



# Sanathana Sarathi



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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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*"God is the embodiment of love. Live  
in love. You have to expand the vessel  
of your heart so that you can fill it with  
the love and grace of God. When your  
heart is narrow, it is a great mistake to  
blame God for not being able to receive  
His unbounded grace."*



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## Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



**8th October - 14th October .... Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna**

**9th November 6 p.m.**

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

**18th November ..... Rathotsavam**

**19th November ..... Ladies Day**

**22nd November ..... 32nd Convocation of  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute  
of Higher Learning**

**23rd November ..... 88th Birthday of  
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

**25th December ..... Christmas**





AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:  
18TH AUGUST 1996

# DEVELOP LOVE FOR GOD

*Forbearance is the real beauty in this sacred land of Bharat. Of all the rituals, adherence to truth is the greatest penance. The nectarine feeling in this country is the feeling of love towards one's mother. Character is valued far higher than the very life itself. People have forgotten the basic principles of this great culture and are imitating Western culture. Alas! The Bharatiyas are not aware of the greatness of their cultural heritage just as a mighty elephant is not aware of its own strength.*

(Telugu Poem)

*The honour of a nation depends upon the morality of its people. Lack of morality will certainly put a nation to disrepute. True human race is that which upholds morality. Listen to this truth, oh valorous sons of Bharat!*

(Telugu Poem)

## EDUCATION WITHOUT CHARACTER IS USELESS

**T**HE POWER OF INTELLIGENCE is growing in man at tremendous pace. In fact, there are no limits to his intelligence. But, unfortunately, there is not even an iota of development in his virtues. Due to the advancement of science and technology and with the power of his intelligence, man has learnt to fly in the sky like a bird and dive in water like a fish. But he has not learnt to live like a human being on earth.

### See Unity in Diversity

What is the big achievement if man flies in the sky like a bird? More important for him is to learn to live like a human being

on earth because earth is his base. It is a mistaken notion of man to think that he has made great progress just because he has learnt to fly in the sky. It is only an illusion. In fact, the intelligence of man is so perverted today that he is creating diversity where there is unity. Moreover, the number of such so-called intelligent people is on the rise. Man today has forgotten the virtues which can help him to visualise unity in diversity. It is the primary duty of man to see unity in diversity. To see diversity in unity is a sign of mean-mindedness. It is very easy to cut a cloth into a number of pieces. But it is difficult to stitch all the



pieces into a single piece of cloth. The real fulfilment, happiness and comfort of life lies only in unity. Man should understand the relationship between unity and diversity. In order to get a shirt stitched, you take a two-metre cloth and go to a tailor. The tailor will cut the cloth into a number of pieces. Unless the tailor cuts the cloth into pieces, the shirt cannot be made. He has to cut the

is not real intelligence. Man has forgotten what real intelligence is. He is indulging in cunningness and wasting his life.

### **Human Birth is Meant to Attain Freedom from Birth and Death**

Life is a mixture of happiness and sorrow. Happiness and sorrow, profit and loss, good and bad, light and darkness



*First of all, students should develop moral values. Bereft of human values, life has no meaning. Lack of moral character of the people is the cause of so much chaos in the country today. Morality is most important. You will become the embodiment of Divine Trinity when you develop the triune principles of Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society). Howsoever high education you may acquire, never lose your faith in God. One without faith in God is verily a living corpse.*



cuffs, pockets, collar, etc., separately and join them together. What is it that he uses to cut the cloth into pieces? It is a pair of scissors. What is that which helps him to join all the pieces and make a shirt? It is the needle. Man today is conducting himself like the scissors that divide and not like the needle that unites. He thinks he is very intelligent because he can divide. But this

are, in fact, the reflection of each other. As the Gita says, *Sukhadukhe Samekruthwa Labhalabhau Jayajayau* (one should remain equal-minded in happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, victory and defeat). What is the purpose of life? What is this life all about? It begins with birth and ends with death. Man is caught in this endless cycle of birth and death. Therefore, man should





pray to God to grant him freedom from this cycle of birth and death.

*Punarapi Jananam Punarapi Maranam,  
Punarapi Janani Jathare Sayanam,  
Iha Samsare Bahu Dustare,  
Kripayapare Pahi Murare.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Oh Lord! I am caught up in this cycle of birth and death; time and again, I am experiencing the agony of staying in the mother's womb. It is very difficult to cross this ocean of worldly life. Please take me across this ocean and grant me liberation.)

Every human being who is born is bound to die one day or the other. How should man lead his life? What is the goal of life? What is the purpose of life? Human birth is considered very sacred. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Why is it considered so rare? It is rare because man can demonstrate great ideals in human birth. Therefore, man should not waste his life in pursuit of worldly pleasures.

Our Vice Chancellor mentioned in his speech that the children perform Sraaddha (death anniversary) of their deceased parents on a particular day every year and offer their gratitude to them. This annual ceremony in Telugu is called Tat Dinamu (that day). One should think of his parents at least on the day of their death and offer them a few tears of gratitude. That is real Tarpanam (offering of water to the deceased ancestors). It is your foremost duty to offer your gratitude to your parents. Why? Your blood, food, head and money are the gifts

of your parents. Therefore, it is your duty to offer them gratitude, remembering the love they showered on you and the sacrifices they made for your growth. If you perform such sacred ceremonies in memory of your parents, your children also will respect and remember you in future. You will receive the reaction, resound and reflection of whatever you do in life. If you love your parents, your children will love you. If you betray your parents, your children will also betray you. None can escape from the consequences of his actions in this world. Therefore, you should preserve the sense of gratitude in your heart and set a noble ideal.

### Put your Intelligence to Proper Use

Students today are trying to develop their intelligence, but not good qualities. They are heroes in academic achievements but zeros in virtues. They secure cent per cent marks in their studies. But when you evaluate their virtues, they don't score even one mark out of hundred. Three-fourth character is life. Education without character is useless. Therefore, make all efforts to develop your character. You may be endowed with power, wealth, intelligence and physical strength. But all these powers will prove futile if you lack the power of divine grace. All of you know what happened to Karna in the Mahabharata war.

*One may have physical prowess and  
power of intelligence,*

*But one will come to grief if one lacks  
divine grace,*



*Karna was a great warrior but what was his fate?*

*Never forget this truth. (Telugu Poem)*

Once a ruler was impressed with the story of the Mahabharata and the way the virtuous Pandavas vanquished the wicked Kauravas. He wanted his story also to be written resembling the epic Mahabharata, portraying himself as the hero of the story. He convened a meeting of his court scholars and poets and said to them, "Oh great scholars, I will give you a sumptuous reward if you write my story on the lines of the Mahabharata. You may compare me with the eldest of the Pandavas who was virtuous and the embodiment of truth." Then one of the scholars asked, "Oh king! Whom are we supposed to portray as your four younger brothers?" The king thought for a while and said, "There are four ministers who are dear to me. You may treat them as my brothers." "Oh king! Then who are the Kauravas." "All my enemies are like Kauravas, there are hundreds of them," said the king. An intelligent poet who was listening to the conversation got up and asked, "Oh king! The Pandavas were five brothers. You will decide your four brothers from your ministers. Whoever is endowed with physical strength, we will take him as Bhima. One who has a sharp intellect will be treated as Arjuna. Accordingly, we will choose Nakula and Sahadeva also. But there is one more aspect you have to look into. When you are portrayed as Yudhishtira and your wife as Draupadi, she has to be portrayed as the wife of your four ministers also as Draupadi

was the wife of five Pandavas. Now you have to decide the name of the person who will be portrayed as Draupadi. She will not only be your wife but also the wife of the four ministers!" On hearing this, the king immediately gave up the idea of getting his story written like the Mahabharata. The moral of the story is that you should understand the life source behind those stories when you read epics like the Mahabharata. Every character and every aspect of this great epic has a particular life source. It is only when you recognise them, you will be able to understand their significance and message.

One who does not understand the life source will suffer the same predicament as this king. People today have perverted intelligence. What is the use of intelligence if it is not put to proper use? If intelligence is associated with good qualities, you can achieve anything in life.

*One may acquire a high academic qualification such as M.A. or B.A. and attain exalted position,*

*One may amass wealth, perform acts of charity and attain name and fame,*

*One may have physical strength and enjoy a long and healthy life,*

*One may be a great scholar studying and preaching the Vedas,*

*But none can equal a true devotee of the Lord.*

*(Telugu Poem)*

*Students!*

Having been born in this sacred land, you should strive to develop virtues along



with intelligence. While intelligence will help you to accomplish certain tasks, your virtues will bring you good name. There are only two things that are true and eternal in life. What are they? They are righteousness and good name.

*Asthiram Jivanam  
Loke,  
Asthiram Yauvanam  
Dhanam,  
Asthiram Dara Putradi,  
Dharmam Kirti Dwayam  
Sthiram.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Life in the world is impermanent. So are youth and wealth. Wife and children are also not permanent. Only righteousness and good name are permanent).

### **Do not Misuse Time**

This world is impermanent and everything in it is temporary like passing clouds. When somebody is born, you call him a child. After ten years, he is called a boy; at the age of thirty, he is called a man and at the age of 75, he is called a grandfather. Though he is called child, boy, man and grandfather at different stages of life, the person is the same.



*There is no dearth of anything in this sacred land of Bharat. Bharat is considered Annapurna (land of bounty). There is no dearth of fertile land or perennial rivers in this land. All types of crops can be grown here. The resources that are available in Bharat are not available anywhere else. If the Bharatiyas work hard, Bharat can really become a land of bounty. Bharat is forced to take loans from other countries because people are not prepared to work hard.*

////////////////////

Time is the most important and precious power that God has given man. Time is very, very important. *Don't waste time. Time waste is life waste. Time is God.* We offer salutations to time by reciting: *Kalaya Namah, Kala Kalaya Namah, Kaladarpa Damanaya Namah, Kalateetaya Namah, Kalaswarupaya Namah, Kalaniyamitaya*





*Namah* (salutations to time, to the one who is beyond time, to the one who has conquered time, to the one who transcends time, to the one who is the embodiment of time, and to the one who ordains time). Everything is regulated by time. Time is responsible for even birth and death. When somebody dies, people say his time is up. Even for the unripe fruit to become ripe, time is responsible. Time is most important and is the basis of everything.

*Students!*

People indulge in vain gossip, talk ill of others and waste their time.

*To ridicule others is a great sin. You can never escape from its consequences.*

*In fact, others are not others; they are verily the embodiments of God.*

*Listen to this, oh valiant sons of Bharat!*

(Telugu Poem)

When you ridicule others, you verily ridicule God Himself. So, never ridicule or criticise anyone. You waste a lot of time in criticising others. Don't you have anything else to do except criticising others? If you have nothing else to do, better spread your mattress and sleep. Why do you misuse your time in evil talk? One who misuses time is a great sinner.

### **Bharat is the Land of Plenty**

There is no dearth of anything in this sacred land of Bharat. Bharat is considered Annapurna (land of bounty). There is no dearth of fertile land or perennial rivers in this land. All types of crops can be grown

here. The resources that are available in Bharat are not available anywhere else. If the Bharatiyas work hard, Bharat can really become a land of bounty. Bharat is forced to take loans from other countries because people are not prepared to work hard. Why should we take loans at all? We have everything in plenty. The only thing we need is to make proper use of our resources. Sanctify your time by working hard. Any individual can have his fill if he works hard. Is it not possible to fill your belly if you work with both hands? Though God has given you two hands, you are not able to fill your belly because of your laziness. Work hard. Do your duty sincerely. Then you will have both health and happiness. Today people are ready to eat but not to work. On the top of it, they indulge in vain argumentation.

Those who indulge in vain argumentation have their head filled with mud. There is any amount of knowledge in the Pustaka (book), but what is the use if the Mastaka (head) is filled with mud? You may fill your Mastaka with knowledge from the Pustaka, but do not make your Mastaka another Pustaka. Only those who lack total knowledge indulge in argumentation. They are really great fools. Never indulge in vain argumentation. How can you argue about something which you do not know? You start imagining what is there beyond moon, but you have not seen it. Then how can you argue about it? How can you decide what is there? If someone asks you what is under your feet, you will say, there is earth



under my feet because you have direct knowledge of it. But what do you gain by arguing about something which you do not know. You will only be wasting time, energy and memory power. Not only that, you will age prematurely.

There is perfect harmony between My thoughts, words and deeds. My memory power is perfect; I have no weakness whatsoever. How do modern young boys of 17,18 or 20 years look? They wear a castor oil face with sunken cheeks. Students should always be happy, cheerful and active. They should be careful also. Whatever work you do, do it with proper care. Only then can you have peace and happiness, and even the nation will be safe and secure.

*Students!*

As there is a dearth of hard working people today, we are compelled to depend on other nations for help. If you look back and enquire, you will understand how the British overpowered this country. How could a small country like England vanquish a vast country like Bharat with huge population? The reason is that Indians betrayed their own country due to their selfishness and greed for money. They were lazy and not prepared to do any hard work. That is why the British could swallow the entire India like an Idli. Indians are like the mighty elephant which does not know its own strength. With a swish of its tail, the elephant can throw the mahout far away. Such a powerful elephant is controlled by the mahout with the help of a small iron

hook. The reason is the elephant does not know its own strength. Every individual and every student is endowed with immense power and great energy. They can accomplish any mighty task. There is nothing they cannot achieve in this world if they do it with firm resolve. But they are not making efforts to manifest their innate power. A tiny ant can walk miles together if it puts in effort. On the other hand, even an eagle cannot move an inch if it does not put in effort.

Thyagaraja sang, “*Cheemalo Brahmalo Siva Kesavaadulalo Prema Meera Velasi Unde Birudhu Vahinchina Rama Nannu Brovara*” (Oh Rama! In Your pure and unsullied form of love, You indwell all beings from an ant to Brahma as also in Siva and Kesava. Please be my protector too). One with life principle is Siva (life), one without life principle is Sava (corpse). Therefore, man is verily the embodiment of Siva. Whatever he does, walking, talking, reading, writing, etc., it is only with the help of his innate divine power.

Once Thyagaraja was dismayed when he had to face the great ordeal because his elder brother threw into the river Kaveri the idol of Lord Rama which he used to worship. Thyagaraja complained, “Oh Rama! Why do You put me to this great ordeal? Don’t I have devotion or don’t You have the power to protect me? If You really have the power to protect me, why do have I to undergo all this suffering? I do have devotion because not a moment passes when I do not think of You or pray to You. Therefore, there is



devotion in me, but there is no power in You.” In this way, Thyagaraja became proud of his devotion. It is like a dancer blaming the percussionist to hide his own inefficiency. Later on, Thyagaraja repented for his mistake. He said to himself, “Fie on me. My devotion is not true. Lord Rama is certainly omnipotent.” He then sang:

*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 Song)

Thyagaraja said, “Oh Rama! It is impossible to describe Your power. But for the power of Your Name, could a monkey cross the ocean? Everybody worships the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi. There is none who does not worship Lakshmi. Even a mad person stretches his hand for money. Would such powerful Lakshmi worship You if there is no power in You? How great is Your power, Swami, we are not able to know. The vessel of my heart is very small. Therefore, I could receive only a little of Your grace. So, it is not Your fault; the fault lies with me because my vessel is small. If I can expand my vessel, I can fill it with Your love and grace as much as I want.”

God is the embodiment of love. Live in love. You have to expand the vessel of your heart so that you can fill it with the

love and grace of God. When your heart is narrow, it is a great mistake to blame God for not being able to receive His unbounded grace.

### Students should Develop Moral Values

Our system of education is so defective that it does not foster moral, ethical and spiritual values in students. Once there lived a Pandit (scholar) who meticulously performed Sandhya Vandanam (ceremonial worship of God), chanted Gayatri Mantra and led his life in this sacred manner. He had a son who fell in bad company. Tell me your company I shall tell you what you are. One day, he came to his father and said, “I want to go to America as all my friends are going there.” The father advised him, “My dear, it is not possible to follow our sacred traditions in America. There, it will not be possible for you to chant Gayatri Mantra or perform Sandhya Vandanam. Even if you try to perform them, people will make fun of you saying, here is a mad Indian. Therefore, I advise you not to go to America.” But the son was very adamant. He insisted on going. He was the only son of his parents. Man is caught up in the three-fold trap of Dhaneshana, Dareshana and Putreshana (desire for money, wife and progeny). As he did not want to displease his son, the father agreed. The boy went to Delhi, got his passport and visa. The next day, he was to board the flight to America. At the time of departure, the father advised him, “Son, wherever you go, never forget our family deity, Mother Kali in any situation. Always





contemplate on her, perform Sandhya Vandanam morning and evening everyday and chant Gayatri Mantra regularly.” The son readily agreed to whatever his father told him. He readily gave his word to his father. Even though he promised his father that he would follow his instructions, he was really not serious about it, and his main concern was to reach America somehow. He was desperate to reach America by any means because he considered America a heaven on earth. But in reality it is not so. Life in America is artificial. On the other hand, how sacred and blessed land India is! It is Punya Bhumi, Thyaga Bhumi and Karma Bhumi (land of merit, sacrifice, action).

Five years after reaching America, the son forgot even his mother tongue. While speaking to his mother over the phone, he was unable to converse in Telugu. The poor mother was not able to understand what her son was saying. Being a traditional woman, she did not know modern ways. Therefore, she handed over the phone to her husband. The son spoke to his father in English. “Father, I have to be here for another five years to pursue higher studies.” What was he studying? In fact, he did not complete the course for which he had gone. All the money his father sent, he was wasting on eating and roaming. As the Telugu proverb goes: A jobless barber tries to shave the head of the cat. That is how the boy spent his time doing nothing worthwhile. His father thought, this mad fellow would not return to India if he left

***When you ridicule others, you verily ridicule God Himself. So, never ridicule or criticise anyone. You waste a lot of time in criticising others. Don't you have anything else to do except criticising others? If you have nothing else to do, better spread your mattress and sleep. Why do you misuse your time in evil talk? One who misuses time is a great sinner.***



him like this. Therefore, he devised a plan. He sent an urgent telegram to him, saying, “Mother’s condition is serious, come immediately.” Out of fear that his father may not send money to him again, the son decided to return to India. His parents were very happy that their son was returning to India. In his letters from America, he had been writing all lies that he had not forgotten the Divine Mother and he was chanting the Gayatri Mantra regularly.

The father went to receive him at the airport and took him to the temple of Mother Kali directly in a car. Since he had sought Divine Mother’s blessings while sending him to America, he wanted to receive her blessings before taking his son home. After reaching the temple, the father told him to offer his salutations to the Divine Mother. The son looked at the idol of Mother Kali and said, “How are you, Madam?” The father was aghast at



his behaviour. He scolded him severely, saying, "Fie on you! Is this what you have learnt in America? You are not fit to be my son. Get out from here!" What an arrogance it was on the part of the son to address the Divine Mother, "How are you, Madam?" Is this the quality of an educated person? Does this type of behaviour befit a human being? No, this is a demonic quality. Howsoever highly educated such people may be, they are not fit to be called human beings. Today many students are becoming like this. First of all, students should develop moral values. Bereft of human values, life has no meaning. Lack of moral character of the people is the cause of so much chaos in the country today. Morality is most important. You will become the embodiment of Divine Trinity when you develop the triune principles of

*Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti* (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society). Howsoever high education you may acquire, never lose your faith in God. One without faith in God is verily a living corpse. Even the dead animal has some value as its skin can be put to some use. But the dead body of a human being has no value at all. Therefore, one should strive to earn a good name while one is alive. That is the ideal life. That is possible when you develop love for God. You will have everything in life if you have love for God.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho...*")

**– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall on 18th August 1996.**



*Forgetting the place from which they came, people lose themselves in worldly desires. There are a few like Prahlada who from the moment of birth realise their inherent divinity. They utter "Soham Soham!" (That I am) from the time of birth. But ordinary mortals ask "Koham Koham?" ("Who am I?") They do not get the answer till the end of their lives. They do not realise that the answer is: "I am God." A few earnest seekers start with "Koham" and end with the discovery "Soham."*

- Baba

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## SAI SANGEET SAURABH: A DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

**F**ACULTY MEMBERS OF SATHYA Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam offered their musical tribute to Bhagavan through a devotional music programme entitled “Sai Sangeet Saurabh” (fragrance of Sai music) on 28th July 2013. Beginning their concert with a prayer song dedicated to Lord Ganesh “Vatapi Ganapatim,” the singers and musicians rendered Carnatic and Hindustani classical compositions in various Ragas (tunes) with meticulous perfection and brought it to a close with a brilliant Jugalbandi (fusion music) which earned the rapturous applause of the devotees. Bhajans which followed this absorbing presentation were also led by these singers, and concluded with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram” sung by Bhagavan.

## SARVADHARMA: INTERNATIONAL CHOIR

A group of devotees from European countries from Zone 7 of Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation offered their musical homage to Bhagavan by presenting an international choir entitled “Sarvadharmā” (unity of all faiths) on 29th July 2013. Beginning their presentation at



*International choir “Sarvadharmā” by overseas devotees.*

5.00 p.m. with invocatory prayer “Om Gan Ganapataye Namah” (salutation to Lord Ganesh), and following it with Sarvadharmā prayer “Om Tat Sat Sri Narayana Tu,” the singers enthralled the devotees for about 45 minutes with melodious songs in many languages including Polish, Hebrew, Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian and English. They befittingly concluded their presentation with the song celebrating the unity of all mankind bound by the religion of love. At the end of the programme, the singers and musicians were felicitated and offered clothes and gifts.

## PILGRIMAGE OF MIDDLE EAST AND GULF COUNTRIES DEVOTEES

A group of devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam from Middle East and Gulf countries on a pilgrimage from 26th July to 1st August 2013 and offered their homage and gratitude to Bhagavan. On 30th July 2013, the singers and musicians from







*Devotees of Middle East and Gulf countries presenting the programme "Ramadan Mubarak."*

these countries presented a beautiful devotional music programme entitled "Ramadan Mubarak" which showcased the significance of Ramadan and highlighted the main tenets of Islam. The venue of the presentation was Sai Kulwant Hall which was adorned with beautiful crescents and stars, the symbol of Islam, besides other decorations. Starting their programme with an Azaan (call for prayer) at 5.00 p.m., the singers in all presented nine songs in Arabic, Urdu and English which included "Allah Tero Naam" (Your Name is Allah), "Suno Ramadan Ki Dastan" (listen to the story of Ramadan), "Chahe Ram Kaho Rahman Kaho" (chant the Name of Ram or Rahman), "Maula, Maula, Maula" and concluded the programme with the song containing Bhagavan's Divine Message "Love All, Serve All." All the songs were preceded by a meaningful commentary which described how the practice of fasting during the period of Ramadan inculcated the values of love, surrender, purity and self-sacrifice in the practitioners and developed their character. Lofty theme of the presentation made during the holy

month of Ramadan, sublime feelings of the singers and melodious rendition of the songs made it a superb performance. At the conclusion of the programme, the singers were felicitated. Bhajans that followed this programme were also led by these devotees. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.00 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

### A BRILLIANT MUSICAL MEDLEY

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. organised an instrumental music concert on 1st August 2013, marking the conclusion of Guru Purnima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Noted Sitar player Ms. Roopa Panesar along with famous Taar Shehnai exponent Sri Kirpal Singh Panesar and party presented an engrossing musical medley, comprising popular devotional songs and Prasanthi Mandir Bhajans which included "Antaranga Sai" (Sai, the indweller), "Sakshat Para Brahma Sai" (Sai, the Brahman), "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" (there can be no happiness and peace without chanting the Name of God). They concluded their concert with a brilliant Jugalbandi which earned thunderous applause of the devotees. The Bhajans that followed this soul-stirring concert came to a close with the Bhajan "Om Sivaya Om Sivaya" sung by Bhagavan. Meanwhile, the artistes were felicitated and Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.



## RAMADAN FOR HUMAN EXCELLENCE: A DANCE DRAMA

A very informative and impressive drama "Ramadan for Human Excellence" was enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam on the holy and joyous day of Id



*School students enacting the drama "Ramadan for Human Excellence."*

Ul Fitr on 9th August 2013. While well-rendered dialogues and stories showcased the piety and purity of Ramadan and significance of fasting, a thrilling dance and a couple of Qawalis added to the excellence of the performance. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. came to a close at 6.00 p.m. after Bhajan and Arati.

## DIVINE DISCOURSE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Patriotic fervour marked the celebration of 67th Independence Day of India at Prasanthi Nilayam on 15th August 2013. Apart from various cultural and patriotic programmes held in the campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, a Divine Discourse of Bhagavan was played in Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.15 p.m. Underlying the importance of unity in His Discourse, Bhagavan said that a small country like England could enslave and rule over such a vast country like India because of the lack of unity of the people of India. Unity, Bhagavan said, has great strength and it also leads man to purity and divinity. Highlighting the great ideals of India, Bhagavan said that India always strived for the happiness and welfare of all people of all nations. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" which the devotees in the hall followed in chorus with deep devotion. Thereafter, the students led the Bhajans which concluded with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

*Whatever be the circumstances you are confronted with, you should not get excited or agitated. You should allow time for the nobler feelings to well up from inside and manifest themselves. By practising patience and forbearance you will be able to acquire all the other important spiritual qualities, such as mind control, renunciation, endurance and concentration. This will bring a state of inner purity and abiding peace.*

- Baba

# LOVE IS THE BASIS OF ALL CREATION

*Rabbi David Zeller*

The golden rule is: Do unto others as you want others to do unto you. We start with the basic thing, "What is unpleasant to you, don't do to others; do unto others what is good to you." So, these are some of the most important principles of love in our tradition.

**S**WAMI SATHYA SAI BABA! IT IS so special to be back here. I was here 33 years ago. I was not a Rabbi then; I was a Sadhu and had many very important experiences here that helped me on my path and brought me home back to my tradition. And I thank You for that.

## **All are Children of One God**

My sweetest brothers and sisters of India! My sweetest brothers and sisters of all the world's traditions, cultures and religions! My sweetest friends and children of Israel who are here from all over the world! We are all brothers and sisters because we are all children of the same God. We are all children of God and it includes all traditions. I also want to give my special greetings and honour to all the representatives of different faiths. For me it is a great miracle that we can get together in the name of peace and in the name of love, and can hear each other. We can open our hearts to each other. It is one of the things we learn in Jewish spiritual teachings in the Kabbalah (Jewish

mystic tradition). The word Kabbalah really means to receive what's so mysterious and mystical because it is such a mystery to learn how to receive one another with love. The basic of all the teachings of Judaism, of the Torah (the laws given to Moses by God), is learning the laws of love; how to receive one another, how to perceive one another, how to see not just from the eyes but from the heart.

*When we look at all the teachings of Judaism, we see that they are the teachings of love, the teachings how to reconnect to people, how to take care of the poor, how to take care of the needy, how to take care of the sick, how to provide education. These are the things that Sai Baba does for you here and does for so many people in most far away places.*





In all religious traditions, we learn that the different religions are like the organs of our body. I am here before you, each of us is hopefully fairly healthy despite little problems here and there. But my body is whole because my lungs are working as lungs, my liver is working as liver, my heart is working as heart and my kidneys are working as kidneys. The body is basically healthy because all the parts work together in harmony. They know that each one needs the other. If my liver could convince the rest of my organs that all of them should be a liver, well I will be a big liver but I will be dead because my body needs all the parts to do what God gave them to do. That is what makes each of us whole, holy and healthy. And so it is with the body of humankind. The body of humankind is healthy when all the cultures, traditions and religions recognise that each is playing its part for the health, peace and wholeness of all humanity, of all creation, of all forms of life. This is what we long for. We long for this kind of dialogue, harmony between all of our religions and traditions.

Along that line, one other thing I really wanted to say in the beginning. Last time, I was in India ten years ago in Kolkata for the Parliament of World Religions. There too I spoke representing Judaism. And one of the first things I said, "I really owe a deep gratitude, a deep thanks to India as a whole and I thank Swami for the part that He played in nudging me from within in Hebrew and guiding me back to my own tradition." India as a whole, I must thank you all because India is the only country on

this whole planet that allowed my people, the Jewish people, to live in peace for 2,000 years. There wasn't another country or religion that allowed us to live in peace as India did and I and we owe you a deep gratitude for that. Thank you.

### **Human Beings should Learn to Love Each Other**

We learn in our tradition that it was for the sake of relationship, for the sake of love that God created the world because God wanted so much to have someone to give love. When God is infinite, all one, God is alone. God was willing to give up that infinite oneness. The world was created for the purpose of relationship, the purpose of giving and receiving love. But we haven't quite got the message yet. The greatest work we human beings have to do is to learn to develop our relationships, to learn how to love one and another.

In Judaism, we have many laws; we learn that our laws are commandments. In Hebrew, this law is called Mitzvah. And we translate it as commandment. But there is another way to understand it because the word Mitzvah also connotes joining together. We were given these laws or practices because through them we could join ourselves to God and unite with others. We have many laws; laws between people and laws between individual and the Divine. There are many people in many different traditions who look at these laws and say, "Oh, there are many laws; these laws are cutting me off from the world around me. I can't go here, I can't eat that or I can't go driving here, I can't pick up the telephone



there, I can't use the computer, etc." But the question is, are these laws from God designed to cut you off from the world around you? No. These laws were given to keep you from getting cut off from the world within you and from God. So, when we look at all the teachings of Judaism, we see that they are the teachings of love, the teachings how to reconnect to people, how to take care of the poor, how to take care of the needy, how to take care of the sick, how to provide education. These are the things that Sai Baba does for you here and does for so many people in most far away places.

### **How Swami Guided me on the Spiritual Path**

When I came here 33 years ago, I was a Sadhu. I lived outside, bathed in the river, and most of the time people helped the Sadhus. I was getting a little bit used to it. I had a little bit of savings that I managed to buy everyday a banana, a bag of peanuts, a cup of chai (tea) from the little tea shop that doesn't exist any more. I was doing okay. Every morning we would come out for morning Darshan. We would chant and sit. Then volunteers would come out with Prasad after Baba came out on the balcony. And those days, they would give out those little biscuits, sometimes these were square biscuits and sometimes round, the size of a rupee. One day, they gave the little ones, and Baba's helpers were coming with trays. They would give to each person a handful as we sat side by side. When I looked at those biscuits, I thought this was not going to fill me up. The man

comes, kneels down to the person beside me to give him the handful of biscuits and he loses his balance. The whole tray pours into my lap. If that would have been the end of the story, it would be just great. But the whole day people came up to me, gave me money and said, "Here, you may not get enough to eat, so be sure." And I go to the tea shop, order something, somebody sitting there says, "Please let me pay for it." Two, three times, I came back to the Ashram, and the cook who did not give me food, says, "Hello, hello, come, come." I went forward, thinking that he needed help to carry something, clean something. He says, "Here, you may not get enough to eat, now take this." And, he gives me a big plate of food. I came away from there, some of the young American women had gone to Bengaluru. The car pulls up, they say, "Oh, we were in Bengaluru, we bought all sorts of food. Here, we bought for you too thinking that you may not get enough to eat."

I woke up in the middle of the night with a stomach-ache. When I had my interview with Baba, may be a week or later, among the things that He said to me, "Well, you were having a little stomach problems late at night, weren't you?" He also talked about the struggle I experienced in meditating, focusing, and He materialised a Mala (garland of beads) for me, which really meant so much to me and became a very important part of my meditation after I left the Ashram. That was really a very amazing experience.



So, feeding, educating, clothing everyone are the things we learn in our tradition because they are the practices of love. These are the traditions that Baba teaches; these are the things that all the traditions really teach and practise. When 2,000 years ago, someone asked one of the Rabbis, "What is the most important commandment? How would you summarise the whole Bible, the whole Torah, all the laws? How would you summarise while standing on one foot?" Because they were not practising yoga, they could not stand on one foot for long. The Rabbi answered, "Love your neighbour as yourself. See God in yourself, in your fellow beings, honour and love them." The golden rule is: Do unto others as you want others to do unto you. We start with the basic thing, "What is unpleasant to you, don't do to others; do unto others what is good to you." So, these are some of the most important principles of love in our tradition. So, I thank God for the opportunity to be here. And, of course, I want to thank Swami Sathya Sai Baba. It is so good to be back here. Thank You for bringing me back here and for keeping Your heart open to all of us; it means so much, so much to us.

*The body is basically healthy because all the parts work together in harmony. They know that each one needs the other. If my liver could convince the rest of my organs that all of them should be a liver, well I will be a big liver but I will be dead because my body needs all the parts to do what God gave them to do. That is what makes each of us whole, holy and healthy. And so it is with the body of humankind. The body of humankind is healthy when all the cultures, traditions and religions recognise that each is playing its part for the health, peace and wholeness of all humanity, of all creation, of all forms of life. This is what we long for.*

– From the talk of Rabbi David Zeller in the Interfaith Conference held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd July 2005. Rabbi David Zeller, a well-known teacher of Jewish spirituality and meditation, represented Judaism in the Interfaith Conference.

*Those who want to help mankind must take their own pleasure and pain, name and fame and all sorts of interests, and make a bundle of them and throw them into the sea and then come to the Lord. This is what all the masters said and did.*

– Swami Vivekananda



From our Archives

# GANESH INDWELLS ALL

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION IS TRUE EDUCATION

## Embodiments of Love!

ONE WHO RECOGNISES HIS identity with the Divine is a real Jnani (wise). All Bharatiya festivals are sacred and invested with deep spiritual significance. They are not to be celebrated as mechanical rituals. The Bharatiyas hail Vighneswara (Lord Ganesh) as: "Oh son of Parvati! Master of the Ganas (Ganapati)." Who is this Parvati? What is the relationship between Parvati and Ganapati? People do not normally enquire into these matters. Usually Parvati is considered as the mother of Ganapati and no one recognises the underlying unity between the two. Where are Parvati and Ganapati to be located? Are they in the external world or are they immanent in every human being? The truth is both of them are all-pervading and convey the message of *Ekatma Bhava* (spiritual oneness).

## The Lord of Intellect and Higher Knowledge

What is the meaning of the name Ganapati? Where are the Ganas? What is their form? When you investigate this, you find that the Jnanendriyas and Karmendriyas (five organs of perception and the five organs of action) are the Ganas. The mind is the master over

these ten organs. Buddhi (intellect) is the discriminating faculty above the mind. The ten senses, the mind and the intellect together constitute the Ganas.

In the word Gana, Ga stands for Buddhi (intellect), Na means Vijnana (the higher knowledge or wisdom). Ganapati is the Lord of the intellect and the higher knowledge. The question may be asked: "Are the intellect and the higher knowledge present in the external world or are they to be found within man?" The answer is that Ganapati is present within each human being. There is no need to seek him in the outside world. Ganapati dwells in every human being in the form of intellect and wisdom.

***If you want to lead a life of happiness, free from troubles and difficulties, you have to pray to Ganapati, the remover of all obstacles. There is no need to go to any temple. Vighneswara dwells in each one of you as your Buddhi (intelligence) and Vijnana (wisdom). When you make proper use of your inherent intelligence and wisdom, you will be successful in life.***

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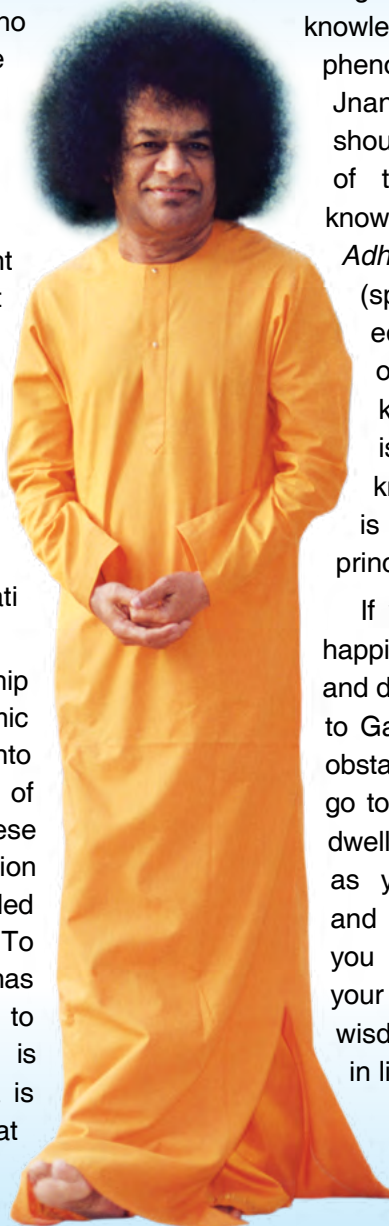


When Ganapati is described as “Parvati Tanaya,” who is this Parvati? Parvati signifies Prithvi (Mother Earth). Everyone is a child of Mother Earth. The meaning of Parvati Tanaya (son of Parvati) is that Ganapati, who is the Lord of the Ganas, is the son of Parvati, who symbolises Sakti (the Divine Energy).

### **Knowledge of the Self is the Highest Knowledge**

The adoration of Parvati and Ganapati is not of recent origin. Ganapati is lauded at several places in the Rig Veda. This clearly shows that Ganapati is as ancient as the Vedas. In several places, Ganapati is mentioned both in the Vedas and the Upanishads. There are many prayers addressed to Ganapati in the Upanishads.

Students today worship Ganesh for success in academic studies and for developing into good scholars. As a matter of fact, all that is learnt by these studies may be termed education or learning but cannot be called Vidya (true knowledge). To apply the term Vidya, which has a profound inner significance, to modern academic education is a misuse of language. Vidya is awareness of the power that animates every cell in one's being.



The entire life of man should be regarded as one continuous process of learning. A true student is one who pursues knowledge in this spirit. A student is called Vidyarthi, Vidya (education) + Arthi (seeker). The knowledge to be sought is not bookish

knowledge or knowledge of the phenomenal world. It is Atma Jnana (spiritual knowledge) that should be sought. Knowledge of the Self is the highest knowledge. The Gita declares: *Adhyatma Vidya Vidyam* (spiritual education is true education). The true aim of life is to acquire this knowledge. Vinayaka is the preceptor for this knowledge. That preceptor is within you. The Vinayaka principle is in everyone.

If you want to lead a life of happiness, free from troubles and difficulties, you have to pray to Ganapati, the remover of all obstacles. There is no need to go to any temple. Vighneswara dwells in each one of you as your Buddhi (intelligence) and Vijnana (wisdom). When you make proper use of your inherent intelligence and wisdom, you will be successful in life.

— **Excerpted from  
Bhagavan's Ganesh  
Chaturthi Discourses.**

# A TRAGIC EVENT CHANGED INTO A BLESSING

Prof. U.S. Rao

*The Divine Mother's love, care and affection far exceeded the love and affection we experienced from our own parents during all our life. To try to express the totality and depth of Divine Love will be a futile exercise.*

**B**HAGAVAN HAS SAID: "YOU might say that the Karma of previous births has to be consumed in this birth and that no amount of grace can save man from that. Evidently, someone has taught you to believe so. But I assure you, you need not suffer from Karma like that. When a severe pain torments you, the doctor gives you a morphine injection and you do not feel the pain, though it is there in the body. Grace is like the morphine; the pain is not felt, though you go through it." The events in our life made us realise not only the truth of this declaration of Bhagavan but also showed us how a serious accident could become a blissful experience by the love and grace of Bhagavan.

## Early Experiences of Divine Grace

We were passing through testing times in 1975, when a series of miracles started

occurring in our house at Pune. For a month, we experienced Swami's presence in the form of Vibhuti on His photographs. Divine fragrance would fill the house and remind us of Him. Next year, we visited Prasanthi Nilayam for the

first time, and came to know more about the philosophy and ideology of the institutions founded by Bhagavan.

Inspired by Swami's ideology, I prayed to Him to permit me to serve in one of His educational institutions, so that I could sanctify my life by serving Him through the noble profession of teaching. Swami graciously took the letter, and I was elated. I then began to eagerly look forward to His call but no reply came in response to my prayer. After a year, I got an opportunity to join teaching profession at National Institute for Training in Industrial Engineering (NITIE), a Central Government institution at Mumbai, where I gained teaching experience in management. I also completed Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. Meanwhile, we joined Seva Dal in Mumbai



and continued to take part in Bal Vikas and Seva Dal activities. The much awaited call still did not come. In 1985, after completing my Ph.D., I went back to my previous company Alfa Laval (India) Ltd., Pune in a senior position.

### **Into the Divine Fold**

Suddenly, out of the blue I got a call letter from Swami's university to come and join the Management Department at Prasanthi Nilayam. This was in 1986, ten years after my prayer to Bhagavan! However, I could join Bhagavan's institution only a year later as I had a bond with my company and could not leave immediately. God always fulfils our deepest desires especially if they are noble, but His timings are different. God's delay does not mean denial. We should have the patience, and should respond when He gives the opportunity. Maybe, Swami wanted me to get a Ph.D. degree and necessary teaching experience in management area before joining His university. Whatever the Divine design, it is always in our best interest.

We falsely presume that we have made great sacrifices by coming to God. Little do we realise that God actually brings us near Himself to protect us. What I did not know at that time was that in about two years time, I and my wife would be involved in a serious accident, which could leave our children orphans. The compassionate Lord brought us to Him at the most crucial time to give us a new lease of life. It is my experience that in the presence of Bhagavan, one gains infinite treasures, including an extended

life-span. And the life he grants is more meaningful, peaceful and happy once it is turned towards Him.

The accident was no accident. It was preparation and pruning. Through subtle hints and immense love, He prepared me for the greatest 'blessing' of my life. In 1988 during Darshan, Bhagavan asked me, "Are you ready?" Though I was puzzled, I replied, "Yes, Swami." He then asked, "For what?" As I did not know, I said, "I don't know." Bhagavan smiled and said, "Yes. You should be ready for everything in life."

### **A Near Fatal Accident**

Bhagavan appeared in the dream of my wife many month's prior to the accident. In that dream, Bhagavan had two patches on His head with no hair, which He showed her. She said, "Why worry Swami, you have so much hair. It can be easily covered." Surprisingly after the accident, my wife had exactly the same two patches on the head because of second skin grafting operation done on the head. Probably, the dream also meant that He had taken the impact and suffering on Himself, so that she could withstand and survive that near fatal accident.

Bhagavan in His infinite compassion decided to save us, as is evident from the events which happened in February 1989. On 8th February, Bhagavan gave a bright yellow silk Sari for my wife (indicating auspiciousness), and called us for an interview on 9th February, our 20th marriage anniversary day. In the interview, He profusely blessed us with long happy





life, and to my wife He said, “Dheergha Sumangali Bhava!” meaning, may your husband live very long!

During March 1989, the circumstances so developed that I had to go to Brindavan to seek Bhagavan’s guidance and approval on official matters concerning the department. As Bhagavan was at Brindavan, my wife also joined me on this trip. On 26th March 1989, early in the morning, we along with our friends, started from Prasanthi Nilayam to Brindavan in a matador van. Having crossed Bagepalli, we were on the way to Chikkaballapur. The van was going very fast, the breeze was cool, and all of us dozed a little. As soon as my wife closed her eyes, she clearly saw Bhagavan’s face and was thrilled by the vision. This happened thrice. She was just ready to share the joy with others when there was a loud thud. The van catapulted three times and landed on the ground with wheels up. A lorry had hit the side of the van behind the driver’s cabin, the impact of which was so severe that the back door of the van opened with a jerk and threw out some of our colleagues on the road. The driver lost balance and in panic jumped out of the vehicle.

I received severe injuries on my head and jaw and had a black eye. Later I was told that a few ribs in my chest had also broken. Out of shock I had amnesia, and I started speaking disjointedly. My wife suffered severe head injury and the skin on her head was torn badly. She had to have 120 stitches on her head later at

*We falsely presume that we have made great sacrifices by coming to God. Little do we realise that God actually brings us near Himself to protect us. What I did not know at that time was that in about two years time, I and my wife would be involved in a serious accident, which could leave our children orphans.*

*The compassionate Lord brought us to Him at the most crucial time to give us a new lease of life.*

Whitefield Hospital. She bit her tongue and was gulping large quantities of blood. Blood was also flowing from her head in a stream, and all her clothes were wet with blood. But through Bhagavan’s grace, and His Darshan just before the accident, she was very calm and serene. Thinking her end was near, she prayed to Bhagavan to take care of me and the children. She did not experience any pain whatsoever either at that time or later during next one and half months of undergoing operations and recovering from accident injuries.

One of our colleagues who came in the van behind our van was our saviour. As ordained by Bhagavan, he reached the site of accident within minutes and quickly took charge of the situation. He started making all the necessary arrangements for transporting us to the nearest hospital at Chikkaballapur. Bhagavan was immediately informed and He, like a loving mother, got arranged timely medical



assistance to us in Bengaluru hospitals and in our own hospital at Whitefield and personally supervised all arrangements.

### **Unbounded Divine Grace**

Within minutes of the arrival of the injured passengers in the vehicle at Whitefield hospital, Bhagavan came to the hospital and consoled everyone, created and sprinkled Vibhuti on them. He personally poured cold water and coffee into the mouth of my wife. He soothed her by saying "I will take care of everything. Just lie down and relax. I will send for a car now and bring Rao to Whitefield." His concern, love and compassion at that moment are just unforgettable. My wife later told me that, at that moment, she felt it was worth going through many more accidents if one could experience so much of Bhagavan's love.

On hearing about the accident, our university's Vice Chancellor and Registrar rushed from Prasanthi Nilayam to Brindavan. Bhagavan took them straight to the hospital in Bengaluru to see me and other seriously injured patients. Due to amnesia, I don't remember any of the incidents in the hospital at Bengaluru. I was told that Bhagavan showered so much of His love on me, caressed my injured chest ribs, created Vibhuti and put it into my mouth. He mentioned to me: "See Rao, Vice Chancellor and Registrar have come from Prasanthi Nilayam to meet you." At that time, I opened my eyes without knowing what was happening. He rubbed Vibhuti on my arm. I had a faint glimpse

of the caring Lord standing by my bedside with a loving face and compassionate eyes.

On 28th March 1989, I was brought to Whitefield hospital. To my wife's dismay, I just could not remember many things. I did recognise her, but would go on repeating, "Where is Whitefield? What does Bhagavan look like? Which day is this?" and so on. Bhagavan visited us on 30th March (Thursday), and spent exclusive 20 minutes sitting on a small chair with only both of us on either side, telling us the details of the accident. Unfortunately, those blissful moments are very hazy in my memory, as I was still under amnesia. Bhagavan felt that I should go for further tests. My wife prayed, "Swami, nothing but Your grace matters, and we don't want any tests done. Your word that all will be well is in itself the cure." After some persuasion, Bhagavan finally said: "Okay, I am telling you. Absolutely nothing will be wrong with him. He will be perfectly all right." To add to our joy, He cancelled my visit to Bengaluru hospital for further tests.

### **Showers of Love and Compassion**

On His next visit, He came silently into the room, taking us by surprise, and poured coconut water into my mouth with great love. It will not be an exaggeration to say that we were blissfully happy during those days, soaking in Bhagavan's love and care so much that we did not inform our own parents, brothers and sisters about the accident. The Divine Mother's love, care and affection far exceeded the



love and affection we experienced from our own parents during all our life. To try to express the totality and depth of Divine Love will be a futile exercise, but I will still cite a few examples to illustrate the same.

Almost everyday, Bhagavan would send a big bag containing fruits, biscuits, electrol, etc., with detailed instructions for us. Since our trip to Brindavan was planned for a day or two, we did not take any clothes with us. Bhagavan sent a tailor to take my measurements in the hospital and by the same afternoon He sent many pairs of complete clothing. Another day, Bhagavan Himself brought a plastic bag containing soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and a huge towel. To top it all, Bhagavan said: "Rao. Look, what I have brought for you." So saying, He took out a pair of cooling glasses from the bag and gave them to me, saying, "For you to wear when you come for Darshan." He felt that, with my black, swollen, bulging eye I might not like to be seen outside and that the cooling glasses would help me.

He personally sent messages to Principals of both Anantapur College and Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam and asked them to inform my daughters who were studying there that we were all right and were under His care, and that they should not be worried and study for examinations well. He arranged for them to

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be brought by car on the very afternoon of their last examination, and made them stay at Brindavan till their grandparents came and took charge. The entire expenses of the treatment were completely borne by Bhagavan. We did not spend even a single rupee. We were literally floating in the ocean of Bhagavan's love, and spent everyday in so much joy that we felt the accident a blessing in disguise. Only God can change a tragic event into a memorable one full of immense happiness with His infinite compassion. Can we ever forget God who is so loving and compassionate?

**– The author, Prof. U.S. Rao, is former Principal, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.**

*Anger spoils good relations, pride destroys humility, deceit destroys amity and greed destroys everything. Conquer anger by forgiveness, pride by humility, deceit by straightforwardness and greed by contentment.*

**- Lord Mahavira**

## *Effulgence of Divine Glory*

# FLOW OF NECTAR FROM BABA'S HANDS



GENERALLY, BABA TAKES the devotees to the sands of Chitravathi on festivals days, which do not attract mammoth crowds, but, for which there assemble only a manageable throng of devotees. On Gokulashtami day, or perhaps the day previous, He very often visits the sands and sometimes 'takes' from the sand an image of Krishna, which is kept in the hall on the birthday of Lord Krishna and, afterwards given to some Bhakta (devotee), for being worshipped in his domestic shrine also. On Rama Navami day, or perhaps the day previous, Baba takes from the seashore or riverbed, depending upon where He is at the time, images of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Anjaneya or of Rama only, and gives them to be worshipped. Near Kalahasti from the Swarnamukhi, He 'took' images of more than usual size, and they are now kept at Venkatagiri and worship is offered regularly to them. Again, on Vaikuntha Ekadasi day in the evening, He has been for many years regularly 'taking' divine nectar for distribution among the devotees, while in the midst of Bhajan or Discourse on the riverbed or seashore!

On the Vaikuntha Ekadasi 1958, for example, which fell on 21st December, in the midst of Baba's Kerala tour, Baba went to the Kovalam Beach, about 10 km away from Thiruvananthapuram, accompanied

by many devotees. At a quiet spot on the seashore more than a kilometre away from the bathing area, Baba sat with the Bhaktas around Him. Baba sang a few songs and there was Bhajan afterwards. During the Bhajan, Baba 'took' from the sands a bewitching sandalwood image of Krishna playing the flute, and after a few minutes a gold ring with the Radha - Krishna motif embossed on it!

Everyone expected that Baba would distribute Amrita (nectar) 'taken' by Him from nowhere, as He generally does on Vaikuntha Ekadasi day, and they were not disappointed; for, even as Bhajan was going on, the fragrance of the nectar was clearly cognised, no one knew from where! Baba's palms became sticky, as if saturated with syrup even as He was 'marking time' for the songs; all knew that the fragrance was emanating from those palms. Then He held them together and pointed them at a silver vessel, when, lo, thick ambrosial 'honey' flowed into the vessel from His hands! He then distributed it Himself to all present, including some fisher folk who had joined the group! The sweetness and scent of the nectar were outside the experience of everyone; they were incomparably strange.

– Excerpted from “Sathyam Sivam Sundaram,” Volume 1 by Prof. N. Kasturi.





# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## GUYANA

**O**N 17TH JULY, THE SATHYA SAI Organisation of Guyana donated a number of wheelchairs to the Ministry of Health, Guyana. The Minister of Health, Dr. Bheri Ramsaran thanked the Sathya Sai Organisation and expressed



*Wheelchairs donated to the Ministry of Health, Guyana.*

hope that the relationship between the government and the Sai Organisation would grow in the future. He also said that the wheelchairs had already been distributed to needy people. This special service was reported in the Guyana Chronicle newspaper.

As an offering to Bhagavan on the second anniversary of His Maha Samadhi, Sathya Sai devotees in Georgetown,

Guyana constructed and donated a new house to a needy family of seven on 23rd April 2013. The recipients appreciated the fact that they did not have to endure further hardships in their old, dilapidated quarters as the rainy season was at hand. Sathya Sai volunteers cooked and served dinner to 200 homeless people on Sunday, 21st April 2013. The recipients were truly appreciative of the love that was shared with them.

## U. S. A.

The Sathya Sai Centre at Austin, Texas observed Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day with devotional programmes and service activities, in keeping with Bhagavan's Message of 'Love in Action.' The devotional programme on 24th April included a skit depicting biographies of two exemplary Sathya Sai devotees, Daniel Otieno from Kenya and Fatima Nazanin from Iran, whose commitment to Swami and His teachings benefited their communities. The Centre members also planted nearly 50 rose plants to add to the several hundred rose bushes on the fence-line at the Austin State Hospital, which hosts the Sai Centre.

In honour of Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day, 85 members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Dallas, Texas, enthusiastically helped in packing 14,280 meals at the North Texas Food Bank. The food and supplies were bagged, boxed and loaded





*Packing food at the North Texas Food Bank.*

onto 17 pallets and about 240 kg food was donated. On 24th April 2013, members of the Sathya Sai Centre, North Houston, Texas, distributed 36 organic meals in biodegradable containers at a local homeless shelter. They also established a garden near the shelter by planting the first seeds and showed the residents how to plant vegetables.

## NEPAL

The Sathya Sai Organisation of Nepal along with the “Centre for Ladies Legal Professionals” of the Supreme Court of Nepal, organised a one-day programme on “Spirituality in Legal Profession” on 26th April 2013 in the conference hall of the Nepal Bar Association. Inaugurated by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court, the programme was attended by over 200 senior advocates and legal experts. Sri Amar Karki, Central Coordinator, Sathya Sai Organisation of Nepal, delivered a talk which was followed by a question-and-answer session. The one-and-a-half-hour talk focused on “What is Spirituality” and “Spirituality and Legal Professional Life.”

The feedback received was extremely encouraging and many lawyers requested that such programmes be repeated at regular intervals.

## THAILAND

On Sunday, 28th April 2013, twenty-two adults, four youth and fourteen children from the Sathya Sai Centre of Bangkok visited a Homeless Animals Home, which houses over 500 dogs, and lovingly provided animal food, medicines, etc., for the animals. The owner of the facility was very appreciative of the support offered by the Sathya Sai devotees.

On Sunday, 12th May 2013, a medical camp was held at the Singhanart Bunpot



*Medical camp at Beugkarn, Thailand.*

temple, Beugkarn. About 35 Sathya Sai volunteers from the Chiangmai Centre were divided into four service groups. The first group of six physicians provided medical check-up and free medicine to 206 patients. The second youth group organised games for 50 children of the



village. A third group distributed 500 bags of food and utilities to needy families and a fourth group distributed freshly cooked food to around 600 people.

On Sunday, 9th June, 37 adults, 13 youth and 16 children held a programme at the Good Shepherd Sisters Home, with uplifting Bhajans and games followed by a home-made dinner. The Sathya Sai Organisation volunteers also donated daily necessities like rice, oil, milk, coffee, sugar, soap and biscuits.

### U.K.

The U.K. Sai Organisation celebrated Easwaramma Day on Saturday, 4th May 2013 in the lovely setting of Hertfordshire. Sai Spiritual Education students, children from the Good Values Club of Leicester, youth, parents, grandparents and Sathya Sai devotees from around the country gathered at Hatfield to commemorate Mother Easwaramma's life. The programme commenced with a colourful procession by nearly 150 SSE children accompanied by lively music. The children carried flags representing human values and different faiths, viz., Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam and their respective holy books. The younger children were dressed in costumes traditionally worn by the followers of each faith. Several uplifting talks were given, followed by a programme entitled "Spirit of Oneness" in which the SSE children presented six beautiful scenes from the lives and teachings of

saints from all major faiths. Dr. Kiran Patel, Chairperson, U.K. Central Council gave the closing remarks as he recollected anecdotes involving Mother Easwaramma.

### BAHRAIN

On Saturday, 11th May 2013, over 800 guests attended Easwaramma Day celebrations at the spacious Jashanmal Auditorium in the Indian School, Bahrain. This was one of the largest turnouts witnessed in Bahrain for a function organised by the Sathya Sai Organisation. The Bal Vikas children of different age-groups illustrated the chosen theme, "Living the Values," with human value songs, Bhajans, dances, skits and dance dramas, and enthralled the audience for about 150 minutes. While one age-group focused on values, another age-group presented great personalities who lived these values. The programme ended with "My Life is My Message," which showcased early years of Swami's life, through a combination of Hari Katha, tableau, mime and shadow play. Dr. Sai Giridhar, Chief Executive Officer, Al Hilal Hospital was the Chief Guest and Sri Abraham John, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Indian School, Bahrain, was the Guest of Honour.

### DUBAI

On 31st May 2013, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Dubai, in participation with the local medical service provider Prime Medical Centre, organised a three-hour-long medical camp at the ETA Melco labour camp, Al quoz, Dubai. Five





physicians, two paramedics and three pharmacists along with eighteen Sathya Sai volunteers served 205 needy, low-income patients hailing predominantly from India. Medical screening tests included blood pressure and blood sugar measurements. Consultations were given for chronic illnesses and ailments such as pain, vision, skin allergies, etc. Over ninety types of medicines were dispensed and fruits and juices were distributed to all camp attendees.

### MADAGASCAR

The Sathya Sai Centre of Antananarivo, Madagascar was inaugurated on 23rd March 2010. Due to rapid growth, the Centre was moved to new premises on 25th March 2012. As an ongoing service, about 80 Sathya Sai devotees from the Centre provided food for 400 to 600 people three times a week, and distributed clothes and toys, mostly to orphans, to children from very poor families, to the destitute and to old people.

Since November 2011, a Sathya Sai Pre-primary School has been opened to



*Teachers teaching at Sathya Sai Pre-primary School for destitute children.*

provide free education to the orphans and destitute children of the region. The Ambassador of India in Madagascar, Sri Azad Singh Toor, the Mayor of Itaosy region, and Sri Opape Onanga from the Sathya Sai Organisation, in association with Sai Africa, lauded the selfless service provided by the Centre.

### NIGERIA

Sri Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsava was solemnly observed in Lagos, Nigeria by about 450 Sathya Sai devotees on 27th



*Sri Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsava in Lagos, Nigeria.*

April 2013. Food was offered at the destitute homes, and medical camps were held at the Leprosy Colony in Lagos and other parts of Nigeria. A grand public function was held in Lagos in which Sathya Sai devotees and eminent people from other organisations offered gratitude to Bhagavan in the form of a devotional musical programme "Prema Pravaham," planned and organised by former students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The programme commenced with a medley of English songs and instrumental music by



children from Sri Sathya Sai School, Ajah, Nigeria.

### – Sathya Sai International Organisation

#### B H A R A T

**Gujarat:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat organised a Sadhana Shibir (camp) for all State office bearers inclusive of all District Presidents and State Coordinators at Bhavnagar, Gujarat on 3rd and 4th August 2013. Inaugurating the camp, Sri Nimish Pandya congratulated Gujarat State for being the first State to conduct a State-level Sadhana Camp. He emphasised that it was the bounden duty of office bearers to follow the Nine Point Code of Conduct given by Bhagavan and do their duties with full commitment and dedication. Sri Manohar Trikanad, State President of Gujarat, then spoke about the Nine Point Code of Conduct and Sri Rajiv Gosai gave a detailed method of meditation and its importance.

The programme on the second day began with Jyoti Meditation which was done practically by all participants. The topics covered in the talks by eminent speakers on the second day included “Importance of Reading Sai Literature,” “Parenting,” “Prayer, etc.” In all, 43 office bearers and 9 active workers of the State participated in the camp.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** Many spiritual and service programmes were organised by the Sai Organisation on 24th April 2013. They included: Narayana Seva in Bal Niketan, a hostel for destitute children in Amphalla, talks on the gigantic service projects of

Bhagavan for the service of the masses and Bhajans in which a large number of devotees took part.

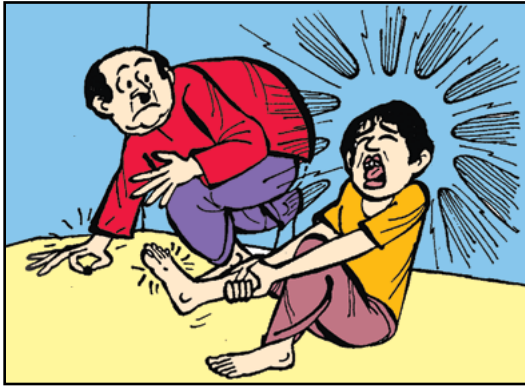
**Maharashtra and Goa:** Rain water harvesting being executed by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Maharashtra and Goa in 10 villages of Maharashtra proved to be a great success with heavy downpour of rain in most of the areas. The villagers were ecstatic and offered their gratitude to Bhagavan for providing long-term solution to their water woes. With the overflow of rain as well as stored water in the rain water harvesting structures, many farmers have become very busy with sowing.

**Sikkim:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Sikkim organised a weeklong Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality from 1st to 6th July 2013, in which about 175 Bal Vikas alumni and Sai Youth of Sikkim took part. The venue of the programme was Sri Sathya Sai Sarva Dharma Kendra, Daramding in West Sikkim. The inaugural session included a rally by the participants, Bhajans, speeches and a video show on Bhagavan's life.

From second day onwards, morning sessions included Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Nagar Sankirtan, Mantra classes, yoga and meditation. Daylong sessions included talks on different subjects by eminent speakers followed by group discussions. Evening programmes comprised debates, talent search programmes, quiz competitions, etc. The Summer Course concluded with a camp fire, a cultural programme by the participants and a valedictory speech.

## Lack of Discrimination

A BOY SUFFERED FROM acute pain due to scorpion sting. His father went to the village physician and requested him to give some medicine for removing the effect of the poison of scorpion sting. Giving him the medicine, the physician said, “Put it on the spot of scorpion sting and there will be relief from pain.” The father came to his



*The father of the boy brought the medicine from the physician and placed it in a corner by the side of a wall of his house.*

house and put the medicine in a corner of his house beside one of the walls. Naturally, his son did not get any relief from pain and kept crying loudly. Seeing this, some people asked the father, “Did



*Modern disciples act without understanding the teachings of their Guru and blame the Guru when they do not get the desired results of their actions.*

you use the medicine as instructed by the physician?” The father of the boy replied, “The physician told me to put it on the place of scorpion sting. As the scorpion stung the boy near the wall, I have put the medicine at the place of scorpion sting as told by the physician. But my son hasn’t got any relief from pain.”

The disciples in Kali Yuga are also dim-witted like this man. They deduce opposite meanings of the teachings of their Guru due to their poor understanding and blame the Guru.

*Do not speak harshly to anyone; those who are thus spoken to will retort. Malicious talk is indeed the cause of sorrow and retribution will come to you.*

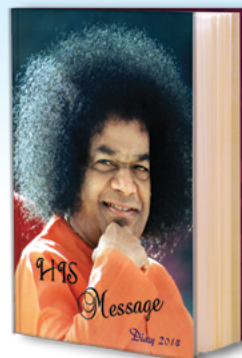
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## His Message - Diary 2014

**Diary 2014**, depicting glimpses of Bhagavan's divine life and message is on sale. A brief summary with a global map of Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation and a report on the service activities of Medicare division of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust are also included.

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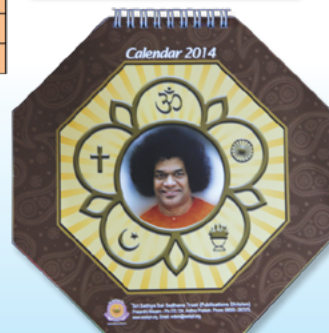
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## *Experiencing Highest Bliss*

Human values are present in everyone. They have to be manifested from within. What we need are persons who will provide the stimulus and the encouragement to bring them out. If the feeling that the divinity that is present in everyone is one and the same is promoted among all, human values will sprout naturally in every person. To have this sense of spiritual oneness is the prelude to experiencing the highest bliss.

*– Baba*



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