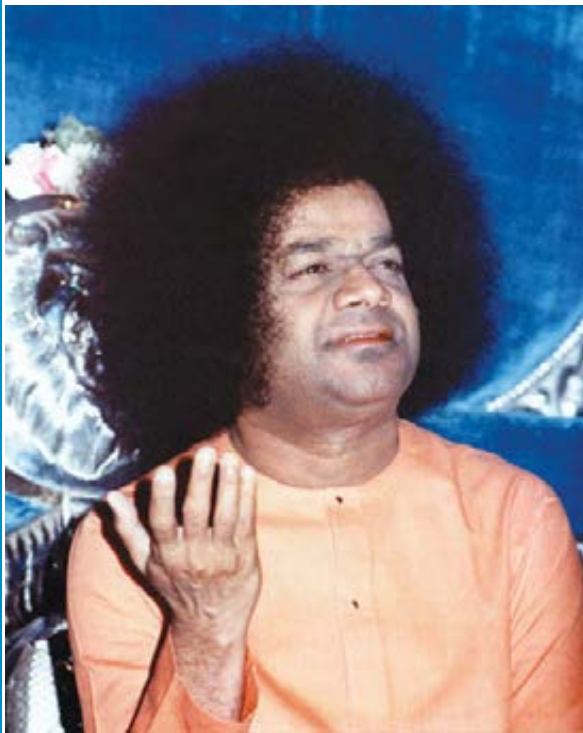
(To be continued...)

–**The author Sri Srivilas Suri is an old-time devotee of Bhagavan, having spent many years of his life in Bhagavan’s proximity.**

WAITING FOR GOD IS NOTHING BUT SADHANA

Ajit Popat

OUR MOST LOVING AND dearest Lord has a very unique way of teaching most important lessons of life in his own very simple and yet very memorable way, so



After the interview, Swami opened the door and was standing near the interview room. I had come for the Divine Darshan just three days before with my daughter, who had come with me for the first time. My

wife had decided to stay back at home in London.

Swami looked at me and enquired about some details about the UK group, which was to come after a few months for Parthi Yatra as per His Divine plan. He then said, "Puppet, come to residence at 3.00 p.m." I was overjoyed and said, "Yes, Baba".

At about 2.40 p.m., I was all ready to leave for Divine abode. My daughter asked, "Dad, why so early"? I said, "Baba has called me. I will be back after the evening session". She said, "Fine. I will wait for you. We will have dinner together". I said, "That is great". I reached the Divine abode and sent word to Beloved Swami.

Very promptly, the person returned and said, Swami says, you should wait. Time was 3.15 p.m. As usual, Swami went to Sai Kulwant Hall for blessing the devotees with Divine Darshan and Bhajan session. He returned at around 6.40 p.m. and went inside His abode. I was now full of hope and joy and looking forward to go in and talk to Him.

At around 7.50 p.m., some officials who normally used to be with Swami to receive instructions and also have his Prasadam (dinner) came out from the front door. I was all the time, waiting near the adjacent building. One of the officials saw me and said, "Puppet, you are still here"? I said,

that they get imprinted in our hearts for ever.

Swami's Inimitable Way of Teaching

It was at the morning Darshan that Swami lovingly called a few devotees for a lifetime experience of Divine interview.

"Yes, sir; I am waiting to be called in". That was it.

There were Seva Dal boys at the gate, and one or two security staff moving about. It was getting dark and I was looking at the watch every few minutes and also praying in my mind, "Swami, please call Puppet, I am waiting". At about 8.15 p.m., one of the senior boys came out with a chair and said, "Puppet sir, you better sit and wait". (Swami had instructed me to wait and not sit). Time now was almost 9.00 p.m., mind you, I was standing there from 3.00 p.m. I was tired, thirsty, and also thinking about my daughter who was waiting. I was moving about from the gate of Divine abode to the main entrance of residence, pacing up and down and praying.

Time now was 10.00 p.m., and suddenly the side door of the residence opened, and the same boy came out. I said, "Sai Ram". He said, "You are still here? Swami has already gone upstairs and now there is no chance, you better go".

Wait with Faith

I did not know what to say; I was completely dazed. Slowly, somehow, I climbed three long flight of stairs of W9 building and reached W9/D7. The door was open, the dinner was laid out on the dining table and my daughter was fast asleep on the chair.

Suddenly, she woke up when I came out of washroom and asked, "What is the time"? I said, "It is almost 10.15 p.m.". She said, "You took very long time! What did Baba say"? "I never met Him today", I said. She said, "What? You did not meet Him! Then, where were you from 3.00 p.m."? "I was waiting," I said. She just could not believe me. "Let us eat, I am hungry. You

too must be," I said. "Yes, you can say that later", she said. I could not sleep well. I was tired and disappointed.

Next morning, I left very early and was in the verandah by 6.30 a.m. (during those days, Swami used to come early.) Swami came around 6.55 a.m., and after giving Darshan, went inside the interview room. I was sitting at my usual place, right in front of the interview room, but there was no eye contact with Swami.

After Bhajan, Swami returned to His abode and I was back in W9/D7. My daughter came in after a while and asked, "So, what did Baba say"? I looked at her and said, "Nothing". She promptly remarked, "He did not say a word about yesterday? Ah! Just cannot believe that. He should have at least said something". I said, "He is God Almighty. He need not say anything". She said, "But He could have asked you to go back if He was busy". I said, "I waited as per His instructions".

In the afternoon, Swami came around 4.00 p.m. and as soon as He came in the verandah, He called me. I followed Him in the interview room and He shut the door. I sat down at His Lotus Feet. There was complete silence. After a while, He opened His eyes and said, "Puppet, waiting at the doorstep of God is not mere waiting; it is Sadhana". I kept on looking at Him, He did the same. After a few seconds, He very lovingly said, "Go"!!!

Now whenever I stand in line outside any temple or in Sai Kulwant Hall, I remember His Divine teaching: wait with faith; it is Sadhana.

– The author is a long-time ardent devotee of Bhagavan from London, UK.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM VISAKHAPATNAM

A TWO-DAY PILGRIMAGE to Prasanthi Nilayam was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Visakhapatnam, from 24th to 25th August 2019, in which nearly 2,400 devotees from Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh came to participate.

On 24th August 2019, Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of this district presented a dance drama entitled



Dance drama by Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Visakhapatnam district.

“Repalle Balude Parthi Paramdhamudu” (the lad of Repalle is the Lord of Parthi). Embellished with beautiful dances of Bal Vikas children, the drama effectively conveyed through depiction of some incidents from the lives of Lord Krishna and Bhagavan Baba that Sai Avatar was none other than Krishna, the lad of Brindavan.

On 25th August 2019, the devotees of Visakhapatnam district presented a devotional music programme, the music



A devotional music presentation by the devotees of Visakhapatnam district.

and melody of which touched the hearts of one and all. The songs rendered by them were: “Sri Rama Raghu Rama” (Lord Rama of Raghu clan), “Oh Maa Oh Maa Oh Maa Sai Maa” (Oh Mother Sai), “Sai Charanam Sathya Sai Charanam” (the Lotus Feet of Sai), “Om Namah Sivaya Om Namah Sivaya”, to mention a few. Bhajans led by the devotee of Visakhapatnam district followed next and concluded with Arati.

GANESH CHATURTHI

The sacred festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with piety and solemnity on 2nd September 2019.

The programme in the morning began with an instrumental music presentation by the percussion band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Thereafter, the students of Bhagavan’s educational institutions sang the glory of Lord Ganesh by rendering Stotras and devotional songs accompanied by an insightful commentary. Beginning their



Students of Bhagavan's educational institutions singing the glory of Lord Ganesh.

programme with the recitation of the Stotras Ganashtakam and Ganesh Pancharatram, they followed it with soulful devotional songs which included "Morya Morya", "Om Gam Ganapataye Namah", "Sri Ganesha Sivuni Kumara" (Sri Ganesh, the son of Lord Siva). The morning programme concluded with Arati after a brief session of Bhajans dedicated to Lord Ganesh.

The programme in the evening began with an erudite talk by Sri Sanjay Sahni, Controller of Examinations, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Speaking about the significance of Ganesh Chaturthi, the learned speaker observed that this festival was dedicated to the adoration of Lord Ganesh whose worship cuts across all sections of society and comes right from the Vedas and Upanishads.

After this talk, the devotees were blessed with a Divine Discourse of Bhagavan Baba, who said that man was endowed with infinite power within him but was leading an animal life due to the distortion of his intellect. The adoration of Lord Ganesh, Bhagavan added, signified attaining the wisdom of the scriptures which Lord Ganesh teaches. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin". Bhajans followed next and concluded with Arati.

Immersion Ceremony of Ganesh Idols

The worship of the Ganesh idols was performed by the students of Bhagavan's educational institutions and the Ashram and hospital staff in their respective premises on 2nd and 3rd September 2019. These consecrated



An enchanting sight of 21 Ganesh idols on vehicles of attractive shapes and designs in Sai Kulwant Hall.

idols were brought to Sai Kulwant Hall by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students and Ashram staff on 4th September 2019. As these idols mounted on chariots and palanquins of various shapes and designs were lined up in Sai Kulwant Hall, they presented an enchanting spectacle. Though all the designs were beautiful, the vehicles designed as a large ship, the replica of a magnificent temple, a grand swing and a flying horse stood out for their elegance and workmanship.

After this, the students and staff members who brought these idols to Sai Kulwant Hall, circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir while chanting Vedic hymns and singing Bhajans. Three beautiful dances by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary and Higher Secondary School followed next. Mandir priest then offered Arati to





A beautiful dance dedicated to Lord Ganesh by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School.

all the 21 Ganesh idols, after which the groups of students and Ashram staff brought them one by one in front of the Samadhi of Bhagavan to seek His blessings. After this, the idols were taken out of the hall for immersion. Meanwhile, Bhajans continued in Sai Kulwant Hall and came to a close with Arati.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM MADHYA PRADESH

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Madhya Pradesh organised a two-day pilgrimage of devotees from its State from 7th to 8th September 2019, during the course of which two music and cultural presentations were made. The first presentation was a classical music concert made by an alumnus of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Sri Vivek Karmahe on 7th September 2019. Beginning his programme at 5.00 p.m., the singer surcharged the entire milieu with devotional fervour by his mellifluous rendition of devotional songs which included "Baaje Muraliya Baaje" (Krishna plays on His flute), "Itna To Karna Swami Jab Pran Tana Se Nikle" (I may take refuge in You, Swami when I leave the body) and famous couplets of Sant Kabir.



A real life scene depicted in the drama "The Dawn of Golden Age".

The second presentation was a beautiful dance drama "Dawn of the Golden Age" performed by Bal Vikas children of Madhya Pradesh on 8th September 2019. Themed on the golden jubilee celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas, the drama depicted the true experiences of four Bal Vikas alumni who put the teachings of Bhagavan Baba into practice in real life situations in their respective professional careers. The drama had a grand finale in the form of children's rally song "Sai Ram, Sai Ram, Jai Jai Sai Ram" accompanied by a series of scintillating dances of Bal Vikas children.

ONAM FESTIVAL

The sacred festival of Onam was marked by much festivity and gaiety at Prasanthi Nilayam where a galaxy of cultural and music programmes were presented for three days from 9th to 11th September 2019 by the devotees from Kerala.

The first presentation on 9th September 2019 was a carnatic music programme which was offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan by carnatic vocalist Sri Vivek Muzhikulam and his

team of fellow musicians. By all accounts it was a rich feast of carnatic music which the devotees enjoyed with relish. Some of the compositions rendered by him were: "Saadhinchene O Manasa" (O mind! He has achieved his objective), "Brova Barama Raghu Rama" (Oh Rama! Is it a burden for You to look after me?), "Hare Sai Gopala Radhe Krishna".

The evening programme began with an insightful talk by Justice T.B. Radhakrishnan, Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. Narrating his experiences of transformation pioneered by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the learned speaker observed that ego management and mind management were necessary for transformation of man. This required that the process of transformation should start at a young age, he said. Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas started by Bhagavan was a great movement in this regard, he added.

After this talk, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyapeeth, Srisailam

arrogance of Daksha Prajapati when he caused the death of Sati by insulting him (Siva). Good direction, excellent acting of the children and good choreography brought this mythological story alive.

The first presentation on 10th September 2019 was a devotional music programme by noted Kathakali singer Kottakkal Madhu who along with his fellow musicians presented a compilation of Kathakali numbers called Kathakalipadam which is the musical side of Kerala's traditional dance form Kathakali. Along with this, the singer presented a couple of Prasanthi Mandir Bhajans, some of which were: "Vanamali Vasudeva Jaganmohana Radharamana", "Madhuvana Murali Guna Gaavo" (sing the glory of Krishna's flute).

The evening programme comprised a superbly presented dance drama "Krishnayanam" by Bal Vikas children of Thiruvananthapuram which depicted through scintillating dances of the



The drama "The Death of Arrogance" brought alive the mythological story of subjugation of the ego of Daksha Prajapati.

presented a dance drama "The Death of Arrogance" which beautifully depicted how Lord Siva subdued the ego and



Dance drama "Krishnayanam" presented by Bal Vikas children of Thiruvananthapuram.

children the Avataric sojourn of Lord Krishna on earth. This well-rehearsed and well-directed dance drama turned out to be a mesmerising presentation

through dances and acting of the children in glittering costumes.

The first programme on holy Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, was presented by a noted vocalist Smt. Kavya Ajit and her team of fellow musicians from Kerala who suffused the entire milieu with deep devotion by her talented presentation of carnatic music devotional numbers. Beginning her presentation with a song propitiating Lord Ganesh "Siddhi Vinayakam", she enthralled the devotees for 45 minutes with classical compositions and popular devotional songs which included "Bho Shambho Siva Shambho Swayambho" (Siva, the self-born), "Janani Maa Sai Janani Maa" (hail Divine Mother Sai).

Devotees were then blessed with a Divine Discourse of Bhagavan which was played on the public address system. Elucidating the nine modes of worship, Bhagavan hailed Emperor Bali for his total surrender that signified the 9th mode of worship namely, "Atmanivedanam" (self-surrender). Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin".

The final programme of the Onam celebrations was soulful rendition of devotional numbers by Sri T.V. Hariharan from the first batch of Sri Sathya Sai University who was ably assisted by Sri Ramesh Sadasiva from Kerala. Bhajans followed next and concluded with Arati.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM EAST GODAVARI

More than 4,000 devotees came on a two-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam on 14th and 15th September 2019 from East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh

and presented music and cultural programmes on both the days.

The programme on 14th September 2019 began with a grand Bal Vikas Rally



Grand Bal Vikas Rally in Sai Kulwant Hall.

which showcased the culture of Bharat and particularly elucidated the rich cultural heritage of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh as also meticulously described Bhagavan Baba's visits to this district. Excellent dances of the children in glittering costumes which throughout



A dance number in the Bal Vikas Rally.

interspersed the rally added beauty and glitter to it.

Two presentations were made by the East Godavari contingent on 15th September 2019. In the morning session, Parthi Yatra devotees offered a garland of devotional songs at the Lotus Feet of

Bhagavan with deep devotion. The songs rendered by them included “Madhura Mohana Ghana Shyama Sundara Sai Ananda Pradayi” (Krishna gives bliss), “Sai Naama Smaranam Sai Rupa Dhyanam” (take refuge in Sai’s Name and meditate on His form), “Sathya Dharmamu, Santhi, Premalato Nee Nithya Jivana Yatra Saginchu” (perform the journey of your life with truth, righteousness, peace and love as your companions).

In the evening, Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of this district presented a dance drama which beautifully depicted



A scene from the drama by Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth of East Godavari district.

how Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas started by Bhagavan 50 years ago has been instrumental in transforming the lives of the children by inculcating human values in them and thereby redeeming their lives.

PILGRIMAGE OF UTTAR PRADESH AND UTTARAKHAND DEVOTEES

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand organised a three-day pilgrimage of their devotees to Prasanthi Nilayam from 20th to 22nd September 2019. As part of this pilgrimage, devotees and musicians of these States presented a “Indo-western Fusion Instrumental Music programme

on 20th September 2019. Beginning their programme at 5.15 p.m., the musicians enthralled the devotees for nearly 45 minutes with their talented rendition of fusion music which comprised three instrumental music pieces. Soulful rendition of a vocal devotional song, “Sai Dikhe Jo Tumko Mujhko Bataa Dena” (tell me if you see Sai), offering their tributes to Bhagavan was a valuable addition to this instrumental music presentation.

On 22nd September 2019, the third day of the pilgrimage of the devotees from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, a



Hindustani classical devotional music programme.

devotional music programme comprising Hindustani classical devotional songs was presented by two talented singers, Ms. Anurita Rai and her brother Anuratna Rai. Beginning with a soulful rendition of a composition “Hey Sai Daya Karo, Meri Vipat Haro” (oh Sai, have mercy on me and remove my difficulty), they next sang “Bhaja Re Mana Sai Naam” (oh mind, contemplate on the Name of Sai) and followed it with a thought-provoking number “Jo Jaana Hai Nijko To Jaana Kahan Hai” (if you know yourself, then where is the need to go anywhere). They concluded their presentation with a final thrilling number “Mera Bichhda Yaar Milade” (find me my separated beloved friend).

NOTICE

Sanathana Sarathi is a spiritual magazine, devoted to the moral and spiritual uplift of humanity. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba launched it in the month of February 1958, saying that it would act as the **Varadhi (bridge) between Him and the devotee**. In its very first issue, Baba gave the message, “From this day, our Sanathana Sarathi is on the march, at the head of its spiritual cohorts – the Vedas, the Sastras and the Upanishads, to subdue the forces of the ego such as injustice, falsehood, immorality and viciousness. May this charioteer fight for world prosperity and spread joy among all mankind, beating the drums of victory”! It continues to bring divine messages and blessings of our dear Lord to the doorstep of devotees all over the world.

During the past several years, we had retained the subscription rates for Telugu and English magazines without any upward revision. However, the increase in cost of paper, printing and overseas postage over the years, have compelled us to revise the subscription rates for the English and Telugu magazines as per details given below:

Period and No of issues	Telugu	Telugu	English	English
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1 year – 12 issues	₹90	₹900 (US \$18 or UK £13 or €14)	₹120	₹1200 (US\$ 22 or UK £17 or €19, CAN \$29 or AUS \$31)
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These new subscription rates are effective from **1st October 2019**. The last date for receipt of subscriptions at the current rates is: (a) **15th September 2019** by M.O., cheque, or bank draft; and (b) **30th September 2019** by cash or through website www.sanathanasarathi.org. Subscriptions already paid are valid for the relevant period for which payment is made.

– K.S. Rajan
Publisher

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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 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-version of the magazine is also released simultaneously and is available in the popular Interactive PDF format on www.sanathanasarathi.org.
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel www.theprasanthireporter.org, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers' - for free distribution.
- 4) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of books written by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and books on

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Smt. Kavya Ajit.*



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by noted Kathakali singer
Kottakkal Madhu.*



*Devotional music concert by
Sri Vivek Karmahe.*

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You should lead a life of love. It is love which makes you the embodiment of Divinity. My life itself is a living testimony to this eternal truth. It is love and love alone that is in Me, nothing else whatsoever. I may sometimes appear to be angry but it is also an expression of My love. When it rains, you see sometimes hailstones falling down along with it. But the hailstones are nothing but solidified water. Likewise, I may at times appear to be angry with you, but it is also out of love only.

– Baba

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