

**JANUARY 2006**

**LADIES DAY DISCOURSE**

## **SEE GOD IN YOUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS**

*Embodiments of Love!*

TODAY is Ladies Day. It is an occasion for ladies to experience happiness and share it with one and all. Men and women are not different from each other. The difference lies only in physical form. But the same principle of Brahman is present in both. *Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma* (verily all this is Brahman).

**Develop the Spirit of Oneness**

*Embodiments of Love!*

Everyone aspires to attain God. Many sages, seers and yogis did intense penance to have the vision of God. Where is God? *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). God incarnates in human form for the protection and redemption of mankind. But God is not limited to any name or form. He is infinite and transcends all names and forms. Once Sage Narada prayed to Lord Narayana to incarnate on earth and redeem mankind. In response to the prayers of sages and seers like Narada, God incarnates on earth in human form to uplift man and bestow joy on one and all. An Avatar is not only Brahma Swarupa (embodiment of Brahman), He is also Manava Swarupa. He is the manifestation of Divinity in human form. The same principle of Brahman is immanent in all. One has to develop inward vision to experience Him. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). He is in all forms whether it is that of mother, father, husband, wife, daughter, son, etc. Someone may say, "I have been blessed with a grandson today". The grandson is also a manifestation of Brahman. Brahman alone assumes various names and forms in this world. When God incarnates on earth, He assumes the form of Jiva (individual self). The principles of Daivatwa (Divinity) and Jivatwa (humanity) are inseparable. You cannot find one to the exclusion of the other. Divinity has no specific form. Only Jiva has a name and a form but not Deva (God) who is present in all. In fact, each one of you is an embodiment of God. All that you see around is also the manifestation of God. Even the small birds that you see here are endowed with the principle of divinity. There is no place where divinity does not exist. There is no form which is not divine. However, God assumes a particular form based on the feelings of His devotees.

God is extolled as *Sabda Brahmayi, Characharamayi, Jyotirmayi, Vangmayi, Nityanandamayi, Paratparamayi, Mayamayi and Sreemayi* (embodiment of sound,

mobility and immobility, light, speech, eternal bliss, perfection, delusion and wealth). Hence, consider speech as divine. Have the firm conviction that it is God who speaks through each one of us. If someone accuses you, think that it is God in that form who is accusing you. When you develop this spirit of oneness and tolerance, you will never be perturbed by censure and blame. Your mind will always rest in peace. Whatever may happen, accept it wholeheartedly as the Will of God. Have firm faith that it is God and God alone who is the doer. Do not consider your fellow human beings as mere individuals. When you talk to someone, think that you are talking to God. When you do not see God in others and do not treat them as your own, you will be giving room to evil qualities like anger, jealousy, hatred, etc. Develop the spirit of oneness. Only then will your life be redeemed.

When you go to a noble soul and ask him for a message, he will merely say, “My dear son, know thyself”. Today people are interested in knowing about others. They keep on enquiring, “Who are you? Who is he?” But they do not enquire, “Who am I?” It is only when you conduct self-enquiry will you get the correct answer. That is the teaching of God. God has given you the human body. It is by His divine power that you talk, walk, laugh and even cry. Everything happens according to His Will. Develop this firm faith.

### **Noble Ideals of Mother Easwaramma**

On this occasion, we should remember Easwaramma and the ideals she exemplified. She was a paragon of virtues. She was always happy, cheerful and had a smiling countenance. Her heart was tender and sweet as it was filled with love and compassion. One day she approached Me with a request, “Swami, when the children of our village suffer from any ailment, their mothers have to carry them all the way to Bukkapatnam hospital. It is distressing to see the grief-stricken mothers carrying their children that far. There is no guarantee that they would get proper medical attention even after going there. Hence, kindly establish a small hospital in our village itself.” I assured her that her wish would be fulfilled at an appropriate time. It is only when the Kala, Karma, Karana and Kartavya (time, action, reason and duty) are favourable can one attain the desired result. So, I constructed a hospital as per her wish. To begin with, I got a small hospital constructed on the top of the hill. Dr. Seetharamaiah from East Godavari district came here to serve in the hospital. He was an ardent devotee. He served here till his last breath. The hospital was managed by one doctor and two nurses in those days. Now much more has been achieved than what Easwaramma had asked for since a Super Speciality Hospital has been established in Puttaparthi. The simple desires of Easwaramma paved the way for gigantic social welfare projects (*loud prolonged applause*). On some other day, she came to Me with another prayer, “Swami, I am unable to bear the sight of small children carrying heavy loads of books and walking all the way to Bukkapatnam school. Even You had to walk to Bukkapatnam school in earlier days. Kindly construct a small school in our village and save them from the trouble of trudging their way to Bukkapatnam for their studies.” I assured her, “Don’t worry, I will surely construct a school in the village”. Accordingly, I fulfilled her wish. As per My promise to her, I got a small school constructed in the village. In earlier days, she was concerned that all the children of the village were not attending school. Later on, I established a college. Easwaramma was very happy. Gradually, the college has developed into a university.

Once when I went to the banks of the river Chitravathi, I noticed some women from the village scooping out sand to get their pots filled with water. Later, Easwaramma also told Me about the hardships of the housewives in the village for obtaining drinking water and requested Me to do something to relieve their difficulties. She said, “Swami, people in our village are suffering for want of drinking water facility. They have to go all the way to Chitravathi river to fetch water. Even in Chitravathi, we do not find water always. It is not a perennial river. We find water only when there are rains. I feel very sad to see small children carrying pots filled with water on their tender shoulders. Water is the sustainer of life. Hence, kindly get a well dug in our village and quench the thirst of people.” I did accordingly and told her, “Your desires are very simple. I will fulfil them in a big way. You don’t worry about these things. I will make sure that the people of our village have all facilities.” Thereafter, I arranged the supply of water to the village from a long distance through pipes. In fact, I fulfilled every little desire that Easwaramma expressed because her desires were never for her own benefit but invariably in the larger interest of the villagers. If anyone expresses a truly selfless desire, Swami will fulfil it in a big way. What was once a small school has now been transformed into a multi-disciplinary university. What was a small well has been transformed into a gigantic water supply system.

### **Understand the True Meaning of Politics**

Electricity was a rare privilege for the rural population those days. The politicians who came to power were not very enthusiastic and effective in supplying electricity to villages. Therefore, I decided that I Myself would provide these facilities to the villagers. When Puttaparthi was electrified, there was great jubilation in the village. Later, I expanded this facility to other villages also so that it does not cause jealousy in them. These were not casual acts of fancy; these services were provided after ascertaining the needs of the villagers. See this vast hall where you are sitting comfortably. For whom have I got it constructed? Is it not for the comfort of all of you? *Paropakara Punyaya, Papaya Parapeedanam* (one attains merit by helping others and commits sin by hurting them). *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. Hence, always strive to help everybody.

We should never be selfish. Fish is better than one who is selfish. Unfortunately, today selfishness is prevalent everywhere. The present-day politics is steeped in utter selfishness, resulting in rampant corruption and evil tendencies. If this kind of politics is eliminated, there will be happiness all around (*loud applause*). All and sundry have now entered politics. People who do not understand the meaning of politics have become politicians. Only those who understand the true meaning and significance of politics should enter it. Politicians today are engaged in harming those whom they are supposed to serve. Due to their pride of power, they expect that people should run after them for obtaining favours, which as a matter of fact, are their right. I would therefore advise that you should not join politics. Instead, rely on your own innate strength. Your Self is your real strength. What sort of life is it if you have to go from door to door begging for votes? Depend on God. If you depend on God, He will take care of all your needs and you will be successful in all your endeavours. God is everything. But do not pray to God for selfish reasons. If you are selfish, you become incapable of helping others. First of all, develop the spirit of service. Help others as much as you can. Develop good qualities. Fill all your endeavours with the spirit of sacrifice. As the Gita declares:

*Karmanyevadhikaraste Ma Phaleshu Kadachana* (you have right only on action, but not on the fruit thereof). Engage yourself in good actions. For all your endeavours, depend upon your own strength. Do not depend upon others. Be self-reliant and make your family happy and prosperous. I am not referring to any particular family or individual. I wish all to grow and prosper. If you want your family to flourish in all respects, pray to God earnestly.

### **Expansion of Heart Signifies Broad-mindedness**

Wherever you see, God is present there. He permeates everything in the universe, be it a mountain, a valley, the sun, the stars or the deep sea. See divinity everywhere and fill your heart with divine feelings. That signifies expansion of heart. The heart here does not refer to the physical heart. The enlargement of physical heart is an abnormality. What I refer to in this context is Hridaya or spiritual heart which is the abode of God. That is why we call God Hridayavasi (resident of heart). Expansion of heart signifies broad-mindedness and its contraction, narrowness. Hence, never entertain narrow feelings. Human birth is highly sacred. That is why God assumes human form. Develop purity of heart and lead your life in a sacred manner. When I give a discourse or involve you in Bhajan singing, it is only meant for the expansion of your heart. When you participate in Nagar Sankirtan in the early hours of the day, your heart will be brimming with bliss. It is not merely Kirtan (singing), it is Sankirtan (singing together wholeheartedly) to experience and share your joy with one and all. Sing His glory full-throated and make everyone drink the nectar of the Divine Name. In fact, the motive of all your endeavours should be expansion of heart and joy for all. Only then will you be worthy of the title of human being. Then only is your life as a human being worthwhile.

At present, selfishness and self-interest are on the rise. People are not making any effort to purify their heart. In spite of their many defects, they pose to be men of eminence. Their narrowness of vision motivates them to promote their own interests and that of their family only. Instead one should have equal concern for the feelings and well-being of others. All are one as God is present in all. *Love is God. Live in love.* Love should not be tainted with narrow feelings of mine and thine. No one can live without God who is present within. With such awareness, live always in God consciousness. Consider the suffering of others as your own. Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you. Love is the basis of everything. Grow in love. Be broad-minded and share your love with everybody. Pray that others should not undergo the suffering that you have undergone. Let everybody be happy and make progress in life. It is possible only when you develop love. When you develop love, you will never be narrow-minded.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho ...*”)

- **From Bhagavan’s Ladies Day Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2005.**

## **MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS**

## CELEBRATIONS

Thousands of people come to Prasanthi Nilayam from the four corners of the world to bask in the divine beauty and bliss of this holy land and to celebrate Christmas in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This year also over 2,500 devotees from more than 45 countries celebrated this holy festival at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th December 2005 with devotion and sacredness. The entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look on this occasion with Christmas trees, stars, bells and other attractive decorations. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, was specially done up in an aesthetic manner to kindle the spirit of this holy festival. The dais was adorned with nativity scene, two beautiful Christmas trees and images of angels along with other decorations.

On the morning of 25th December 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.00 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the mammoth gathering of devotees. Coming straight to the lower portico where cakes were placed by students and hospital staff, Bhagavan performed the cake cutting ceremony amidst a thunderous applause of the devotees.

There were three items in the morning programme which began soon after Bhagavan was seated on the dais. The first presentation was violin recital by a group of students from Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. The students displayed their musical talent and enthralled the audience with tunes of many popular carol songs. Thereafter, there was a display by the Institute orchestra which kept the audience spellbound for nearly 20 minutes with its soul-elevating musical presentation. The last item of the programme was also presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. This programme of carol singing was compered by two students who narrated the story of the birth and life of Jesus, which culminated in the Advent of Holy Father in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The students presented popular carol songs appropriate to the narration of the story and captivated the audience with their excellent presentation. As they sang "Jingle Bells ..." accompanied by the clapping of the huge gathering, Santa Claus appeared on the stage with his bagful of chocolates. After seeking the blessings of Bhagavan, he went into the rows of the devotees and students and distributed chocolates to them. Simultaneously, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire gathering in the Hall.

As the morning programme was coming to a close, everyone experienced the joy of celebrating this sacred festival in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. But the joy of Christmas celebrations became manifold when Bhagavan suddenly stood up from His chair on the dais and walked His way to the interview room to the surprise and joy of one and all. Spontaneously, there arose a deafening applause from the devotees who were beside themselves with excitement and joy to see Bhagavan walking, which they had not seen for the last many months. There was a flood of joy in the entire milieu which turned the vast Sai Kulwant Hall virtually into an ocean of bliss. The devotees of Bhagavan

could not ask for a better Christmas gift on this auspicious Christmas day. After receiving Arati at 8.50 a.m., Bhagavan left for His abode.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.45 p.m. and walked His way from the verandah to the dais filling each heart with immeasurable bliss. Standing near the railing of the dais, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the Institute students.

The programme began with a skit presented by the children of Atlanta, USA which showed how the spirit of sacredness behind Christmas celebrations had been marred by the commercialisation of Christmas in many countries of the world. After this short but meaningful skit, children's choir comprising 87 children from 31 countries enthralled the gathering with 14 beautiful songs set to sweet music. Not only was the wording of the songs full of feelings of love, the rendering of the songs was also done with a heart full of love for Jesus and Bhagavan Baba. Thereafter, the adults choir comprising nearly 800 members, both ladies and gents, from 45 countries of the world made a thrilling and soul-stirring presentation of Christmas carols and devotional songs which touched every heart.

The carol singing programme came to a close at 5.00 p.m. Bhajans which followed this programme also filled each heart with sacred feelings. Bhagavan's gracious presence spread spiritual and blissful vibrations in the vast Sai Kulwant Hall. To add more bliss to this joyous occasion, Bhagavan called three youth members of the adults choir one by one, talked to them and materialised gold chains for two and a ring for the third. To top it all, Bhagavan walked again to the verandah and came back to the dais amidst a thunderous applause of the devotees. Before the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan again got up from His chair and asked the members of the choir "Are you happy?" A joyous response arose from all "Yes, Swami." This joyous celebration concluded at 6.05 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Surely, this was a memorable Christmas at Prasanthi Nilayam.

### **Life is a Song, Sing it**

In continuation of the soul-stirring programme on Christmas day, there was another soulful musical presentation on the afternoon of 26th December 2005. The programme commenced after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.00 p.m. The first item of the programme was a musical presentation by Shalom Choir from Australia who sang two beautiful songs in Hebrew commemorating the Jewish festival of Hanukah. Thereafter, the Sathya Sai Singers of Southern California and Hawaii presented seven most beautiful devotional songs. This musical programme entitled "Life is a Song, Sing it" kept the audience spellbound for nearly 45 minutes. The programme was conducted by the famous US choir conductor Ms. Maryalice Jessup. Each heart was filled with the sweetness of the devotional music as the seven songs were sung one after the other with great devotional fervour. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and showered His blessings on the group. Special blessings were in store for the conductor of the programme for whom Bhagavan materialised a gold chain with a pendant of gold cross encrusted with blue sapphires.

This programme concluded at 5.00 p.m. after which there was a soul-stirring programme of Bhajans which were also led by the members of the Sathya Sai Singers of Southern California and Hawaii. The entire gathering was lost in the ecstasy of the sweet

devotional session of Bhajans for nearly one hour. This excellent programme of devotional music came to a close at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

### **DASARA DISCOURSES 2005**

# **GOD INCARNATES TO TRANSFORM MAN**

*True education is that which dispels narrow-mindedness and promotes unity. It teaches man to live peacefully with his fellow human beings and establish peace in the world.*

**(Telugu Poem)**

MERELY reading many books, gathering bookish knowledge and teaching it to others does not signify true education. Bookish knowledge is of little use. By accumulating bookish knowledge, you may perhaps become a book yourself. Real education is that which promotes unity, peace and peaceful co-existence.

#### **The Ramayana Contains Eternal Truths**

Reading books and magazines and acquiring bookish knowledge connotes worldly or secular education. Most people in the world today are pursuing this type of education only. But this cannot be called real education. Real education comes from the heart and is termed as educare. There is a lot of difference between education and educare. Educare comes from within and education from without. Educare is, in fact, the basis and foundation for all types of education. Educare is the Adhara (support) and education is the Adheya (that which is supported). All the books we read help us to acquire secular education. But this is totally inadequate. So, we should acquire educare along with education.

Sage Valmiki composed the great epic Ramayana. It emerged from within him after deep contemplation as a spontaneous expression of his divine feelings. So too is the Bhagavata composed by Sage Vyasa. They were composed by great sages on the basis of the truths experienced by them. These great Rishis (sages) gave expression to their experiential knowledge emerging from the depth of their heart in the form of such great epics. That is why they became immortal works teaching eternal truths unlike those books written on the basis of superficial bookish knowledge. These great epics teach about the divine life and message of Avatars.

During their sojourn in the forest, Rama imparted divine knowledge to Sita. Though she did not reveal it to anyone, she put that knowledge into practice in her life. In the Ashram of Sage Valmiki, she was one day lost in deep contemplation of Rama. She was thinking of the happy days that she had spent in His company and was feeling utterly dejected at the turn of events. Meanwhile, Lava and Kusha returned to the hermitage and saw their mother in tears. They could not understand the reason for her grief. They enquired why

she was in tears. They tried to console her saying, “Mother! Why should you shed tears when you have such brave sons who are even more powerful than Lord Rama? Do not underestimate our strength and valour.” Sage Valmiki who was observing this dialogue between Sita and her sons advised Sita, “Amma! Please control your emotions. These children are not ordinary children. They are not only well educated, they are capable of taking appropriate decisions after deeply contemplating over important issues. They have great sense of discrimination and analytical ability.”

### **The Story of Aswamedha Yajna**

While Rama was ruling the kingdom of Ayodhya, he decided to perform the Aswamedha Yajna. For this purpose, a horse was selected which carried the message to all the rulers of the land that they should accept Rama’s sovereignty. The horse was let out into the country followed by a huge army. While the horse followed by the army was thus moving, one day, it came near the hermitage of Sage Valmiki. Lava and Kusha saw the horse and the army following it. They took the horse under their control and kept it at the hermitage of Valmiki. First, Satrughna confronted Lava and Kusha and tried to dissuade the twin brothers from fighting the battle, saying, “You are still children; you have not faced any difficulty in life so far, being under the loving care of your mother and Sage Valmiki. Please give up the idea of fighting a battle with our army; return to your Ashram. If you still insist on fighting with us, we are ready.” The children could not, however, be persuaded to return to their Ashram. They had no fear of the battle at all. They therefore responded by saying, “We are also ready for the battle.” So saying, they started the battle against Satrughna. Satrughna could not withstand the shower of arrows released by Lava and Kusha and he fainted. The news was conveyed to Rama in Ayodhya. Then Rama sent Bharata and Lakshmana to continue the battle. They too met the same fate as his brother Satrughna.

Finally, news reached Rama that the young boys had subdued Bharata, Lakshmana and Satrughna and their army and that they were ready to confront even Him. Rama now had no choice but to come to the battlefield with His army. Rama tried to convince them to leave the horse and go away since He did not want to fight with them as they were too young. Lava and Kusha did not relent. In the battle that ensued, Rama too was vanquished. When Lava and Kusha returned to their hermitage, Sita and Valmiki came to know what had happened. Valmiki then rushed to the battlefield. Lava and Kusha also followed him. When Valmiki saw Rama, he fell at His feet and told Him that Lava and Kusha were His sons. On coming to know that Lava and Kusha were none other than His own sons, Rama embraced them. Likewise, the twin brothers also realised that their fight was against none other than their own father and they immediately fell at the feet of Rama, begging His pardon. Rama blessed them and caressed them.

### **Put the Teachings of the Ramayana into Practice**

Valmiki composed the great epic Ramayana exactly as the events took place without any imagination or fabrication of events. The great sages and seers in those days spoke nothing but the truth. The Ramayana teaches the principles of Sathya (truth) and Dharma (righteousness). Rama always followed these principles and ruled over His kingdom on the basis of these great ideals. His entire life was a saga of these great values. Not only



did He follow these values, but also exhorted everyone to put them into practice in their life. He did not pay mere lip service to Dharma, but followed it sincerely. Since then, the practice of daily Parayana (reverential reading) of Ramayana has come to stay in the Indian culture and ethos. You might have observed that even in our Ashram also, the Ramayana, Bhagavata and Durga Saptashati are recited during the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna.

You must develop faith in God. If you give room for doubt, even that flicker of faith you have will be extinguished. Hence, faith in God is the essential prerequisite for every human being. In present times, unfortunately, man is gradually losing faith. It is only when man follows God's command that mankind can make progress. The essential commands which God expects man to obey are Sathyam Vada (speak truth) and Dharmam Chara (follow righteousness). But man today is going against the command of God and distorting these principles as Sathyam Vadha (kill the truth) and Dharmam Chera (imprison righteousness). The country will prosper only when this trend is reversed and people follow these principles in letter and spirit. Truth is eternal. Truth is God; speak truth. Truth only will protect you.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

God protects all; He never punishes anyone. Unable to realise this truth, some people attribute unworthy motives to God and accuse Him of making innocent people suffer. Many books are being published now on God, Divinity, etc. But none of these books glorifies the values portrayed in the Ramayana. The great epic Ramayana has been translated into several languages of the world, including Russian. It is a widely read classic in the world. Many people from other countries not only read Ramayana in their own language, but they even worship and revere this great epic. The other day, the First Lady of Kazakhstan visited Prasanthi Nilayam and heard My Discourse on the Ramayana with great reverence and joy. In fact, Ramayana is held in high esteem in many erstwhile communist countries. The people of these countries have developed great faith in the Ramayana and the Ramayana way of life. Unfortunately, Indians are still lagging behind in this regard. Due to their subjugation by the British for a long period of time, Indians lost faith in their great epics. The Ramayana is a great spiritual text which everyone should read with utmost reverence and devotion.

#### **World Unity is Imminent**

God loves everyone. He does not hate anyone. In fact, God does not know what anger, hatred and envy are. Unfortunately, such a loving God is being subjected to criticism by many people. God brings about transformation in the hearts of human beings. If you pray sincerely, you can also experience transformation. Note this important point that within a short period of time, the entire world will come together and live in peace and unity (*loud and prolonged applause*). I assure you that the world unity will occur very soon. Conflicts, differences and hatred will become a thing of the past. The differences that you witness today will not be seen in future. All the people will then follow the ideal of unity as enshrined in the Vedic prayer:

*Let us all move together, let us all grow together,  
Let us all stay united and grow in intelligence together,  
Let us live together with friendship and harmony. (Telugu Poem)*

*Embodiments of Love!*

No one can describe God's love as this or that. If you hate such a loving God, it amounts to hating yourself. Hence, all of you should love God. Develop love more and more. Expand your love. The Navaratri celebrations and the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna are coming to a close. On the final day of the Yajna, Poornahuti (final oblations) will be offered in the sacred fire of Yajna. Poornahuti is a symbolic ritual wherein one should put one's evil qualities in the sacrificial fire and come out pure and sacred. If you follow this sacred path, the whole world will be transformed. Constantly chant the Divine Name of Rama wherever you are and whatever be your circumstances. Never forget Rama Nama.

(Bhagavan concluded His Divine Discourse with the Bhajan "Rama Rama Rama Sita ...")

**– From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 10th October 2005.**

***FESTIVALS / EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2006***

11th Jan.	..	Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of SSSIHL
14th Jan.	..	Sankranti
26th Feb.	..	Sivarathri
30th Mar.	..	Ugadi (Telugu New Year Day)
7th Apr.	..	Sri Rama Navami
14th Apr.	..	Tamil New Year Day
14th Apr.	..	Vishu (Malayalam New Year Day)
6th May	..	Easwaramma Day
13th May	..	Buddha Purnima
7th Jul.	..	Ashadi Ekadasi
11th Jul.	..	Guru Purnima
16th Aug.	..	Sri Krishna Janmashtami
27th Aug.	..	Ganesh Chaturthi
5th Sept.	..	Onam
2nd Oct.	..	Vijaya Dasami
21st Oct.	..	Deepavali
11th Nov. (6 p.m.) -		
12th Nov. (6 p.m.)		Global Akhanda Bhajan
19th Nov.	..	Ladies Day
22nd Nov.	..	25th Convocation of SSSIHL

23rd Nov. .. Bhagavan's 81st Birthday  
25th Dec. .. Christmas

*An institution of hope for destitute children*

## **SRI SATHYA SAI DEENAJANODDHARANA PATHAKAM**

**K. Geetha Paramahamsa**

ARE YOU STUDYING IN CLASS VII?" Swami paused before a group of 60 boys sitting in the south-eastern corner of Sai Kulwant Hall, and asked one during Darshan. It was around January 2004.

"No, Swami!" the boy replied kneeling down humbly before Bhagavan.

"VIII?"

"No, Swami!"

"IX?"

"No, Swami!"

"What are you studying?" Swami asked.

"Class X, Swami", the boy answered. It was, no doubt, odd, but nevertheless a fact. Swami had a hearty laugh before He remarked, "jumping and jumping up!" and moved on.

The boy, an inmate of the Children's Home established by Bhagavan under the Deenajanoddharana Pathakam on 20th June 2002, was one of the seven boys appearing for the Class X public examination in March 2004. He is among the 62 boys that came to Bhagavan to share His compassion and benediction. All the seven boys passed Class X, six in first class and one in second class!

A few weeks before Bhagavan inaugurated the Pathakam, He had told at a meeting in Sai Kulwant Hall of His anguish and deep concern, moved by a press report in a Telugu daily, that a woman with her four children had committed suicide unable to maintain them and herself, on the death of her husband. Immediately thereafter, He instructed enumeration of destitute boys in the three Mandals of Puttaparthi, Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam. Over eighty boys with their relations came to Prasanthi Nilayam on 20th June 2002. Of them, only sixty-two boys (including two that have recently been admitted) with twelve mothers have stayed on to receive Bhagavan's benediction. The youngest of them was only ten months old and the eldest was under thirteen in June 2002.

When the boys came from the dusty villages, they were looking shabby in dirty rags, and undernourished. Some had skin problems while several had problems with eyesight. All needed a haircut and bath, to begin with. As they were brought to Prasanthi Nilayam along with their relations, they were housed in shed No. 30 in the Ashram. Bhagavan came to the shed on that day and distributed new clothes and other accessories to them, as they had nothing to use.

While they were in the shed for about five weeks, the first thing they began to learn was Veda chanting. How could it be otherwise for the children of Veda Purusha? Now they recite Veda well. A few months later, Bhagavan asked late Sri P.V.Narasimha Rao to

visit the Children's Home (the complex to which the boys were shifted in July 2003). It was a surprise visit. When Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao went round the Home and listened to the recitation of Veda by the boys, he remarked, "simply enchanting!"

When the boys were shifted to the new sprawling complex on the Guru Purnima Day, 25th July 2003, Swami personally went there and boiled milk (boiling milk is a ritual observed by the house owner while house-warming). The new complex has a prayer hall, a spacious dining hall with a modern kitchen and stores attached. It has about 200 independent rooms with a toilet and a bath attached to each. A solar water heater provides hot water to all the inmates of the Home.

A few days after their moving into the new complex, they were in Sai Kulwant Hall for Darshan of Bhagavan when fruits were being distributed among all the devotees present. One of the students who came to the group of inmates of the Home, distributing fruits, offered a fruit to one boy Nagendra. "No, thanks", the boy declined politely, "you have given me one already!"

"What a contrast to some among the grown-ups and so-called educated who pester us for more, even after getting their due," the student wondered. That is the level of transformation brought about in the boys in a few days after coming into the fold of Bhagavan. Bhagavan knows whatever happens in the universe. Does He not know about what happens in the Mandir? He walked slowly to the boy and offered a fruit Himself.

"No, thanks, Swami", he said, "I got already."

"Doesn't matter, take it", said Swami, "I am giving it."

"No, thanks, Swami", the boy politely declined.

"What do you want?" Swami asked.

"Chaduvu (education), Swami!" the boy answered.

Everyone was pleasantly surprised.

"I will arrange that", promised Swami.

Swami again asked, "What more do you want?"

"Nothing, except education", the boy answered.

Swami was pleased. He materialised a gold chain and put it around the boy's neck Himself.

Swami followed up His promise promptly. A new school building with eight classrooms came up in the complex in just two months. Trained teachers among Seva Dal volunteers teach the boys. Besides, quite a few devotees of Bhagavan work there voluntarily.

Bhagavan inaugurated the new school building in February 2003. He went into each classroom, touched each blackboard and blessed it. The boys, who were then attending their classes in some rooms of the complex, promptly moved into the new school building.

"Till recently, we had no square meal a day and none to care for us", an inmate recalls. "Today Swami has arranged everything for us. We are well clad and well fed. At the time of our arrival here, we underwent a health check-up, the first in our life. We get sumptuous breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and dinner, not to speak of frequent bouts of Prasadam Swami sends us – especially fruits, sweets, dry fruits, cashew nuts, biscuits and chocolates – all in baskets!"

Each inmate has six pairs of dress, two pairs of night dress, sweaters and rugs in winter, mattresses, pillows, bed sheets, shoes, chappals and what not.

“We enjoy all facilities here on par with the inmates of hostels of other Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions, may be better”, an inmate claims happily. “Not only that, we are given equal opportunities to stage cultural programmes like them on occasions such as the Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Bhagavan’s Birthday celebrations, festivals like Ugadi, etc.”

Daily routine in the Children’s Home begins at 4.30 a.m. when the boys wake up and join Nagar Sankirtan. Jogging follows. On return, they bathe and sit for Bhajan. After breakfast, they go to school at 7.30 a.m. At 10 a.m. they have a few minutes’ break to have milk. At 12, they move for lunch. After lunch, they relax for a while, do homework, etc., and return to school by 2 p.m. They attend Bal Vikas classes between 4.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. when they go into their own spacious playground to play. After bath, they have dinner at 6.30 p.m., do homework and study up to 10 p.m. before they pray and go to bed. The boys find time for hobbies such as kitchen gardening, painting, cultural activities, etc. They have been initiated into yoga and are now able to perform as many as 26 Asanas with ease.

Boys who passed Class X in March 2004 are now taking the Senior Secondary grade of the National Institute of Open Schooling. They opted for two subjects in computer science besides English for examination in April-May 2005. They will take examination in mathematics and accountancy in 2005-06 when they qualify for admission to the BCA Course of the Indira Gandhi National Open University in July 2006. The Computer Lab at the Home has eleven systems all local area networked (LAN). Ten other boys will take the Class X examination of the Andhra Pradesh State Board of Secondary Education in March 2006.

“We go for Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall on Thursdays and Sundays, and on every festival day by a special bus”, an inmate says, “and return recharged with His bliss.” “At the outset, we fell for the excellent food we were having for the first time in our life. Today we realise the more valuable things we receive here owing to His grace – motherly love and affection, good bringing up in value system and quality education tempered with spirituality. I do not know how many among the millions of contemporary students in the country are that lucky.”

Bhagavan pauses before the group of the boys during Darshan, and makes affectionate enquiries about their food, facilities, health, education, etc. As Bhagavan goes by the boys in Sai Kulwant Hall, most devotees feel that Bhagavan has utmost concern and compassion for these boys.

Bhagavan’s love and compassion for them knows no bounds. When the Class X public examination was approaching, one boy told Swami in the Darshan line, “I am not able to remember what I study, Swami!”

“That is education, my boy!” Bhagavan quipped, a comment on the present-day system of education in which we learn not much worthwhile to remember.

On 17th March 2003, Bhagavan went to the Home. It was the day on which the public examination for Class X commenced.

Bhagavan blessed the boys taking the examination personally, putting Vibhuti on the forehead of each of them. Parents see their children off to examinations. Here Lord Himself arrived to bless them and see them off to their examinations. What a blessed lot!

Bhagavan had set apart one lakh rupees for each of the boys at the time of launching the scheme. This will be gifted with the interest that it earns on the completion of their education and finding a placement for service. Bhagavan once explained, “This is only a token of what Swami gifts them, because they bask all the time in His Divine aura, enjoying His love, compassion and protection invaluable!”

Besides the boys, the mothers of some of them, twelve, live in the Home. Some serve as Ayahs to the boys, besides helping in the upkeep and maintenance of the Home.

One, Smt. Venkatalakshmi, had her backbone broken completely. She was in bed when she entered the Home. She underwent physiotherapy in Bhagavan’s General Hospital at Whitefield, Bangalore. It is just a miracle that she now attends to her work on her own. “I am having physiotherapy as advised. But my hope centres on Sai therapy – incessant chanting of Sai Ram”, Smt. Venkatalakshmi says, “It has paid off. Swami, in His abundant grace, has allowed me very good improvement in stages. Today I can attend to my work without support of others. I can even walk around using the walker. It is purely a Sai miracle that I am back on my legs.”

“Our best resource here is prayer”, says an inmate. “Whenever anyone of us has a problem, we all pray together for him, and Swamiresponds. When someone is ill, they take him promptly to the hospital for treatment. But, on our part, we pray for him, and he will be back soon in good health owing to Bhagavan’s grace.” It is no surprise that one boy is completely cured of cancer in the throat having undergone surgery twice in the Kidwai Hospital at Bangalore. A couple of boys have been treated of suspected tuberculosis with no trace of it. At least a dozen boys have had fractures of leg or hand on different occasions, but everything is set. More surprisingly, a dumb boy that came with his dumb mother is now able to speak and study, and is no different from others.

The boys have their own Homa Kunda – of all things! “Whenever they performed Homa (Yajna), there was rain. It is remarkable”, one teacher at the Home noted. “They do Homa with Sai Gayatri or do Ganesh Homa.” They celebrate festivals of all religions. The mothers have grown spiritually, beyond imagination. They do Sai Vratams, Sita Vratams, etc. They themselves feel that they have shed the vestiges of their earlier cantankerous environment of filth, squalour and slang.

“Our aspiration in life is clear”, an inmate declares. “We have, no doubt, ambition to come up in life getting good education and winning high positions. More than that, we aspire to shape into effective instruments of Bhagavan to perform His work on earth, as a member of the universal Sai family, imbibing human values dear to His heart.”

So moves on the caravan – SAI caravan!

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **BHAGAVAN’S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

*80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated on 23rd November 2005 with an unprecedented outpouring of love from hundreds of thousands of devotees who came to Puttaparthi from all over the world for Bhagavan's Darshan on this auspicious day. This, however, was a fraction of the devotees the world over who celebrated the 80th year of the Advent of Bhagavan in their respective countries with gratitude, love and selfless service. A brief description of the global activities, celebrating Bhagavan's 80th Birthday follows.*

## **G U Y A N A**

His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Republic of Guyana conveyed a written message of greetings to Bhagavan Baba on His 80th Birthday on behalf of the people of Guyana. In the message, he stated: "You inspire millions of people around the world to transform their lives, and at the same time lift their spiritual consciousness. Your presence gives us all hope for a more compassionate and humane global society where all are guided by the principle of the Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God. The success of Your Avataric mission is evident all around us, as more people are responding positively to the plight of the poor, suffering and downtrodden in the world."

## **U S A**

Much like the City of St. Louis did in September 2005, the City of Little Rock, Arkansas proclaimed 23rd November as Sri Sathya Sai Baba Day.

Birthday celebrations held in Northern California on 24th November 2005 were attended by 1,250 devotees. They all witnessed the actual Birthday celebrations in Puttaparthi projected on a large screen. This was followed by devotional singing. Seva was performed in celebration of the Birthday. Sai Centres delivered a large quantity of rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil and clothing to homeless people in San Francisco. Akhanda Bhajan was attended by more than 500 people.

In Southern California, Akhanda Bhajan was held on 12th and 13th November in the city of Norwalk. Approximately 1,000 devotees were present during the last several hours of the Bhajan. Devotees also celebrated Swami's 80th Birthday on 20th November 2005. The programme consisted of a play by SSE children on stories of Swami's childhood, talks by old time devotees and Bhajans.

In Arizona, 80 blankets and 80 lunches were distributed to children. Approximately 300 devotees attended the Birthday celebrations chanting Sai Ashtottaram, Sai Gayatri, singing Bhajans and ending with cake cutting.

In Colorado, devotees distributed a truckload of clothes and food in the city of Saguache. On 23rd November 2005, 150 devotees gathered to celebrate Swami's Birthday with Bhajans, skits by Bal Vikas students and cake cutting.

The Flushing Sai Centre in New York celebrated Swami's 80th Birthday on 24th November 2005. They also hosted Akhanda Bhajan on 12th and 13th November, which was attended by more than 350 devotees.

Over 600 devotees gathered in Baltimore, Maryland to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday which included a devotional programme, medical camp, cleaning inner city neighbourhoods and delivering food to shelters for the homeless.

#### **C A N A D A**

An eight-day-long celebration was held in Ontario, Canada to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday. The spiritual vibrations were shared by a large congregation of approximately 1,000.

A national programme called "HOST" was initiated to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday. Sai devotees volunteered to adopt refugee families and provide them with food, clothing, shelter, assistance and friendship so as to help each family towards financial self-sufficiency. Fifteen families have been adopted and, in a twist of Sai coincidence, the government has offered another 80 families for adoption during this year.

Birthday celebrations were also held in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto, Brampton, Ottawa and Montreal where Birthday Bhajans were sung and food distributed to the needy.

#### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

On 23rd November 2005, Birthday celebrations held in the Foodlands Hotel Banquet Hall in Abu Dhabi were attended by 750 devotees. The programme consisted of Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Bhajans. The Centre, which had planned to complete 80 lakh Likhita Nama Japa (writing the Divine Name), instead came close to one crore Likhita Japas in time for the Birthday. Ladies Day was celebrated in the auditorium of the Indian Embassy with a two-day function which included skits, Arabic dance and Bhajans attended by 200 devotees. Akhanda Bhajan was held in the Foodlands Hotel Banquet Hall and 400 devotees attended. In Oman, a blood donation drive that planned to collect 80 units of blood collected 136 units. The Director, Department of Blood Services, Ministry of Health commended the Sai group for their humanitarian work.

#### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

After three years of severe war, Bosnia and Herzegovina has many refugees who live in nursing homes and have no families. Devotees of Bosnia Sathya Sai Centre visited these nursing homes on 22nd November 2005. They warmly greeted the residents and offered food and sang Bhajan in Bosnian language for Christian and Muslim residents.

#### **BULGARIA**

About 30 devotees gathered in the capital city of Sofia to celebrate Swami's 80th Birthday with multi-faith Bhajans and distribution of food.

#### **CROATIA**

In the capital city of Zagreb, Republic of Croatia, over 700 people attended the Birthday celebrations in a hall with a capacity of 537. Celebrations consisted of Bhajan singing, screening of the movie "His Work" and distribution of Prasadam. Similar celebrations took place in the cities of Rijeka, Bjelovar, Osijek and Split.

#### **SLOVENIA**



In Ljubljana, Slovenia, Akhanda Bhajan was sung on 11th November 2005 and was followed by the recital of Sai Gayatri 1,008 times. On 23rd November 2005, approximately 100 people gathered to celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday with a video presentation of Swami's Darshan, a spiritual play and distribution of a brochure describing Bhagavan's social and educational projects.

#### **COSTA RICA**

In the auditorium of the Federation of Voluntary Organisations, San Jose, 70 people gathered on 27th November 2005 and sang Bhajans, performed a children's play on human values, listened to a talk on Swami's life and service projects and watched a slide show of the 80th Birthday celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

#### **EL SALVADOR**

On 27th November 2005, more than 350 Salvadorian devotees assembled to celebrate Swami's 80th Birthday. In an auditorium overlooking scenic mountainsides and volcanoes, devotees enjoyed a talk about Bhagavan Baba and His humanitarian work as well as a musical performance.

#### **VENEZUELA**

Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was celebrated in Caracas, Venezuela at the National University and was attended by over 500 people including some Government officials. The event consisted of choir singing, a Ramayana play and singing by musical groups. Thirteen Sai Centres participated in this grand event.

#### **PANAMA**

National service for the underprivileged was the theme for Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations in Panama. In the city of Colon, 80 surgeries were performed free of charge for the economically disadvantaged population. In Panama City, 200 food bags and 250 snack baskets were distributed to the needy, a community centre was renovated and 80 baskets of well-baby care products were distributed at the Santo Tomas Hospital. At a children's centre, 100 toys and gifts were distributed.

#### **TAIWAN**

On 23rd November 2005, 75 devotees gathered at the Taiwan Sathya Sai Centre to celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday. Beginning from the November 2005 Global Akhanda Bhajan day, Bhagavan's "Thought for the Day" now appears in the popular Chinese daily newspaper "China Post".

Devotees visited a Home for the elderly and physically challenged persons and distributed 9 wheelchairs and a physiotherapy table. A blood donation camp was carried out and 120 units of blood were collected. Sai Gayatri was sung continuously for two hours by local residents at a Chinese temple.

#### **BRUNEI**

In the Sultanate of Brunei, Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations were held at the Akhar Gurkha temple on 23rd November 2005 with Suprabhatam, Ashtottaram and Bhajans, and were attended by over 200 devotees.

## **HONG KONG**

Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations began in early November. On 6th November 2005, 800 families received with love 10,000 kilos of rice, packed in bags with the Sai Organisation's logo and Sai's message of "Love All, Serve All" in Chinese together with 800 quilts and 800 Seva packets, containing basic household necessities. There was also a public forum on the humanitarian works of Bhagavan on the same day. On 2nd December 2005, the Birthday programme was attended by 1,500 people. At the end of the programme, a DVD with Swami's photos, Bhajans and biography was distributed.

## **K O R E A**

Akhanda Bhajan was held on 12-13th November. Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated at the Sai Centre on 23rd November 2005 and also at the Korean Methodist Women's Society on 4th December 2005. The highlights of the event were a speech by the Indian Ambassador to Korea and a cultural programme.

## **M A L A Y S I A**

Approximately 2,000 devotees from all the Sai Centres in Malaysia celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday on 4th December 2005 in Juara Stadium, Kuala Lumpur from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. The programme began with Paduka procession followed by universal prayers, Bhajans and a blood donation drive.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

Birthday celebrations in the capital city of Auckland began with a weeklong service project in November 2005 which included delivery of food to a night shelter, blood donation camp, soup kitchen for 70 people, distribution of food, singing at nursing homes and hospitals, distribution of toys at a children's hospital and free medical clinics. Similar events of service and devotion took place in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region and the Wellington region. On 23rd November 2005, a public function was held in Auckland which was attended by 2,000 people. The event was celebrated with plays, music and Bhajans.

## **SRI LANKA**

In the Sai Baba Centre of Colombo, 1,500 devotees took part in various festivities for the 80th Birthday that included Bhajan singing, plays and talks by speakers of all religions. As Birthday gift, Sri Lankan devotees offered the following service projects: 80 cornea transplants, 80 wheelchairs, 80 artificial limbs, 80 tube wells, 80 small houses built for homeless families, 80 cataract surgeries, 9 medical camps and 9 public awareness meetings on Bhagavan's teachings.

## **B R A Z I L**

Rather than having small celebrations in individual centres, all 5 Sai Centres of Sao Paulo, Brazil decided to get together to celebrate Swami's 80th Birthday on 23rd November. More than 400 devotees attended the meeting which included an excellent musical programme by talented artistes.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

On 12th and 13th November 2005, Region 2 embarked on a ground breaking event by hosting Akhanda Bhajan at regional level in London. The spirit of unity was evident when all the 15 Sai Centres and Groups of the region participated in 24 hours of singing the glories of the Lord.

On Sunday 20th November, Ladies Day was celebrated by approximately 200 devotees from Region 5. SSE students commenced the celebrations with heartfelt prayers, and later gave short speeches about great women. Children from the Sathya Sai School of Leicester performed two excellent short plays on Florence Nightingale and Mother Teresa. The programme also included two guest speakers and devotional singing. The programme truly captured the essence of Ladies Day and was a day to remember.

All five regions celebrated Swami's 80th Birthday. Programmes included devotional singing, prayers, plays and panel discussion. The Mayor of Brent who was the Chief Guest at one regional celebrations commented on the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the SSE students in taking on a vital role today to first learn about their heritage and then to show the importance of human values that are so needed in the world now. The Mayor was very much impressed to learn that the UK Sai Organisation was not only celebrating the 80th Birthday of Swami but also 40 years of 'Selfless Service - Love in Action', in the United Kingdom.

## **AUSTRALIA**

In all the States and territories of Australia, Bhagavan Baba's 80th Birthday was celebrated with enthusiasm and devotion. In the capital cities, large events were held with overall attendances exceeding 5,500 people. Many Centres and Zones focused on service activities to celebrate the Birthday. Service work included a weekend at Toomelah aboriginal community where a water purification plant was installed.

In Sai Centres throughout Australia, devotees worked to deliver hampers, gift packs and school kits to homeless and needy families. Blood donations were organised, and in Perth this exceeded 500 units of blood in an outpouring of devotion. At the national level, 7,000 sleeping bags have been sent to the earthquake victims in Pakistan.

Many of the celebration programmes extended through the day with devotional singing, morality plays and sketches. Inspiring speeches relating to Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life of love and service, and His remarkable achievements in the areas of health, education and water projects were given. Other events focused on the need to put into practice His message and His teachings. Those attending the events reported that joy and love was evident in abundance throughout the Birthday events.

## **BOTSWANA**

Swami's 80th Birthday was celebrated by the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Gaborone, Botswana on 23rd November 2005; 600 people attended the celebration. The programme was in two sessions and included devotional singing, cake cutting, and video presentation. Special service at Day Care Centre for Destitute Children at Old Naledi in Gaborone city was organised. Fruits, bread and milk were distributed to 54 children of

Day Care Centre. In addition to the regular services, on Saturday 20th November 2005 a special service was organised at Tlomalong Centre (Red Cross Society) for physically challenged children in Tlokweng village. Fruits, bread and milk were distributed to physically challenged children and three wheel chairs were donated.

### **F I J I**

Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was celebrated by the eight districts in Fiji attended by approximately 4,000 people. All meetings were held in the evenings with 2-hour programmes which included performances by youth and Bal Vikas children and talks on Swami's teaching. A number of service activities were also conducted to coincide with Swami's Birthday. This included distribution of 80 food parcels to poor and needy in a number of districts and blood donation. It was a wonderful week of celebrations and service to poor and needy in a spirit of love.

### **R U S S I A**

It took the whole year to get ready for the celebration of Swami's 80th Birthday in St. Petersburg. About 250 people attended the function. The audience was rather heterogeneous comprising long-time devotees and newcomers. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation members shared with the audience many inter-regional and international events such as the medical camps, community service projects, children's camps and conferences with the help of audio visual material. Newsletters covering all the events conducted by the Sai Organisation and big 2006 wall calendars with Swami's portrait were sold. As most leading singers had left for Prashanti Nilayam, the remaining singers had to invest much time and effort to practise the Bhajans and enlarge the repertoire. This year, singing of Bhajans was accompanied by showing the film "Pure Love" with Swami walking among the devotees talking to them, giving them Prasad and materialising Vibhuti. Combining Bhajans with the screening of the film made the audience ecstatic. We are indebted and grateful to Bhagavan for this wonderful opportunity to celebrate His 80th Birthday with love and humility.

**– Prasanthi Council**

### **B H A R A T**

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** In order to create public awareness about Bhagavan's mission and to spread His message of love, Digboi Bhajan Mandali in the district of Tinsukia celebrated Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Digboi with colourful programmes in the premises of Durgabari Girls High School. The unique aspect of the celebration was the huge rally held from the premises of the school to Muliabari Bihutoli covering the main thoroughfare of the town to the delight of the people.

In the temple town of Sivasagar, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi has constructed a new building for Bal Vikas and Sai activities, the ground floor of which was completed and dedicated to the Lotus Feet on His 80th Birthday on 23rd November 2005. As a part of celebration, colourful illumination of the building was done in the evening.

**Punjab:** An 80-hour Akhanda Bhajan was organised at Abohar from 22nd September to 25th September 2005. More than 10,000 persons attended the Bhajan during these four

days. All the Samithis of Punjab actively participated in the Akhanda Bhajan. Devotee singers and Bhajan leaders sang Bhajans with full devotion. Free food was served throughout this period.

Global Akhanda Bhajan was organised on 12th and 13th November 2005 in 26 Samithis in the State. On an average, 150 – 300 persons attended the Global Akhanda Bhajan at each place.

80 Nagar Sankirtans were held at Ludhiana starting from 4th September 2005 to 22nd November 2005. On the concluding day, a grand Rath Yatra (chariot procession) with Bhagavan's portrait was taken out throughout the city. A large number of devotees followed the Ratha and sang Sarva Dharma Bhajans on the way.

On 23rd November 2005, grand functions, lectures, Nagar Sankirtans, special Bhajans, Narayana Seva, etc., were held in all the Samithis of the State.

An artificial limbs camp was organised at Gurdaspur on 6th November 2005 in which 170 physically challenged persons were provided with free artificial limbs. Narayana Seva and Sai Bhajans were also held.

**Tamil Nadu:** The State was affected by three major bouts of floods in the months of November and December 2005. Seva activities were undertaken by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu in the flood ravaged areas in Chennai Metro and other districts of Tamil Nadu. In Anna Nagar area of Chennai Metro, our Seva Dal volunteers distributed 625 kg rice in packets of 5 kg each to 125 families in Vedachalam Nagar, Koyambedu on 12th November 2005.

In Chennai Metro, 15 Sai Youth constructed a float using bamboo sticks and barrels and rescued 20 people marooned in the swirling waters in Madipakkam area on 2nd December 2005. Bread, bun and biscuits were served to about 50 people stranded at the Koyambedu Bus Terminus.

On 3rd and 4th December when many areas of Chennai Metro got submerged in the water released from Sembarampakkam Lake, our Samithi members prepared and distributed food packets to 1200 persons in Choolaimedu area. Wading through knee-deep water, the food was served to the people at their doorstep as Prasadam from Swami. 40 members of the Chennai Youth (some of them trained in Disaster Management) got together and assessed the needs of the people marooned on the bank of the Adyar river in Mallikaipoo Nagar. As the people were getting cooked food from the government agencies, they organised hot milk and biscuits. This was distributed to 300 homes by wading through water to their homes and using emergency lights.

Thanjavur and Trichy districts were affected by the flood waters of Cauvery and Coleroon. On 26th and 27th November, Sai Samithis in Thanjavur district swung into action. 60 gents Seva Dal and 35 Mahila Seva Dal members distributed in all 2200 packets of food in the villages of Arasangudi, Kilikodu, Savithrasanallur, Thozhur, Muthiapuram, Alamankurichi and Parattai.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** The auspicious 80th Birthday of Bhagavan was celebrated with great devotional fervour and enthusiasm all over the two States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal with Nagar Sankirtan, Homam, Nama Sankirtan, video

shows of Swami's life and message and distribution of Prasadam. The celebrations were spread over one week to ten days in many districts.

Bags containing 5 kg wheat flour, 1 kg pulses, 1 kg salt were distributed to 80 selected very poor families in a slum area in an adopted village on 17th November 2005. Narayana Seva in the leprosy colony was done on 18th November 2005.

As a part of celebration of the 80th year of the Advent of Bhagavan, a seminar was organised from 14th to 18th October. 80 woollen sweaters were given to pre-selected poor children. On the Ladies Day on 19th November, Rangoli was made on the Sangam site (confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati) and decorated with 80 lighted lamps. 80 Saris were distributed to poor ladies by going from door to door. A 25 kg cake was cut on Bhagavan's Birthday. Narayana Seva was done amongst lepers, mentally challenged children and orphanages. All lepers were given blankets. Children were given warm clothes. 80 glasses and 80 plates were given to lepers. An 80-minute Bhajan was organised on Bhagavan's Birthday. 80 sewing machines along with certificates were given to the ladies who took training in tailoring and embroidery.

A big medical camp was organised on 6th November in which 480 people from slum areas were checked up: pathological tests were also made and free medicines were distributed. 91 spectacles were given free and 20 people were operated upon for cataract. On 19th November 2005, five elderly ladies connected with Sai Organisation for about 30 years were honoured with shawls. A Kalash Yatra was taken out on Bhagavan's Birthday on 23rd November 2005 in which 300 ladies and gents participated. A cultural programme was presented by children at the end of this procession. Narayana Seva was conducted in lepers' colony. The programme ended with fireworks display.

## **Chinna Katha**

### **LEAVE WHAT MUST BE LEFT**

ONCE a king went to a forest for hunting. There he was separated from his entourage and lost the way. While walking in darkness, he slipped and fell into an old well. Fortunately, he firmly caught hold of some roots of the branches of a nearby banyan tree as they were hanging in the well. Thereby, he saved himself from falling into the well.

After some time, a person doing Nama Sankirtan happened to pass that way. Hearing the sound of groaning coming from a nearby place indicating that someone was in distress, he came near the well and peeped into it. Seeing someone hanging in the well, he managed to procure a rope from somewhere to pull him out. Throwing the rope in the well, he addressed the person in trouble, "Catch hold of this rope firmly; I will try to pull you out slowly." The king had a doubt: what should I catch at – the roots of the branches of the banyan tree or the rope?

In the same way, man becomes the victim of doubts in certain situations and loses his discrimination. First, the roots of the branches of the banyan tree were the means by which the king saved himself. But to come out of the well, he should have left those roots and caught hold of the rope. Here, the roots symbolise the world which man keeps holding. But some day or the other, he has to know the path which can lead him to his redemption. Leaving the roots and catching the rope are the means which lead him to the path of his liberation.

In the rose plant of our body, there is the rose of pure and sacred love emitting the fragrance of good qualities. Below the rose, however, there are thorns in the form of sensual desires. The purpose of meditation is to separate the rose of selfless love from the senses and offer it to the Lord.

- Baba

## **Treasures of the Spirit**

Man cannot take any step in life disregarding the influence of the social environment. Every thought of man is determined by the law of necessity, which depends upon surrounding factors and purity of heart. In the attempt to love himself, man is bound to love all others around. Love, happiness and delight are the treasures of the Spirit. They are best enjoyed when their fruits are shared with others in a spirit of friendliness.

## BACK COVER MATTER

### Qualities of an Ideal Student

When the sun is over your head, there will be no shadow. So, too, when faith is steady in your heart, it should not cast any shadow of doubt. Do not talk ill of others; talk only of the good in them. All are good. If you see bad in them, it is because there is bad in you. If you do not like someone, do not mix with him. Grace is the sunlight which will ripen the fruit; Sadhana (spiritual practice) is the sap which rises from earth. Both are needed by the tree in order that it may yield fruit.

- Baba

FEBRUARY 2006

SANKRANTI SANDESH

## REALISE THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN BIRTH

*God is love and love is God. True spiritual discipline lies in developing love to love relationship with all. Dear children! Hold on to this principle of love and demonstrate the ideal of unity.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Dear Students – Boys and Girls!*

HUMAN life is highly sacred. God incarnates in the form of a human being. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). Divinity is not different from humanity. It is immanent in humanity. The human form is a combination of five elements, namely, earth, water, fire, air and ether. It is the divine power of the Atma which makes the five elements function. What is the form of the Atma? Many people often ask this question. In fact, it transcends all names and forms. Do not entertain the mistaken notion that God is confined to a specific form.



### **Educare is Transformation-oriented**

One does not become a human being merely because one is endowed with a human form. It is the conduct and behaviour that make one a real human being. In the same manner, mere acquisition of bookish knowledge does not make one truly educated. Such worldly education is negative. Who is a Vidyarthi (student)? One who pursues educare is a Vidyarthi in the true sense of the term. One must understand the distinction between education and educare. Whereas education is information-oriented, educare is transformation-oriented. Education is limited to physical and mental levels. Just as the rivers like Krishna and Godavari have a source from which they originate, the source of all knowledge is the heart. Physical and worldly knowledge corresponds to education. Educare is related to our inner feelings and purity of heart. Our Maata, Paata and Baata (speech, song and way of life) originate from the heart. If the inner feelings are good, your speech and actions will also be good. The essence of all knowledge is educare. Even though you may acquire a number of degrees, you cannot be called truly educated if you lack purity of heart. Very few today make efforts to understand what educare is. Only those endowed with practical knowledge and wisdom can understand and appreciate the concept of educare. Others are deluded by their high academic degrees. They are interested only in acquiring bookish knowledge and disseminating the same. Such vain pursuits will not entitle them to be called really educated.

Students today acquire various academic degrees such as B.A., M.A., C.A., Ph.D., etc. Acquisition of these degrees relates to worldly education. It is Bahya (external) learning while educare relates to Bhava (inner feelings). However, those who understand the real purpose of education and its inner significance are rare. Once you understand the purpose of education and act accordingly, your life will be redeemed. You should utilise your knowledge and intelligence for the benefit of society. Keep your emotions under check. Do not fret and fume over every trivial issue. Do not lose your temper. A true human being is one who has complete control over himself. You learn many things from books and your teachers in the classroom. But it is essential that you should also understand the nature of your body, mind, intellect, Chitta (mind-stuff) and Antahkarana (inner motivator) so that you are able to realise your inner self.

### **God is the Source of Everything**

Every individual has three Gunas (attributes), namely, Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas. Sattwa Guna reflects our inner purity. Rajo Guna is the basis of our actions. Tamo Guna signifies sloth and ignorance. However, the fundamental truth is that it is the Atma which controls the functioning of the human body. You perform various actions. You participate in sports and games. All these represent Rajo Guna. These days people talk about Parartha (welfare of others) without giving up Swartha (selfishness). This is a grave error. You should give up Swartha in the first instance and consider Parartha as the basis of all your endeavours.

What is most essential is the purity of inner feelings and faith in God. God is the Adhara (support) and everything else is Adheya (supported). Divinity is one. The Vedas therefore declare: *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many). Names and forms may vary, but the inherent divine principle is one and the same. For example, this hall is

illuminated with a number of bulbs, but the electric current that flows through them is the same. Similarly, sweets may be many, but the essential ingredient of sugar that imparts sweetness to them is the same. Quite often, we merely go by names and forms, forgetting the reality.

A human being should essentially have three qualities – Nischalatwa, Nirmalatwa and Nirmohatwa (steadiness, purity and detachment). One who has these three qualities is verily God Himself. You do not need to enquire from others whether you are good or bad. Your conscience is the judge. You should think of God always. There have been many divine incarnations in the past, but the divine principle in all of them is one and the same. Just as sugar assumes the form of a variety of sweets, divinity is manifested in various forms. People worship God, sing His glory, thinking that He is present at some distant place. Your heart is the temple of God. Hence, fill your heart with love. One bereft of love cannot be called a human being. In fact, the Panchabhutas (five elements) are the very manifestations of God. Consider the five elements as divine and make proper use of them.

Who has given you life? What is the source from which it has originated? Have you acquired it by some spiritual practice? No! God gives you life and He is the one who sustains it. He is present in every living being in the form of the Atma. Students study a number of books and acquire high academic qualifications. What is the source of all their knowledge and learning? They consider various factors as the sources of their learning. But the reality is that the source of all knowledge is God. Everything has originated from God. But man is unable to realise this truth due to his delusion. First and foremost, develop firm faith that God exists. When He incarnates in human form, He conducts Himself like a human being so that man can understand divinity and sacredness of human birth.

The Atma represents the oneness of all beings. Ultimately, everything merges in the Atma.

*Religions are many but goal is one.*

*Clothes are many but yarn is one.*

*Jewels are many but gold is one.*

*Cows are many but milk is one.*

(Telugu Poem)

Unfortunately, today instead of visualising unity in diversity, man sees diversity in unity. That is the cause of all his suffering. The principle of the Atma is the basis of all creation. You may forget anything but not the Atma. The five elements that are immanent in you are nothing but the manifestations of the Atma. Merely counting the beads of the rosary does not constitute Japa. One should forget all that is worldly and mundane, and remember only God. That is true Japa. One who realises the source of his being is truly human. You may study the Bhagavadgita and learn all the Slokas (verses) by heart. But that does not make you a scholar. It is enough if you are able to put at least one Sloka into practice. With the help of letters a,b,c,d ... of the alphabet any number of books can be written, like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata or the Bhagavata. Likewise, the Atma is the

basis for everything. Once you understand the principle of the Atma, you would have understood everything else. It is only to impart such knowledge that we have established educational institutions. In our schools and colleges, character, virtues and conduct are given utmost priority. One should have the yearning to tread the right path in life and attain God. One should accept everything as the Will of God. When you develop purity of heart, you will be successful in all your endeavours.

### **Overcome Delusion with Atma Vidya**

In the name of meditation, people sit cross-legged with closed eyes. How can such practices lead you to Divinity? When you close your eyes, you cannot see even the person standing in front of you, leave alone God. In fact, God is present in you. A true Vyakti (individual) is one who manifests the Avyakta (latent divinity). If you contemplate on the principle of the Atma and make sincere efforts, you can certainly have the experience of the Atma. You may do Japa or Tapa, but if you lack purity of heart, all your spiritual practices will prove futile. There are different types of flowers like rose, jasmine and chrysanthemum. But the honey bee collects honey from all flowers. Similarly, whatever may be the practice you undertake, you should always focus your mind on the Atma only.

Man is called Manava. What is the meaning of this term? 'Ma' means Maya (delusion), 'Na' means Nasti (without) and 'Va' means Varthinchuta (to conduct oneself). A true human being is one who overcomes delusion with the help of Atma Vidya (knowledge of the Self). Man is also called Manishi, one who is endowed with Manas (mind). But one who transcends the mind is a Paramahansa (a realised soul). We are not simply Manavas (human beings). We are verily the embodiments of Madhava (Supreme Being). We should have faith in God and face the challenges of life with courage and fortitude. Only then do we deserve to be called human beings.

The mind is meant to contemplate on God. One who knows the value of a diamond will preserve it safely and make proper use of it. Likewise, one who realises the power of the mind will not dissipate it. One should strive to attain the state of 'die mind' (annihilation of the mind). It is possible only by contemplating on God incessantly. It is said, *Mano Moolam Idam Jagat* (mind is the basis for the entire world). If you do not control your mind and get carried away by its vagaries, what will be your fate? It is only through Mano Nashana (annihilation of the mind) that one can become a Paramahansa. Never follow the mind. What is the use of going through voluminous books without understanding the nature of the mind? When you learn the alphabet from a to z, you should also learn the meaning of words. What is the use of reading words without understanding their meaning?

### **Know your Reality**

When you read the Bhagavadgita, you should make efforts to understand its teachings and put them into practice. Otherwise, there is little meaning in going through the Bhagavadgita or giving lectures on it. No benefit accrues from merely repeating the Slokas like a parrot without understanding them. Here, students learn the Vedas. It is said, *Ananto Vai Veda* (the Vedas are infinite). They are endowed with infinite power.

The Vedas have been passed on from one generation to another by noble souls. They contain eternal truths. But in the name of modern education, people are neglecting them. One may like it or not, the Vedas are meant to be studied deeply. It is not enough if you merely read the Vedas, you should also understand the teachings contained in them. Man today tries to acquire education without knowing his own reality. This is the weakness of man. As a result, he reposes faith in everything else except God. Therefore, never forget the fundamental principle of divinity.

*Dear Students!*

You are able to understand and acquire worldly and secular knowledge. But it is not easy for all to understand the inner reality. The names and forms of individuals may appear to be different, but essentially all are one. The innate reality is Adhara and the external names and forms are only Adheyas. Knowing the Adheya without understanding the Adhara will serve no purpose. Even while dealing with physical matters, we should have spiritual outlook. Hence, develop faith in God in the first instance. Anything can be achieved with unflinching faith in God. Discharge your duties with a sense of surrender to God. That is the essence of true education. Education does not mean mere acquisition of bookish knowledge. True education is beyond it. What is the use of reading books without knowing that transcendental principle?

*Students! Embodiments of Love!*

First of all, you have to realise that God is present everywhere. Perform all actions to please God. You have come from God and are sustained by Him. All your actions should therefore be dedicated to God. When you follow such a sacred path, you will ultimately reach God. God is Bhavapriya, not Bahyapriya (lover of inner feelings, not outward appearances). He sees the feelings behind your actions. The world is interested in Bahyam, but God is interested in your Bhavam. Hence, purify your inner feelings in the first instance.

You ask others, “Who are you?” But, have you ever enquired, “Who am I?” True education lies in knowing the answer to this question. What is the use of knowing about others if you don’t know your own reality? That is not true education at all. A true spiritual aspirant is one who understands and experiences the principle of oneness. You say, “She is my mother”, “He is my father”, so on and so forth. Such physical relationship is related to the mind. If you take the physical relationship to be real, you will never understand the truth. You say, “I am Ramaiah.” It is the name given to the body. But you are not the body. You should say with firm conviction, “I am I.” However, when you call yourself Ramaiah, you should act according to your name. Once you understand your reality, you will experience everlasting bliss. Many students have gathered here. But not all are studying the same subject. You are pursuing various courses. But everybody should acquire one degree, that is, M.A. What is the meaning of M.A.? M.A. means master of Atma Vidya. If you understand the meaning of this degree, you will understand the purpose of education. Nowadays many students aspire to go abroad after acquiring their degrees like B.A., B.Com, etc. In fact, they forget the very purpose of education, and expose themselves to worldly temptations.

**Love Unites All**

One should have single-minded devotion towards God. Your faith should be total and unconditional. If your faith is unsteady with ‘bumps and jumps’, you will be confused and will become restless. Keep your desires under control. Limitless desires will take you away from divinity. Annihilation of desires will lead you to the principle of unity. You should develop virtues and lead a good life. Understand the purpose of education and act accordingly. Only then will your birth as a human being be meaningful. One electric bulb can provide illumination to many people. Likewise, a heart filled with love can illumine many lives. It is the same love that is present in all. The educated people should not look down upon the uneducated. One who is truly educated will treat everyone equally and develop unity. Where there is unity, there is purity. When we have purity, we can experience divinity. Love is the basis for unity. It is the lack of love that causes differences.

Students! Having joined our institution if you merely acquire degrees without developing virtues, we will not be happy. You should have internal as well as external purity. Only then can you earn a good name in society. People will praise you, saying, “So and so is a good boy; he minds his own business and does not involve himself in unnecessary activities.” Such good persons can bring about transformation in society. Being students, you should follow the code of conduct prescribed for the state of Brahmacharya (celibacy). On the contrary, if you succumb to the vagaries of the mind and move about without any restraint, people will call you a rowdy. When you are good in thought, word and deed, everyone will talk high of you.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

There is love in one and all. There is none bereft of love in this world. But some people criticise others instead of sharing love with them. However, you should not be perturbed by criticism. If someone criticises you loudly, it goes into thin air; if he criticises within, it is only he who will be affected by it. Unperturbed by the criticism of others, the students should cultivate Sattwic qualities and develop their character. Only then can they earn a good name in society. It is not enough if you have good command over language and speak eloquently about divinity. You should also put into practice what you speak. You may be able to attract people with powerful speech, but what is the use if you do not translate your words into action? There should be harmony between your thoughts, words and deeds. It is said, *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam; Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones; those who lack harmony of these are wicked). Never think that you are different from God. You should transcend duality and realise your oneness with divinity. Whatever may happen, do not deviate from the path of unity. You should have unwavering faith. Install these teachings firmly in your heart and put them into practice in your daily life. Ruminates over what is being taught here after you go back to your room.

With prayer to God, you can achieve anything in life. I want you to pray. I want you to stand united like brothers and sisters and earn a good name. Only then will our purpose of establishing educational institutions be fulfilled. I am always with you, in you, above you, below you, around you. Develop unwavering devotion to God and make efforts to

instil such faith and devotion in your fellow human beings. That will make Me very happy.

Today is Sankranti, which marks the commencement of Uttarayana, the auspicious and sacred time. At least from today onwards, develop noble feelings. Follow the sacred path. Then your future will certainly be safe and secure. I hope I am not causing inconvenience to you by speaking at length. When I see all of you, My heart overflows with Ananda (bliss). True happiness lies in union with God. Hence, contemplate on God incessantly. Never give scope for anxiety or worry, thinking, “Examinations are approaching. How am I going to face them? Will I pass in the examination?” Have faith in God. Do your duty and face any situation with courage. Then, the result is bound to be good. Whatever be the circumstances, I always perform My duty. Love is everything. Love is God. Live in love.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*”)

- **From Bhagavan’s Sankranti Sandesh in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 14th January 2006.**

### ***Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2006 of SSSIHL***

## **A MEMORABLE SPORTS AND CULTURAL EVENT**

*The Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions held every year on 11th January in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium, Prasanthi Nilayam is one of the most significant events which showcases the talent and qualities of the students of these institutions, especially their courage, enthusiasm, balance, skill and valour, and above all their love for their Revered Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This year’s celebrations had added significance as these were held in the silver jubilee year of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.*

ALL the galleries in the stadium were full to their capacity with eager spectators when the programme began with sacred chants on the public address system at 7.45 a.m., spreading sacred vibrations in the entire stadium which was brilliantly shining in the early morning sun with all its decorations. The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba entered the northern end of the stadium at 8.00 a.m. where the brass band of Anantapur Campus offered Him a respectful welcome with sonorous notes. A squad of motor bike riders escorted Bhagavan as His car proceeded towards the Santhi Vedika. Dressed in a sparkling yellow robe, Bhagavan was led to Santhi Vedika in a grand procession led by richly caparisoned Sai Geeta, Bhagavan’s dear elephant, followed by the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, flag bearers squad of captains of various sports and cultural events and lion dancers of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus.

### **Inauguration and March Past**

When Bhagavan reached Santhi Vedika, He was offered a hearty welcome by the Vice Chancellor and senior staff of the Institute. Bhagavan lighted the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the Sports and Cultural Meet at 8.15 a.m. At 8.20 a.m., the ceremonial March

Past commenced in which contingents of various campuses of the Institute took part. The squads marched majestically in their brilliant dresses to the marching tunes of the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam and offered salute to their Revered Chancellor at Santhi Vedika. After the March Past, the Institute Flag was hoisted by Bhagavan and the Sports Meet oath was administered to the participants of the sports and cultural events by the Institute captain. Thereafter, Bhagavan lighted the sports torch which was first carried by two students. This year's mascot peacock then carried it onto the hilltop where it ignited the Sports Meet Urn. Meanwhile, Bhagavan released white pigeons and colourful bunches of balloons to the delight of one and all.

### **Sports Events by Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur Campus Students**

The sports events began with the presentation of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus students. Making their entry into the performing area in a grand manner, they displayed the theme of their presentation on a giant rotating pillar which carried the words Duty, Devotion, Discipline, Purity, Patience and Perseverance written on its various sides. On top of this pillar was the figure of a swan which displayed the number "25" shining on a disc, marking the silver jubilee of the Institute. On either side of this pillar were huge cut-outs of Bhagavan's photographs behind which were two giant banners depicting the two important sayings of Bhagavan, "The End of Education is Character", and "The End of Knowledge is Wisdom". Huge figures on stilts added grandeur to this display. What followed in front of this beautiful background was a spectacular show of grit, courage, skill and harmony in the sports items which included breathtakingly beautiful lion dance, symmetric movements on poles, display on two 35 feet high giant wheels, marvellous gymnastic feats and jumps through a ring of fire and over a Maruti van. Another attractive item of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus was rhythmic beat on 25 Chinese drums along with movement of three giant flags to the beats of drums. Spectacular display by the students who climbed up smooth slippery wooden poles and performed various yogic postures also showed their grit and skill. There was another display of yogic postures in a coordinated manner which the students performed effortlessly while Siva Tandava dance was enacted in the background. The last item of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus was fun-filled game "Fun on the Run" involving a number of items between two teams which included shooting balloons with catapults, basketing balls after running through an obstacle course and forming pyramids, etc. The presentation came to a close with staff and students coming into the performing area to pay their obeisance to their Revered Chancellor as the closing song was played on the P.A. system.

The next presentation of the morning programme was made by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute. The theme of their presentation was Unity, Purity, Divinity. Entering the performing area, the students displayed the symbols of all the religions of the world while the song of unity was played on the P.A. system which conveyed: "Let us all move together, let us all grow together, let us stay united and grow in intelligence together, let us live together with friendship and harmony." What followed this was a series of spectacular daring feats of the students on six moving jeeps, which showed their dexterity, skill and balance. Their next item was a group dance with red and yellow flags. This was followed by a beautiful butterfly dance in which more than one hundred girls took part with butterfly wings which turned silver white and bright gold when they made rhythmic movements. The last item of the morning programme was another beautiful group dance with colourful rings in the hands of the students who rotated them to the tune

of music. At 10.25 a.m., the students concluded their beautiful presentation and moved into the performing area for the closing ceremony. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.30 a.m.

### **Colourful Display by Primary School Students**

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to the stadium at 4.00 p.m. Motor bike squad of students escorted Bhagavan to Santhi Vedika, the leading motor bike among them carrying the flag bearing the logo of the silver jubilee of the Institute to highlight this significant event.

The first presentation in the afternoon was made by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam who displayed the theme of Unity, Purity and Divinity in a very meaningful way through the words: “Serve with Unity”, “Love All with Purity” and “Merge with Divinity”. Their first item was a group dance. As the P.A. system played the welcome song “Prasanthi Vaasa Swagatam, Puttaparthi Pureesha Swagatam ...”, the students danced to its tune in their colourful costumes. Soon after this, hordes of Vanaras (monkeys) swarmed the entire performing area, and danced to the tune of a fast beat song. There were not less than hundred boys with perfect make-up of Vanaras holding a mace in their hand and delighting the entire gathering with their rhythmic movements. The climax of this presentation was entry of Rama and Lakshmana for whom they made the bridge over the Indian ocean in the Ramayana story. Visual depiction of this scene on a giant canvas in the background enhanced the beauty of this presentation. Their next item showed their skill and agility through marvellous feats of gymnastics. Christening themselves as Sai Wheels, a group of students made a wheel formation by interlocking themselves together. What followed this was a grand display of captivating dances in colourful dresses by the children. And then came a wonderful performance of feats on roller skates by the students who made various formations and performed daring jumps over ramps and over a group of boys. Another item which earned them the appreciation of the spectators was their acrobatics on top of sliding poles. The items kept coming one after the other in quick succession. Dexterous balancing and somersaulting on ropes was the next item. The last item of their presentation was a dance by Primary School girls who enchanted the spectators by their performance in colourful dresses. In fact, every item of the Primary School was a piece of art, rich with bright colours, beauty and aesthetics. This beautiful performance ended with final formation of all the students offering obeisance to their Beloved Bhagavan while a sweet song was played in the background.

As the Primary School students were leaving the performing area, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanoddharana Pathakam were getting ready with their performance. This particular project was initiated by Bhagavan to help destitute children. Bhagavan has given them food, raiment and shelter and also deposited one lakh rupees for each boy. They are given training even in computers. Their performance was christened Chadarang. The students dressed as black and white chessmen like king, queen, knight, pawn, etc., made movements on a giant chessboard as appropriate commentary on the P.A. system described their movements. This play ended with the defeat of the black army, culminating in the friendship of the two opponents. At the end of this innovative item, one of the students made a brief speech describing how Bhagavan’s compassion and love were transforming their lives.

### **Daring Feats by Brindavan Campus Students**



The last presentation of this delectable display of sports and cultural events was made by the students of Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Their first item was dragon dance. The dance requires team work, agility and strength of arms. Swirling the dragons throughout the performing area, they performed the dance with aplomb, winning time and again applause from the spectators.

Their next performance was a medley of different types of martial arts like Kalaripayattu, Karate, stick fight and fight with mace. Kalaripayattu is the martial art form from the State of Kerala. Efficient swordsmanship is the pinnacle of Kalaripayattu. The artiste requires agility and strength for this martial art. The students displayed various Katas in Karate gracefully. Karate helps in eliminating weakness and indecisiveness in the mind. Then there was display of stick fight, fight with flashing steel and fight with mace. The main emphasis of this performance was how the mind and body reacted in unison instinctively to face the opponent. A wonderful display of blindfolded wielding of Nunchaku followed. The agility of the performers was a sight to watch. The last item of their performance displayed sheer human power. They jumped through rings, crossed human hurdles of a few boys and broke pots with lethal power. To crown it all, the students smashed blazing tiles with their hands. The Brindavan Campus students' performance ended with final formation and offer of salutations to the Revered Chancellor.

This memorable Sports and Cultural Meet ended at 6.30 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

## **DASARA DISCOURSES 2005**

# **FOLLOW THE GREAT IDEALS OF THE PANDAVAS**

*In childhood, one develops absorbing interest in play and enjoys the company of one's playmates. In youth and middle age, one is engrossed in cultivating worldly relations and earning money. In old age, one repents for not having this and that; one still craves for money without contemplating on God even at that ripe age. In this way, man wastes his precious human birth.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

MAN spends his whole life totally engrossed in worldly matters. He undergoes pleasure and pain at every stage of his life. Ultimately, he realises that everything in this world is ephemeral and transitory like water bubbles. Worldly pursuits cannot provide lasting

happiness to man. It is mere foolishness to waste precious human birth in such futile pursuits.

### **God is the Director of the Cosmic Drama**

When God takes birth in human form, people doubt whether he is born like any other human being from the mother's womb or assumes the vesture of human body out of His Divine Will. The fact is that the course of God's Mission is already laid out before His Advent on earth. He takes human form to carry out His Avataric Mission in every Age. In Dwapar Yuga, He came in the human form of Lord Krishna, guided and protected the Pandavas against the machinations of the wicked Kauravas. When they were engaged in the Kurukshetra war with the Kauravas, Krishna assumed the role of the charioteer of Arjuna and led the Pandavas to victory.

After the war ended, Krishna informed the Pandavas that He would leave for Dwaraka. He wanted one of the five Pandava brothers to accompany Him during this journey. Kunti, the mother of the Pandavas, suggested that Arjuna should accompany Krishna to Dwaraka. Accordingly, Krishna took Arjuna to Dwaraka and did His best to serve him during his stay there. Arjuna was a bit embarrassed to avail himself of the service rendered by Krishna. He told Krishna, "Oh Lord! How can I accept service from You?" Krishna replied, "Arjuna! You are mistaken. Whom am I serving? Am I serving your body? I am the indweller of all beings. You should not delude yourself, thinking that you are the body. Even your body belongs to Me. It is not yours."

*The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish sooner or later but the indweller has neither birth nor death. The indweller has no attachment whatsoever and is the eternal witness. Truly speaking, the indweller who is in the form of the Atma is verily God Himself. (Telugu Poem)*

Krishna continued, "I am that Devadeva (God of gods). You identify yourself with the body out of delusion and say 'I'. But that is not your real self. You are not the body. As long as you identify yourself with the body, you remain at the level of Jiva (individual self). Once you get rid of that delusion, you become one with Deva (Supreme Self). Hence, give up attachment to the body. Human body is only an instrument. Man has to use this instrument to perform all Karmas (actions) in this world. He has the right only to perform Karma. Karma, in fact, is instrumental in the conduct of this cosmic drama. I am the Director of this drama."

### **Final Journey of the Pandavas**

The earthly drama of the Yadavas came to an end and they all perished. In the end, Krishna also gave up the human vesture and left for His heavenly abode. Watching these developments helplessly, Arjuna wept inconsolably. Unable to bear the separation from his dear Lord, friend, philosopher and guide, he wailed, "Oh! Krishna! You have been constantly protecting me and guarding me. Now that You have left for Your heavenly abode, in whom shall I seek refuge?"

The city of Dwaraka presented a scene of total destruction. The entire Yadava clan had perished. Arjuna did not know what to do in such circumstances. He remembered the possibility of his mother Kunti enquiring about the welfare of Lord Krishna and the

Yadavas. A hundred and one questions cropped up in his mind, but he had no answer to any of them. Arjuna collected the royal retinue and left Dwaraka as Krishna had commanded him before leaving His sojourn on earth. On the way, Arjuna was suddenly attacked by a horde of forest dwelling nomads. But, to his utter dismay and anguish, Arjuna could not even string his bow, Gandiva! The great warrior Arjuna who performed heroic deeds in the Kurukshetra war could not save the consorts of Krishna from the robbers. He lamented at his helplessness and prayed to Krishna, "Oh! Krishna! What has happened to all my strength? Where is it gone now?" The answer came from within: He who had granted this power to me has now taken it back.

At last, in utter helplessness and agony, he prayed to Lord Krishna "Oh Lord! You have to protect Your queens Yourself. I am helpless." Finally, Arjuna reached Hastinapur along with some of the queens who could be saved from the clutches of the barbarians by the divine grace of Krishna. The people of Hastinapur were eager to know all that happened in Dwaraka. Yudhishtira enquired from Arjuna about the welfare of Krishna. Their mother Kunti was also anxious to know about the welfare of Krishna. She asked Arjuna, "Son! Is my dear Krishna all right? Please tell me everything that happened during your stay in Dwaraka." She was very eager to know the facts and Arjuna could not but reveal the truth. Finally, he steadied himself and related everything about the departure of Krishna for His heavenly abode and the subsequent developments. The moment Arjuna told that Krishna had shed His mortal coil, Kunti collapsed on the cot on which she was sitting. Dharmaraja rushed to her side and tried to console her saying, "Mother! What was destined to happen has happened. All this is the Will of Lord Krishna. There is no use grieving over these developments. Please get up." But Kunti did not respond. It was then that he realised that she had left her body. He put her head on his lap and called all his brothers. The brothers could not contain their grief. They wept bitterly on two counts – one for losing their dear Lord Krishna and the other over the death of their beloved mother. The people of Hastinapur were also filled with grief when they heard this sad news. Draupadi, who was witnessing these developments, could not maintain her poise any more. She was immersed in grief at the double loss of Lord Krishna's departure on the one side and the sudden demise of Kunti on the other.

Dharmaraja called Arjuna and instructed him to make arrangements for the cremation of the body of their mother. Arjuna immediately complied with his instructions. At the same time, Dharmaraja gave instructions for the necessary arrangements for the coronation of young Parikshit. Thereafter, he called Nakula and Sahadeva to his side and told them to make arrangements for their Mahaprasthana (final journey) to the Himalayas. Dharmaraja led the funeral procession, carrying the fire in an earthen pot. As the funeral procession was proceeding, the people of Hastinapur were immersed in grief. They followed the funeral procession to the cremation ground. The body of Kunti was placed on the funeral pyre and Dharmaraja lit the pyre. In a few moments, it was engulfed in flames.

The next thing to do was to perform the coronation of young Parikshit. The Pandavas lost their dear mother; they lost their very life-breath, Lord Krishna; yet they were now prepared to perform the coronation of Parikshit with perfect calm and poise! What an amazing equanimity of mind they displayed! Time marches on. And, all things that have

to be performed have to take their course. Parikshit, however, was not very happy. He pleaded with the Pandavas, "Oh! My dear grandfathers! You are all great kings. You are still hale and hearty. Is it proper for me to wear the royal crown in your esteemed presence? Do I deserve to wear this royal crown? How worthless and insignificant am I! So, one of you should wear this crown and rule the country." The Pandava brothers tried to convince Parikshit, saying, "Dear child! We will not be here any more to rule this kingdom. There must be someone to look after the welfare of the people as king of this great country. You have to, therefore, shoulder this responsibility. The affairs of the kingdom have to be looked after. You should not shirk your duty in ensuring the continuity of the regal obligations." Explaining thus, they persuaded young Parikshit to rule over the kingdom. The royal crown was placed on his head amidst the chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests. Falling at the feet of all his elders, Parikshit prayed for their blessings. All the five Pandava brothers then hugged Parikshit with affection and exhorted him to safeguard the glory of the kingdom and uphold the fair name of his ancestors. Parikshit said that he would obey their command and protect the people of the kingdom like his life-breath.

The Pandavas then started on their great march to the Himalayas, straight from the royal court where the coronation of Parikshit was held. When they reached the bank of the river Ganga, they immersed the ashes of their mother in its sacred water. Thereafter, they continued their march to the Himalayas, proceeding one behind the other. Dharmaraja, the eldest of the Pandavas, led the march. Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva followed him in that order. And Draupadi walked behind all. In this manner, the earthly sojourn of the Pandavas came to an end. Who can understand the mystery of life? None except God can know in what way the events in one's life will take turn at a certain point of time. One may don ochre robes, but that will not enable one to know what the future has in store for him. The Pandavas symbolised virtues and valour. They led their lives in an ideal manner and sanctified their time in the contemplation of God. They ended their earthly sojourn also peacefully while contemplating on God all the time.

### **Ideals Set by the Pandavas are Eternal**

Parikshit ruled the kingdom with justice and kindness. All the people of the kingdom were happy with his rule. He followed the high ideals set by the Pandavas. Like the Pandavas, Parikshit was also endowed with great virtues. Even while carrying out his royal duties, he spent his time in Namasmara. When he took over the reigns of the kingdom, some evil-minded kings joined hands and waged a war against him, underestimating his strength and valour and thinking that he was young and inexperienced. But some other noble kings came to help him. With their help, Parikshit could vanquish the enemies and assert his supremacy. He could emerge victorious due to his unflinching faith in God.

*God is your sole refuge wherever you may be, in a forest, in the sky, in a city or a village, on the top of a mountain or in the middle of deep sea. (Telugu Poem)*

When Parikshit was anointed as king, initially people were apprehensive as to how a young boy could rule the kingdom. However, under the able guidance of Kripacharya's son, Parikshit proved to be a successful king. He followed in the footsteps of the

Pandavas and practised and propagated their ideals. The Pandavas set great ideals by their exemplary conduct. They should be held in high esteem. We should emulate their ideals and lead our lives in peace and happiness. We may have to face sorrows and difficulties, but we should remain undisturbed by them. When we control our sorrows, then our strength will increase. The Pandavas left the world long ago but their ideals are eternal and timeless. We should cherish their ideals in our heart and try to follow the same in letter and spirit. By following the ideals set by the Pandavas, we will have peace, happiness and prosperity in our life.

Students! You are all very young. But Pariskhit was much younger than you when he ascended the throne. However, he took up the challenge with admirable courage and faith in God. He stands as an ideal for all young people. You too should develop such courage and fortitude and strive for the welfare of society. That is the true ideal. Pray to God for the necessary strength to hold on to this ideal.

*Embodiments of Love! Students!*

All of you are good children. You should lead an ideal life and set example to others. Never give room for sorrow. Be always fearless. Face the challenges of the world with courage and fortitude. Have firm faith that God is always with you, guiding you and guarding you. Having God firmly installed in your heart and with the Divine Name on your lips, you should march forward.

- **From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th October 2005.**

*Do not walk in front of Me, I may not follow you. Do not walk behind Me, I may not lead you. Walk beside Me and be My friend.*

- Baba

## **FESTIVALS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

### **New Year Day Celebrations**

NEW YEAR day was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with gaiety and piety on 1st January 2006. Soft and sweet Nadaswaram music by the Nadaswaram troupe of Anantapur Campus students reverberated in Sai Kulwant Hall since early morning to mark the auspiciousness of the occasion. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to the Hall at 9.25 a.m. amidst these sweet and melodious notes of music and sacred Vedic chants of Prasanthi Nilayam students of the Institute and showered His blessings on the huge gathering of devotees who had thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to pay their homage to Bhagavan on this auspicious day. The gathering included a large number of former students of the Institute who come to Prasanthi Nilayam on the New Year day every year to experience the bliss of Bhagavan's Divine proximity and seek His blessings after performing Grama Seva in a village near Prasanthi Nilayam on the previous day. This year, these students performed Grama Seva in village Puleru situated at a distance of 45 kilometres from Prasanthi Nilayam on 31st December 2005 and actively participated in

the New Year day celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam by providing a musical treat to the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

The programme started at 9.50 a.m. with sweet melodies of the Institute orchestra and was followed by devotional songs which delighted one and all. The morning programme came to a close at 10.35 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Before leaving for His abode, Bhagavan graciously performed the cake cutting ceremony.

On the afternoon of 1st January 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.00 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees while listening to the Vedic chants of the Institute students for nearly one hour. Thereafter, the former students of the Institute presented a grand programme of devotional music for nearly one hour. This programme was verily a sumptuous treat for music lovers as the students rendered devotional songs to express their love for Bhagavan and extol His Divine glory with sweet music and love-filled heart. The New Year day programme concluded at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all in the end.

### **Cultural Programme by Primary School Students**

On the evening of 13th January 2005, devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall were provided an excellent musical and cultural treat by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme began at 6.00 p.m. in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. First of all, a group of girls students of Primary School enthralled the gathering with an excellent violin recital. Thereafter, the drama "Sai Prema Dhara" was performed, through which the students presented the story of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba by enacting selected episodes from His life to the delight of the entire gathering. Though it was a repeat performance of the drama enacted by them on 23rd October 2005, it was relished by one and all with absorbing interest. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students at the end of the drama. He also materialised a gold chain with locket for the student who played the role of Prof. Kasturi in the drama, and materialised a gold ring for one of the students who enacted the role of child Sathya. Bhagavan also provided to the students the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.15 p.m.

### **Valedictory Function of Annual Sports and Cultural Meet and Sankranti Celebrations**

The sacred festival of Sankranti and the Valedictory Function of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2006 of the Institute were celebrated on 14th January 2006. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the function, was befittingly done up with various decorations which included banners and portraits of Bhagavan displayed during the Sports Meet on 11th January 2006. The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession at 9.50 a.m. The procession was led by the brass band of Anantapur Campus of the Institute followed by flag bearers squad of captains of various sports and cultural events and the brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute. As soon as the procession reached the middle of the Hall, the flag bearers made a canopy of the flags in honour of the Revered Chancellor. After arriving at the dais, Bhagavan formally inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp at 10.00 a.m.

In his introductory speech, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of the Institute extended a hearty welcome to all and observed that sports and cultural events were harmonised in the integral system of education of the Institute. They not only played an important role in inculcating values like perseverance, courage, skill as well as harmony of thought, word and deed in students but also reflected the true spirit of sports as displayed by the participating students in the various sports and cultural events. The valedictory function had added significance because it was being held on the auspicious day of Sankranti and in the immediate Divine Presence of Bhagavan, said Sri Gokak.

After the introductory speech of Sri Gokak, Bhagavan blessed the gathering with His nectarine Sankranti Discourse (full text given elsewhere) exhorting the students to acquire educare. Emphasising the need for inner purity, Bhagavan said that students should earn a good name by imbibing good thoughts and performing good actions. After the Discourse of Bhagavan, trophies and prizes were distributed. The morning function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.40 a.m.

#### **Adi Kavi Valmiki: A Drama**

The joy of celebrating Sankranti became manifold when the students of the Brindavan Campus of the Institute enraptured the devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam by enacting a beautiful drama “Adi Kavi Valmiki” on the afternoon of 14th January 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Starting from the early life of Valmiki, the drama portrayed how a dacoit and murderer like Ratnakara was transformed and became the great epic poet and Sage Valmiki by chanting the Divine Name of Rama earnestly. After hearing the story of Rama from the divine bard Narada, Valmiki not only became the Adi Kavi (first among poets) but earned the honour of writing the story of the Avatar as he earned the grace of God by penance and Namasmara. One of the most beautiful features of this drama was that as Lava and Kusha sang the story of the Ramayana in sweet lyrics accompanied by enchanting music, the entire story was presented on the stage scene by scene. Excellent acting of the students, sweetness of the Telugu lyrics, beautiful sets and very efficient and innovative stage management made this an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan blessed the cast at the end of the drama and posed for photographs with them. Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in the end. The function came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES OF SAI ORGANISATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

*John Behner  
and  
Leonardo Gutter*

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA is inspiring millions of people all over the world to become better human beings. By His selfless love, by His example, by His Divine Message and through many other ways, He is touching the hearts of so many people and melting the shields that covered their hearts. He is showing a different way of living and thinking, with a higher purpose, and people so inspired by His Divine touch start to put into practice in their daily lives the love that He ignites in their hearts. They start to expand their concerns and compassion and feel the need to do something for their brothers and sisters in need.

Sathya Sai Overseas Organisation's Zone 2 comprises 23 countries of Latin America. Sai Organisation is present in all of them and it is carrying out its service activities in them. It is impossible to describe here all the different activities rendered by Sai devotees, but we will mention just some of them. The examples set by Bhagavan in India are being emulated in Latin America with water projects, dispensaries, medical camps, educational institutions completely free of charge, and in so many other ways. Since 2004, we have started a very active programme to spread the Divine Message of Bhagavan to our communities in the guidance of the Prasanthi Council. We have held till today about 100 meetings to spread Bhagavan's Divine Message of love and service among people. Nearly 40,000 people attended these meetings. However, many millions learned about the Divine Message and humanitarian work done by Bhagavan through all the media coverage of these meetings. Many TV programmes, radio programmes and newspapers informed about the service activities and the teachings of Bhagavan and the Organisation that bears His Divine name. We mention here some of the service activities done in Latin America.

### **Mexico**

In January 2001, in one of the poorest and most populated neighbourhoods of the Iztapalapa district in Mexico City, a small place was prepared to serve as a dispensary. This is now known as Mexico City Sai Medical Clinic. Presently, the doctor's office has basic and essential medical equipment; the services are provided by a general doctor, a nurse and an orthodontist. The clinic is entirely free of charge and remains open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. During these four years, there have been more than twenty thousand medical consultations for people with different conditions such as respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases and a high percentage of pregnant women who require medical follow-up. On an average, about 500 consultations are now being provided every month. The clinic was started four years ago and has expanded to become a community centre. In addition to medical consultations, there is treatment for teeth, a service that the local population would not normally receive. There are classes on hygiene and diet and even human values for children. There are adult reading classes. Refreshments are served for children. Some other services are also rendered, such as:

- Dental care for children
- Lectures on dental care for families
- Promotion of hygiene through cleaning campaigns
- Lectures on nutrition
- Donation of devices for making water fit for drinking



- Supply of medicines during medical sessions
- Supply of clothes for the people who attend the medical sessions and for the people who live in the neighbourhood
- Distribution of basic provisions to the people in the area.

### **Bolivia**

Sai volunteers are helping very poor families who live on the bank of the Rocha River which is a contaminated river. The residents use this water for cooking, washing, and even drinking. They don't have electricity; so, they have to use candles. Their little houses are made with straw and pasteboards. The whole family lives in these houses, which are 2x2 metres. The volunteers of the Sai Centre of Concha Bamba have been providing clothes, food, water and tin cans to these needy people.

Sai volunteers go to the families of straw dealers who come from South of Bolivia. They live in houses made with straw. They survive by collecting straw in Potosí from where they come. They don't have electricity, water; sometimes they have no food. They make long journeys with their entire family which usually includes little children and babies. Sai volunteers provide clothes, food, needles, kettles, dishes and supplies to these needy people.

Sai volunteers have donated books and notebooks to the orphans in the orphanage at Concha Bamba. They also organise talks about human values and the teachings of love and peace.

Sai volunteers go to the Sacaba Prison for women and men and provide medical supplies, clothes and food items. They also provide some non-violent toys, cookies and dainties to children.

Sivingani is a small town located in a province of Concha Bamba called Independencia. Lots of children from the surrounding area along with their mothers come there on Christmas. This is a special day for all of them because they know that a Christmas gift is waiting for them. It could be just a ball, a plastic car or a doll but they know these gifts come from the hands of loving people and so, they accept the gifts with love.

### **Argentina**

The Florencia Varela community of Buenos Aires has been provided a dental clinic, fully equipped with free service once a week. The Sai Foundation has built and equipped the clinic and Sai dentists are serving there.

### **El Salvador**

During the last 12 years, there has been medical service for a rural community once a month. In the same community, the Sai Organisation provided water for 350 homes as one of the 12 water projects which have been realised in the country.

A Catholic Church was re-constructed with the help of members of the community by the Sai Organisation after the earthquakes of 2001.

An invalids home was constructed for wheelchair people together with workshops and there is a Sai Centre on the 3rd floor.

### **Guatemala City**

Four years ago, the Sai Centre in Guatemala City started a clinic which provided consultations on Saturday mornings. The local population was so gratified with the free service that each year another clinic has been added. Now there are four Sai medical clinics and a pharmacy which is open four days a week. One clinic offers Ayurvedic treatment, while the other three are run by allopathic Sai doctors. With the blessings of Bhagavan, this will become a Sai Hospital in near future.

### **Venezuela**

Sai devotees recently organised an eye camp at a private hospital where 10 cataract operations were performed. This brings the total free operations performed here to 80. After the free lens implants are done, the patients are provided transport to go to their home and follow-up treatment is given. This service restored the eyesight of people who would never have been able to afford such treatment.

The Sai Organisation in Venezuela conducts regular medical camps outside the city. Different specialities are covered, and many devotees participate with parallel services such as hair cutting, food, music, and stories for children. Food distribution is also a part of these camps. As many as 10 Sai doctors offer their services together with 30 devotees.

### **Uruguay**

Narayana Seva began in 2000. The frequency has been changing, but it has been definitely a service which makes us realise each time we have to face people in the street that we are not different from them.

Service to animals takes place once a week. One of our devotees is a veterinary doctor and with a group of devotees takes care of homeless animals by feeding them and by taking care of their health.

A Manual for Sai Groups has been prepared. This project began three years ago as an idea for helping the groups that start their activities. So many people participated, so many people identified themselves with this project that the outcome of people's love in action was this Manual. And today it has spread to all Latin American groups.

At the Montevideo Sai Centre, a blood donation club was started. Here the devotees can give "liquid love". The name of the club that is registered at the National Blood Service is Sai Baba.

In the year 2005, the first course of Education in Human Values – Educare was organised for a group of elementary school teachers. The response was so great that we had to create two groups of 40 persons each.

### **Colombia**

The "Rainbow" programme is one of the Oasis Social Institution programmes, which have been working during the last 10 years in "Paraíso", a neighbourhood in Ciudad Bolívar, one of the most deprived areas in Bogotá, capital city of Colombia. Rainbow is oriented towards the children's population of this suburb. Its main objective is to develop human values following the method of educare, under the postulate that the only activity to be carried out is to lay a bridge to enable love and truth to come out from within us. Development of human values arises from the need to offer this population, overtaken by

violence, poverty and abandonment, the key to real education. Real education brings about a change in us so that we are moved to care for our fellowmen, to cultivate our heart and to develop our own abilities and intelligence to be able to help and use them within our own society and the world.

### **Brazil**

The following are the main activities of the Sai Organisation in Brazil: Medical camps are organised in several locations in Brazil as a mark of active love in the health area. Medical services in paediatrics, ophthalmology, dentistry, dermatology are provided. Besides, diabetes and blood pressure tests are conducted. Youth group service in the community is also organised.

Water project of Sai Organisation deploys a water distribution network in a needy neighbourhood in Rio Grande do Sul, which reaches each household through their faucets.

Professional courses in computer science, basketry, beauty school, cooking, hotel monitoring in Amparo, Rio de Janeiro are organised. Disarmament campaign in a community of 500 children has been organised. Distribution of meals in an impoverished community has been continuing for 14 years in São Paulo.

The Brazilian Sai Organisation conducted Grama Seva at the Santa Rosa village, a rural settlement located 60 km near the City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The services offered were: blood pressure control, lectures on contagious diseases and on dental care, blood testing for cholesterol, adult and children vaccination, enlisting of elders for further distribution of medicines, as well as clinical, dental and physiotherapeutic consulting. There was even a veterinary post for pets, with vaccination and clinic. EHV teachers offered classes to the children and a theatre to all the participants of the community. There were also services as haircut, distribution of food and clothes for adults, children and special kits for the newborn. The service team offered a vegetarian meal for all the people there. The project reached a total of nearly 400 people, served by approximately 140 volunteers from the Sai Organisation. The event began and ended with group devotional singing, enthusiastically followed by all. The Divine Love of Swami permeated every action, and it could be sensed by the reactions from the people served as well as from the representatives of the Sai Organisation.

### **Costa Rica**

- ❖ The members of the Sai Centre of San Jose provided emergency relief for people affected by the floods on the Caribbean coast. 85 families were helped with food and emergency items such as soap, candles and matches.
- ❖ Over 1000 bedding items have been delivered to homes for old and physically challenged people.
- ❖ Trees were planted in a municipal park with permission of the authorities in a afforestation drive by the Sai Centre.
- ❖ Breakfast is served to the homeless on Sundays in downtown San Jose.

- ❖ Every Saturday the members of the Centre help a group of elderly from a home in San Jose.
- ❖ Talks on human values are imparted to student groups.

In this way, the Sai Organisation of Latin America has been serving needy people in different countries and spreading the Divine Message of love and service taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

*My entire being, from head to toe, is dedicated to the service of people. I wish to do many things for the good of people. I do not wish to talk about them. Action must speak for itself.*

- Baba

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE LOVE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SELFLESS SERVICE**

*It has been said in "Ramakatha Rasavahini" that after the celebration of Sri Rama's coronation, every devotee of Sri Rama was immersed in loving service and compassionate deeds. In the same tenor, the recent celebrations marking the 80th year of the Advent of the Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba have inspired many to devote their lives to the compassionate service of their fellowmen. Such selfless service and love can only stem from the eternal life-spring of Divine Love. Some global activities of loving service and devotion are described here.*

#### **U. S. A.**

On 29th August 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the State of Louisiana as a category 4 storm. Its swath of destruction was the worst in American history over the last 100 years. It devastated the central Gulf Coast States of the U.S.A. Cities such as New Orleans, Mobile and Gulfport bore the brunt of Katrina's force. Its impact was far reaching which caused human and property destruction, disease, destruction of vital oil and water pipelines to the national economy. Devastation by Katrina was immediately followed by Hurricane Rita that made landfall on 24th September 2005 causing widespread damage to Southern Louisiana and South-eastern Texas.

In response to these national tragedies, Sai devotees quickly prepared themselves and began rendering immediate aid. Several Sai devotees underwent Red Cross training.

Refugee families were adopted by local Sai Centres and were provided food, clothing, shelter, utensils and transportation. Bal Vikas children packed 500 toiletry bags and, along with adults, helped take care of children. Family counselling services were also provided. Hurricane Rita had caused extensive damage to Jasper, St. Augustine, Newton, Sabine, and Tyler counties in Texas. On 3rd December 2005, Sai devotees visited these areas to deliver 636 care packages consisting of bottled water, blankets, fruits, gloves, socks and other essential items. Personal visits were made to 140 homes on that day. On the same day, Sai doctors visited several homes to examine children and the elderly. As part of the relief efforts, devotees have provided refrigerators and freezers to a food pantry and more than 300 school children have received shoes, socks and winter coats. In addition, assistance has been given to rebuild homes devastated by the hurricane. Sai devotees are continuing disaster relief support.

Inspired by Bhagavan's messages for Ladies Day, the lady devotees of Northern California and Nevada organised the first Regional Ladies Day retreat on 22nd October 2005 in Palo Alto, California. The event was attended by more than 200 Sai sisters. Inspiring talks were given by Smt. Sharon Sandweiss, Smt. Berniece Mead and Smt. Renee Choudhuri. There were also skits, devotional singing and spiritual discussions in breakout sessions on bringing Sai values into families.

### **MIDDLE EAST**

A medical camp was conducted in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E on the premises of the Indian Embassy on 23rd December 2005. Preventive healthcare and free health screening were conducted for 105 patients. Presentations were made in four different languages on stress management, balanced diet, hygiene, smoking and alcoholism. In addition, 470 lunches were distributed to labourers in suburbs of Abu Dhabi on the same day. In order to help roadside labourers and construction workers who perform their jobs under severe heat, 7,000 litres of pure drinking water was distributed over 32 days during inclement weather until September 2005. In the same period, 10,056 litres of cold buttermilk was distributed to workers at another location in the city of Abu Dhabi. The Sathya Sai Centre of Abu Dhabi distributed fresh juices, apples and dates to people in a remote mosque.

In Oman, a health screening was conducted on 13th January 2006 in which 140 patients were seen in one day. Another medical camp was conducted on 30th December 2005 in Qatar and 80 patients were screened.

### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

A public meeting was held by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 29th October 2005 to foster loving discussion of Bhagavan's teachings among people of many faiths. The meeting was attended by 150 people in the Sveti Anto Church. The invited speakers representing Islam, Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism underlined the importance of unity of all the religions of the world and emphasised the need for promoting human values in society as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai devotees also visited a nursing home and sang Sarva Dharma Bhajans for the residents who were refugees in this long war-torn country.

### **F I J I**

A public meeting was held in Suva on 24th August 2005 and another was held in Lautoka on 26th August 2005. The Suva meeting was attended by about 300 people and the one in Lautoka had 100 attendees. Both meetings were addressed by Sri Vishnu Deo, Chairman of Sai Organisation in Fiji. He spoke on Bhagavan's teachings that unify all faiths, His mission to re-establish righteousness and to inspire love for God through service to humanity. Sri Arthur Hillcoat, senior advisor to the Prasanthi Council spoke of Bhagavan's message of universal love and His global educational works.

In addition, 350 people attended a national convention on "Unity, Purity, Divinity" that was held in the Ba province of Viti Levu on 20-21st August 2005. The convention was highlighted by inspiring talks on the silent spiritual revolution of Bhagavan Baba and His teachings. A devotee from the U.S.A., inspired by Bhagavan's love, sent 1,650 wheelchairs to Fiji for the physically challenged and poor.

### **K E N Y A**

The Sainet project to distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets and maize meals to the disease-vulnerable and the poor in Kenya has expanded to include more villages. To date 64,400 Sainets and 56.8 tons of maize meals have been distributed with love to cover a population of 266,800. The project has drawn appreciations from Hon. Joseph Kingi, the Assistant Minister for Provincial Administration and Dr. P. Maasulo, the District Medical Officer for Health.

### **M A L A W I**

Five cataract camps were conducted in Malawi from July to November 2005 in which a total of 5,295 patients were examined and 516 cataract operations were performed.

### **P H I L I P P I N E S**

On 19th November 2005, a programme was held to inform the public about Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to inspire young adults and parents to serve society with love. The events for the evening were performed by the students of The Institute of Sathya Sai Education, San Pedro, and the Sathya Sai School, Pililla and attended by a large gathering including Dr Pijano, Executive Director, Philippine Accrediting Associations of Schools, Colleges and Universities and Smt. Navrekha Sharma, Ambassador for India to the Republic of the Philippines. The keynote speaker was Dr. Bhanoji Rao, Professor Emeritus at NUS, Singapore. He spoke on the role of students and youth in today's society. There were also performances of songs, skits and parables based on Bhagavan's teachings. On 23rd November 2005, Sai devotees delivered 124 bags of food, milk and rice to destitute children as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

### **U. K.**

An interfaith public meeting was held in Plymouth on 10th December 2005 which was attended by 70 people. This meeting brought together Sai devotees and the Plymouth Islamic Educational Trust. The meeting began with the movie "His Work" and was followed by talks from Hindu, Christian and Muslim speakers on how faith helps us in our daily lives and a panel discussion. It was concluded by unified singing of Islamic prayers.

### **B R A Z I L**

The first Sai School in Brazil was started in 1994 in a poor neighbourhood of Rio De Janerio. At present, there are five schools in Brazil which take children from these neighbourhoods and teach them the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values programme. Recently, a large audience of 350 Sai devotees was touched by the stories shared by a four-year-old girl from the Sathya Sai School in Minas Gerias State.

– **Prasanthi Council**

## **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Karimnagar district carried out 80-hour Akhanda Bhajan, cultural programmes, exhibitions, etc., all over the district as part of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations. Moreover, it carried out three veterinary camps vaccinating 900 animals, two medical camps treating 425 patients, Narayana Seva to 10,000 people all over the district.

Nellore district distributed 750 food packets to cyclone and flood-affected people in Kavali and Nellore areas. This district distributed 9 kg of rice, one blanket and dates packets to each of the 45 cyclone-affected girijan families besides giving Saris and other dress material on 10th November 2005. This district distributed 10 quintals of rice to cyclone-affected girijan families in 11 different villages in the district.

Khammam district conducted 55 free marriages at Sattupalli town on 10th October 2005 giving the couples all the material needed in the marriage and providing sumptuous lunch to 2,000 people. The district also gave Amruta Kalasams to 80 needy families, each containing 10 kg rice, 1 kg Dhal and one blanket.

West Godavari district carried out Narayana Seva along with Nama Sankirtan in orphanages and Homes for physically, mentally and visually challenged people in Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Tanuku, Palakole, Jangareddygudem and Kovvur towns. In sub-jails also, Narayana Seva was carried out.

Anantapur district distributed food sent by Bhagavan to about 20,000 devotees coming to Prasanthi Nilayam to attend Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations from 18th November 2005 to 22nd November 2005 by erecting Shamianas at Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam Railway Station.

Srikakulam district carried out Grama Seva (service to villages) from December 2004 to November 2005 in 1008 villages by performing spiritual, educational and service activities in these villages. On the completion of this village welfare programme for 1008 villages, nearly 2000 devotees visited Prasanthi Nilayam from 3rd to 5th December 2005 and received the blessings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A special programme was held on the afternoon of 5th December 2005 in Poornachandra Auditorium where Bhagavan addressed these devotees and commended their service activities to villagers. Bhagavan also gave them the opportunity to sing Bhajans and perform a cultural programme in His Divine Presence.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** The recent ethnic strife in Karbi Anglong Hill District of Assam caused deprivation and disease to a large number of poor hill tribals living in interior and even inaccessible areas. Sai workers distributed clothes and other

essential articles in the relief shelters at Tumpreng, Domkamakum, Longphermukh and other interior villages.

Sai Organisation also set up three free medical camps from 18th to 20th December 2005 in the affected villages of Borkak, Dalimbari and Borgoan of Hamren sub-division of the district in close collaboration with Autonomous District Council officials where thousands of people were treated and medicines were distributed. Warm clothing for men, women and children offered by nearby districts of Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat and collected by local Diphu Samithi were distributed. Medicines for influenza, skin ailments, cough, malaria and stomach diseases along with pamphlets on basic healthcare and sanitation and prevention of diseases were distributed among affected people.

**Tamil Nadu:** Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu celebrated the silver jubilee of Sundaram (Bhagavan's abode in Chennai) with great enthusiasm in grateful remembrance of that golden moment when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba entered it and graciously inaugurated it on 19th January 1981.

Daily Nagar Sankirtan, Homam, Abhishekam to the idol of Shirdi Sai Baba, Sahasranama Archana, video show, music concert and Bhajans were held as part of the celebrations from 13th January to 19th January 2006. On 16th January 2006, Bal Vikas children of Chennai Metro presented a value-oriented drama on Sathya and Prema at the Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium which was followed by the video show "Advent of the Avatar". Both programmes kept the audience spellbound, consisting mostly of non-members.

A mega public event as part of the celebrations was held on 18th January 2006 at the historic Music Academy where Bhagavan had addressed a huge gathering on an earlier occasion. The programme commenced with Bhajans followed by Veda recitation and welcome address by Sri G.K. Raman, Convenor, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu. Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation delivered the keynote address. Justice A.P. Shah, Chief Justice of Madras High Court then addressed the gathering. He was all praise for Bhagavan's humanitarian projects in the fields of medical care, education and sociocare that he felt were unparalleled in providing benefits to the poor. In his address, the Chief Guest, Sri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu recalled how on seeing Bhagavan's water project that brought water to the water-starved Anantapur district, he went to see Bhagavan who graciously granted an hour-long interview to him and blessed him with a ring and Vibhuti Prasadam which he still deeply treasures. He praised Bhagavan's mega water projects that cover many areas in Andhra Pradesh and Chennai as the largest undertaken anywhere in the world, and also the totally free services of the super speciality hospitals and educational institutions set up by Bhagavan. Despite tight security regulations, the 1,600 capacity auditorium was packed with about 2,500 people. The function came to a close with the vote of thanks by the State President, Sri N. Ramani followed by singing of National Anthem.

On the anniversary date on 19th January 2006, many programmes were held at Sundaram starting with Nagar Sankirtan followed by Homam, Abhishekam to Shirdi Sai Baba idol, Sahasranama Archana and a melodious music concert by Smt. P. Susheela. A notable event was the presentation of sewing machines and household articles to the needy. The



programme in the forenoon concluded with Vastradan and Narayana Seva. In the afternoon, there were musical concerts by Bombay Sisters, Sundaram Mahila Singers, Veda chanting by Mahilas and Bhajans. Prasadam with Swami's picture and a key chain embossed with the picture of Sundaram as a souvenir were offered to all the devotees. With the blessings and grace of Bhagavan, the weeklong celebrations concluded with Mangalarati to Bhagavan.

### **CHINNA KATHA**

#### **I KNOW! I KNOW!!**

ONCE when a husband and his wife were sleeping in their house, a thief started making a hole in the wall of their house at midnight. Hearing that sound, the wife woke up her husband and said, "Perhaps a thief is making a hole in the wall." The husband replied even without opening his eyes, "I know, I know. The thief is making a hole. It is in the southern wall of our house." Saying this, he continued to lie down in his bed. After some time, the thief collected all the utensils of the house and kept them in a corner. The wife said again, "Please get up. There is the sound of utensils. The thief is tying all our belongings into a bundle." Immediately, the husband replied, "I know, I know. Not only has he tied everything into a bundle, he has carried them near the wall of the house." Saying this, the husband turned to the other side in his bed. After some time, the sound of jumping over the wall was heard. Once again, the wife said, "At least get up now. The thief is taking away all our things after jumping over the wall." The husband said, "I know, I know. What to talk of jumping over the wall? The thief would have already gone quite far away from our house." Enraged at hearing this, the wife exclaimed, "What is the use of saying 'I know, I know' without doing anything when a thief is running away after plundering our house! Is this the sign of wisdom?"

There are many so-called spiritual seekers who spend all their life reading many spiritual books and listening to discourses. Spiritual practice lies in living up to at least a few of those precepts that you read and listen. Those who merely say, 'I know this, I know that' after reading a number of books are like the husband in this story.

### **Back Cover Matter**

#### **Teacher : The Beacon Light**

**The teacher moulds the rising generation into self-confident, self-reliant, Atma-conscious persons. He is the architect of happy homes, prosperous communities and peaceful nations. He has not only to equip himself with**

knowledge and skills to inform and instruct, but also the vision and insight to inspire and transform. Children absorb from the teacher and elders their habits and manners, behaviour and beliefs. Therefore, the teacher has to be a constant example of the ideals he has to implant in their hearts.

- Baba

**MARCH 2006**

**SIVARATHRI MESSAGE**

## **WORLD IS THE MANIFESTATION OF DIVINE LOVE**

*Is it possible to build a temple for the One who pervades the entire Brahmanda (cosmos)? Can anyone give a name to the One who is present in all beings? Is it possible to give a bath to the One who is present in all rivers? Can anyone offer food to the One who has the entire Brahmanda in His stomach? Man out of his ignorance and delusion is unable to know the reality of the Cosmic Being who is, in fact, the master of the entire cosmos.*

(Telugu Poem)

PRAPANCHA is the name that has been given to the visible world. It is called Prapancha as it is constituted by the Pancha Bhutas (five elements). 'Pra' means to manifest or express. Hence, Prapancha is that which manifests the five elements, namely, ether, air, fire, water and earth. In man, these five elements represent the senses of Sabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa and Gandha (speech, touch, form, taste and smell), respectively.

### **Brahman Pervades the Five Elements**

Prapancha is also the manifestation of Pancha Pranas (five life breaths), namely, Prana, Apana, Vyana, Udana and Samana. Thus, the five elements and five life breaths together form the basis of the entire world. Brahmatattwa (principle of Brahman) is present in all the five elements. It is eternal and immortal. Brahman pervades the Pancha Bhutas, Pancha Koshas (five sheaths of the soul) and Pancha Pranas. But man out of ignorance attributes a particular form to Brahman. Names and forms are transient. Brahmatattwa, which is the basis of all names and forms, is the only permanent entity. Out of our ignorance and short-sightedness, we confine such a cosmic principle of Brahman to a tiny form and worship it. We should worship the cosmic form of the Divine. Brahmanda

(cosmos) is the very form of God. Brahman pervades Anda, Pinda and Brahmanda (terrestrial, celestial and cosmic planes). Anda is the combination of Padartha (matter) and Prana. Anda and Pinda ultimately become one with Brahmanda.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Prema (love) is the basis of Brahmanda. Without Prema, there is neither Prakriti (Nature) nor Prapancha (world). The world is sustained by the principle of love which is uniformly present in the five elements. Any form of worship will prove futile if you forget the principle of love.

The five elements are responsible for the sustenance of human life and the world at large. Everything will come to a nought if even one of the five elements is missing. We hear with our ears. We see the world with our eyes. In this manner, we are able to experience the world through the five senses. It is the divine power that makes the senses function. But man has forgotten this divine principle and is striving to attain happiness through mean and worldly pursuits. It is said, *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). In fact, man is essentially divine.

#### **God is the Eternal Witness**

Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha (righteousness, wealth, desire and liberation) are prescribed as the four goals of human life. But, man today has given up Dharma and Moksha; he is running after Artha and Kama. God has created this world. Your wife, children, friends and even enemies are all created by God. They are all the very embodiments of Brahman. You should be able to see God in all. That is your primary duty. Even God had to fight against enemies sometimes. However, in spite of their animosity towards God, they ultimately merged in Him owing to His grace. In this world, there is no place where God does not exist. He is present everywhere. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruithya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe).

The people around you may not be able to see what you do, but God is watching you. Others may not hear what you speak, but He is listening to you. He is the eternal witness. Unfortunately, you are unable to realise this truth. Some people argue, “How can you say that God is present everywhere when we do not actually see Him? How is it possible for Him to hear our prayers?” In fact, sound is the very form of God. There is no place where there is no sound. He can hear everything since sound is His own form. Light pervades the entire world. God can see everything in this world as the very light is His vision. Hence, never be under the mistaken notion that God does not know what is happening. Do not doubt or deny His existence just because He is not visible to the naked eye. How do Sankalpas (thoughts) originate in your heart? They occur as per the Will of God. Changes occur only in the world; the divine principle is always changeless.

Loka (world) and Lokesha (God) are inseparable. The creation and the Creator are one. There is an intimate and inseparable relationship between the two. Atma is the name given to the principle of divinity. It has no specific form. It is a grave error to attribute a particular form to the Atma. It is essential that we understand the oneness of the Atma and experience the same. Everything is divine. *Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma* (verily, all

this is Brahman). As you are unable to comprehend the divine principle in totality, you confine God to a specific name and form such as Rama, Krishna, Vishnu, etc., and worship Him. A potter makes the idols of Rama, Krishna, etc. However, it is only the clay that takes the forms of various deities. The same clay is moulded into various forms.

*Jewels are many but gold is one.*

*Cows are many but milk is one.*

*Beings are many but breath is one.* (Telugu Poem)

As you are unable to understand the principle of unity, you are deluded by the apparent diversity.

### **True Happiness Lies in Union with God**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

No one can describe God as having this form or that. He permeates the entire universe. Without name there can be no form and vice versa. The principle of divinity cannot be represented by any name or form. Every object and every being in this Prapancha is the manifestation of divine love. Hence, do not see the world merely from the physical point of view. Consider the world as the very form of God and the manifestation of divine love. Because of your limited understanding, you confine such an all-pervading divine principle to a name and form. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as is the feeling, so is the result). God responds according to your feelings towards Him. If you have Purna Bhakti (total devotion) and love God with all your heart, He will confer on you Purna Ananda (total bliss). God transcends the dualities of birth and death, happiness and sorrow. You may think that even God has pain and suffering. But, from God's point of view, pain does not exist at all! It is an aspect of divinity. Bliss is also an aspect of divinity. God is beyond pleasure and pain, merit and sin. Happiness and sorrow are of your own making. Pleasure is an interval between two pains.

God is not a separate entity. Unfortunately, people are unable to understand the principle of divinity; they indulge in all types of fantasies and suffer. God is one. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). However, when the situation demands, Divine incarnations descend on earth to play their role in the cosmic drama.

When Draupadi was being humiliated by Duryodhana and Dussasana in the royal court, Bhima told his brothers that he could not bear this any longer and wanted to kill them. But, even under such circumstances, God did not Will their killing. It is most essential to understand that everything happens according to the Will of God. Whatever happens is for your own good. With such firm conviction, you should accept pleasure and pain, good and bad with equanimity. It may be difficult for you to bear misfortunes. You perform rituals and Puja (worship) which help you to bear difficulties. You may have difficulties today, but tomorrow it will be different. Difficulties will not last forever. They will certainly give way to happiness. Man always strives for happiness. How can he attain it? *Happiness is union with God.* You can experience true happiness only when you attain this union. Whatever you ask from God, He says, "Tathastu" (So may it be!). You will be free from sorrow once you understand the Bhagavattattwa (principle of divinity). If you are undergoing difficulties, do not get disheartened. Have faith that God is making you go

through the ordeal for your own good. Happiness and sorrow coexist. You cannot attain happiness without undergoing difficulties.

### **Get Rid of your Evil Qualities**

*Embodiments of Love!*

Do not attribute multiplicity to divinity. Consider everyone as the embodiment of divinity. Imprint such sacred feelings firmly on your heart. Treat even the person who hates you as your own. Having attained human birth, you should be able to withstand pain and suffering with courage and fortitude. Be convinced that they are good for you. All that God has created is good. In God's creation, everything is good and sacred. There is nothing which will cause sorrow and misery. In fact, misery arises out of man's delusion. The delusion is because of his identification with the form. What is the meaning of the term Manava? 'Ma' means Maya, 'Na' means without and 'Va' means Varthinchuta (to conduct oneself). Therefore, Manava is one who conducts himself without Maya. If you fall a victim to Maya, you will never be able to understand Marmamu (reality). In fact, man himself is the cause of his delusion. It arises out of his imagination. You see a man expressing various feelings like love, anger, happiness according to the demands of the role being enacted by him in a cinema. But these are all the expressions of his imagination. Likewise, happiness or sorrow experienced by man are the results of his delusion.

However much one may try, it is not possible to know God in totality. Once Kunti said to Krishna, "Oh Krishna! Though You are God, we are deluded to think that You are a human being like us." Saint Thyagaraja too echoed the same feelings in the following verse:

*Oh Lord! You answered the prayers of Draupadi and saved her from humiliation. You made ugly-looking Kubja beautiful. You protected the Pandavas. Is it possible to estimate Your glory and splendour? You are beyond all description and human comprehension. Krishna, it is not possible for even Brahma to describe Your glory.*  
(Telugu Song)

Good and bad lie in your mind; they are not outside. Hence, correct your feelings in the first instance. Get rid of all animal qualities so that humanness can blossom in you. If you notice even a trace of hatred in yourself, drive it away at once. Having attained human birth, it is shameful for man to harbour evil qualities like hatred. Do not fall a prey to infatuation. You should be attracted only towards God and none else. You love your son because you consider him to be your reflection. In fact, the one who loves you, the one who hates you, the one who criticises you, all are your own reflections. At one time, someone may be angry with you but later his anger may give way to love. People are carried away by the vagaries of the mind. Being deluded by the names and forms, they are unable to know the transient nature of the world. Truly speaking, you have neither friends nor enemies. It is only your love or hatred that is reflected from outside. God does not give you happiness or sorrow; they are of your own making. They originate from you.

### **Understand the Divine Principle of Unity**

*Embodiments of Love!*

God is present everywhere in the form of five elements. Everyone is endowed with five elements and everyone is an embodiment of love. All are one. There is no second entity.

Wherever you see, there are five elements. You do not find a sixth element anywhere. The principle of love present in you represents Easwaratwa and Brahmatwa (divine principle). It is merely Bhrama (delusion) to think that Brahma is separate from you. Everything is Brahman. Everything is the manifestation of Atma and Ananda. That is why God is extolled as *Nityanandam, Paramasukhadam Kevalam Jnanamurtim ...* (God is the embodiment of eternal bliss, He is wisdom absolute). Even the Karma (action) that you perform is the manifestation of Brahma. When you perform actions with such divine feelings, they will yield good results. Never criticise God. Never deny Him. Everything is the manifestation of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara. All are divine. This is what you have to learn on this auspicious day of Sivarathri. There is nothing other than divinity in this world. The principle of divinity present in a grain of sand and in a big Laddu is one and the same. Once you realise this truth, you become Brahma yourself. You do not need to search for Brahma elsewhere. You are Brahma, you are Vishnu, you are Siva, you are the very embodiment of the Divine Trinity. It is only your feeling that assumes the form of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara.

At one time, you may have the feeling of anger against someone, but at another time that of love. In fact, anger and love are the expressions of your feelings. You are subjected to unrest and suffering because of your dualistic feelings. You perceive unity as diversity, instead of visualising unity in diversity. Number 1 is the basis for all other numbers. Likewise, names and forms may vary, but all are essentially one. Other than divinity, there is no second entity in this world. Many spiritual aspirants and yogis made concerted efforts to understand the principle of divinity. They ultimately realised that truth is one, but scholars call it by various names. As you have not understood this truth, you are deluded by the apparent duality. You should understand the spiritual mathematics in order to know that divinity is one. It is most essential that you understand this principle of oneness and conduct yourself accordingly. You and your shadow are not two; they are essentially one. When you understand this oneness, you will experience divinity. You will realise that the individual is not different from God. When you put a zero after the numeral 1, it becomes 10; add one more zero, it will become 100. In this manner, if you go on adding zeros, the value also increases to 1000, 10,000, 1,00,000. In this number 1 lakh, if you remove all zeros what remains is 1. Zeros gain value only when they are positioned next to the numeral 1. 'I', 'my wife', 'my children', 'my property', etc., all these are like zeros. They will have value only when they are associated with God who is like numeral 1. The entire world is like a zero. It has emerged from the hero, God. It is because of your delusion that you mistake zero for hero. So long as you are immersed in delusion, you will never be able to realise divinity. Delusion gives rise to doubts which will rob you of your happiness. Doubts are like poison; remove this poison from your mind. People doubt their wife, children and friends. It is a shame to doubt others. Hence, never entertain doubts. Even if doubts overpower you for some time, never let them remain with you for long. Strengthen your faith in God. If you want your faith to become strong, you should not entertain doubts. Doubts will put you to danger and you can be involved in many difficult situations in life.

A car can run smoothly only when there is air in all its four tyres. Human body is like a car. Mind is the steering wheel. Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha are its four tyres.

They should be filled with the air of faith. Even if one of the tyres is punctured, your life will be put to danger. Have firm control over the steering wheel of mind. Only then can you reach the goal of life safely.

*Embodiments of Love!*

The entire world is pervaded by the five elements. You should maintain perfect balance and harmony among them. When you ride a bicycle, you have to maintain perfect balance. If you do not maintain proper balance, you are likely to meet with an accident. Likewise, you can lead the life of a true human being only when you have proper balance of mind. If you lack proper balance of mind, your humanness will be destroyed. Human life is most difficult to attain. Having been blessed with such a precious human birth, what a shame if you behave like an animal! You should live like a human being. Keep your mind under control. This is My Message to you on this holy night of Sivarathri (*loud applause*).

Understand that you are born as a human being, not as an insect or a worm. Neither are you an animal, a bird or a beast. You should understand the meaning of the term Manava. 'Ma' means not and 'Nava' means new. You are not here for the first time. You are not new to this earth. You have gone through a number of births before attaining this human birth. Give up all your old and mean animal qualities and start your life afresh. Human life is highly sacred and mysterious. Only God can unravel its mystery. Visweswara (the Lord of the universe) permeates the entire Viswa (universe). He transcends all description. He is present in you in the form of Atma. There is only one path for the realisation of Atma. Give up the feeling of 'mine'. You say 'this is mine and that is mine'. Once you get rid of such worldly attachment, you will develop purity, steadiness and selflessness. You will be free from suffering, worries and anxieties. Ultimately, you will attain Moksha (liberation). Having attained Manavatwa (humanness), you should make efforts to rise to the level of Madhavatwa (divinity). That is your goal. What is the use if you remain at the level of Manavatwa forever? You should develop Sanmathi (good intellect) to rise to the level of divine. Unity confers purity which will in turn lead to divinity. Hence, all of you must have unity. You belong to the human race. You belong to one family. Hence, you should conduct yourselves like brothers and sisters. Absence of the spirit of unity will affect your purity and distance you from divinity. Therefore, first and foremost you should develop unity. Only then can you think of experiencing divinity.

*Embodiments of Love – Students!*

You are the students of Sri Sathya Sai College. Being the students of this great institution, you should set an example of unity to others. Understand the principle of unity and put it into practice in your life. You deserve to be called Sai students only when you develop unity. Bereft of unity, how can you experience purity? Remove all your weaknesses. Love God with all your heart. When you have love for God in your heart, all evil qualities will be driven away from it. You can achieve anything through love. So, make every effort to develop love.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan "*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho...*" and continued His Discourse).

## **Chant the Divine Name Wholeheartedly**

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Since time immemorial, the divine name of Rama has been protecting the devotees and leading them on the right path. One can very well imagine the potency of Rama's name as it has remained etched in the hearts of people through the ages. This in itself is a mystery. Thousands of years have passed since the advent of Rama, yet His name remains ever fresh and ever new. One may be on the top of a mountain or in a village or in a city, everyone derives immense delight in chanting the name of Rama.

Once in the court of Krishnadevaraya, there was a debate in which eight scholars of the royal court participated. Krishnadevaraya wanted to know who among them was the best. He wanted them to frame a meaningful sentence consisting of five letters, each letter having the same meaning in five different languages. "Whoever comes out with an answer to this question by tomorrow morning will be suitably rewarded", he added.

Since his house was far away, Tenali Ramakrishna decided to spend the night in his brother-in-law's house. When he was provided with a comfortable bed for the night, Ramakrishna refused to sleep on it. He said, "I have to think of an answer to a question put by the king by tomorrow morning. A bed like this is certain to put me to sleep in no time. So, provide a cot for me in the cowshed." As he was lying on the cot, at one o'clock in the night, one of the cows in the shed gave birth to a calf. Ramakrishna called out to inform his brother-in-law about this. His brother-in-law wanted to know which cow had given birth, since he had given different names to his cows, like Parvati, Lakshmi and Saraswati. He asked Ramakrishna, "Ye Aav Ra Bava" (Oh brother-in-law! Which cow is that?). When Ramakrishna heard this, his joy knew no bounds, since he had found an answer to the king's question. So, he repeated the phrase again and again. His brother-in-law thought that Ramakrishna was behaving in this strange manner due to lack of sleep.

Next morning, Ramakrishna went to the royal court and found that no one else had the answer to the question. All others were convinced that it was not possible to frame such a sentence. "Ye Aav Ra Ba Va" is the answer, he said. Everyone was intrigued. Then he explained, "'Ye' in Marathi, 'Aav' in Hindi, 'Ra' in Telugu, 'Ba' in Kannada and 'Va' in Tamil convey the same meaning, i.e., 'come'." All the five languages are represented in this sentence.

### *Students!*

The words you utter sometimes convey different meanings. Hence, you should be very careful while speaking. Develop virtues and lead an ideal life. Only then will Swami be pleased with you. If you make Me happy with your ideal conduct, I will confer much more happiness on you. Your happiness is My happiness. Wherever you go, earn a good name for yourself. Your character is very important for Me. Hence, make every effort to mould your character and be an ideal to others. This is the message I would like to give you on this auspicious day of Sivarathri. The day on which all of you experience eternal bliss is Sivarathri for Me.

Once Thyagaraja performed a musical concert at Thanjavur. Many eminent musicians and scholars were present in the concert hall. In the beginning of the programme,



Thyagaraja offered salutations to all of them through his famous composition, *Endaro Mahanubhavulu, Andariki Vandanamulu* ... (there are many great souls who have had the divine experience; I prostrate before all of them). Everyone was blissful listening to his melodious singing. He demonstrated by his example that one should pay his respects to everyone in the assembly before addressing them since there was divinity in all of them. Many years ago, a scholar was invited to address a congregation at Prasanthi Nilayam. While commencing his speech, he addressed the audience thus: “Brothers and sisters except one!” Then he explained that his wife was also present among the audience. Even while addressing a congregation, he was remembering his wife. One should not observe such differences while addressing a public gathering. One should offer his salutations to one and all.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

I shower My blessings on all of you on this holy night of Sivarathri (*loud prolonged applause*). Sing the Divine Name throughout the night. To the extent possible, spend the night in the contemplation of God. Only then can you experience divine bliss. You can even witness the manifestation of divine effulgence. Sing Bhajans wholeheartedly. You may sing any name, but you should understand its inner meaning. For example, ‘Digambara’ is one of the names of Lord Siva. Digambara in common parlance refers to the one who is without clothes. But if you enquire into the inner meaning, you will know that Digambara is the one who has Dikkulu (four sides – east, west, north, south) as his Ambara (vesture). There is a possibility that people misunderstand this word and think that Siva does not wear anything on his body. Hence, it is better that you do not use this word in Bhajans.

– **From Bhagavan’s Sivarathri Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 26th February 2006.**

## **LINGODBHAVA ON SIVARATHRI AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

NIGHTLONG vigil and Bhajan during the night of holy Sivarathri on 26th February 2006 culminated in the divine phenomenon of Lingodbhava at Prasanthi Nilayam when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba manifested a Hiranyagarbha Linga from His mouth on the morning of 27th February 2006 at 8.25 a.m. before a mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam had the great good fortune of witnessing this rarest of rare event of Lingodbhava besides taking part in nightlong vigil and Bhajan and listening to the nectarine Discourse of Bhagavan on this holy festival.

#### **Showers of Divine Grace**

On the morning of 26th February 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.30 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. Nadaswaram and Panchavadyam troupes of students

welcomed Bhagavan into Sai Kulwant Hall with their sweet notes. Before the commencement of the Sivarathri programme, Bhagavan blessed and honoured four of His ardent devotees who have been rendering outstanding service in His Divine Mission. Bhagavan rewarded each of them with a brand new car also. As their names were announced along with a brief description of their meritorious services to Bhagavan, they came one by one and received Bhagavan's blessings. Bhagavan garlanded them and gave them the keys of the cars blessed by Him. The first fortunate devotee who received this rare grace of Bhagavan was Sri A. Ramakrishna who recently retired as Vice President of Larsen and Toubro Limited (construction division) which undertook the construction of Chaitanya Jyoti, Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals at Puttaparthi and Bangalore and executed Bhagavan's stupendous water supply projects of Anantapur, Mahboobnagar, Medak as well as East and West Godavari districts as also Chennai drinking water project under his stewardship. The second fortunate devotee was Sri R. Kondal Rao, who has been associated with Bhagavan's all water supply projects as a designer and also as part of the execution team. Sri K. Chakravarthi, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust who earlier served as Registrar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and was also associated with Bhagavan's water supply projects was the third recipient of this rare grace of Bhagavan. The fourth devotee who was thus honoured was Dr. G. Venkataraman, who after serving as Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning is now associated with Prasanthi Digital Studio and Radio Sai Global Harmony at Prasanthi Nilayam. In a separate function on the morning of 27th February 2006, Bhagavan blessed and honoured Smt. K. Geeta Paramahansa and Sri K.R. Paramahansa for their meritorious service to destitute children in Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanoddharana Pathakam Ashram. Bhagavan rewarded them also with a brand new car and showered His benedictions on them and also the children being looked after by them. On this occasion, Bhagavan spoke to these children who delighted one and all in Sai Kulwant Hall by Veda chanting and by leading a few Bhajans. Some of them made a brief speech expressing their deep gratitude to Bhagavan for taking care of them in every possible way.

Sivarathri programme began with a beautiful presentation of Siva Stotras and devotional songs in praise of Siva by the students. Interspersed with a meaningful commentary, the students recited the Stotras and sang songs set to sweet music. The Stotras and songs included Chidananda Rupah Sivoham Sivoham, Bilvashtakam, Lingashtakam, Ganga Taranga Ramaneeya Jatakalaapam, Neela Kanthara Deva Deena Bandhava Ra Ra, Sada Sivam Bhajamyaham Sakala Loka Nayakam, Siva Siva Siva Siva Anarada, Siva Sankari Sivananda Lahari, Om Namah Sivaya – Om Namah Sivaya. The last two were solo songs rendered very well by the Mandir Bhajan singers. Others were all group songs. Bhagavan was very involved throughout the presentation. After this, there was a brief programme of Bhajans. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to all the devotees. The programme came to a close at 10.15 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Before leaving for His abode in Poornachandra, Bhagavan ceremoniously cut the cakes placed in the verandah and lighted candles on them.

### **Sivarathri Bhajan and Vigil**

Nightlong Sivarathri Bhajan started in the evening on 26th February 2006 after the Sivarathri Discourse of Bhagavan. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in the afternoon at 4.00 p.m. Soon after His arrival, Bhagavan distributed clothes and calculators to students. The Bhajans started at 5.45 p.m. As the Institute students led the Bhajans, the mammoth gathering of devotees followed in chorus. Seated on the dais, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on devotees. After a few Bhajans by the students, Smt. P. Susheela, a renowned singer, led a couple of Bhajans. Then Sri A.V.S. Raju, Chairman, Nagarjuna Construction Company delighted the gathering with his Telugu poems. After this, Bhagavan gave His Sivarathri Discourse (full text given elsewhere in this issue) which started at 6.35 p.m. and concluded at 7.30 p.m. with the Bhajan “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Ram Ram Ram ...*” The mammoth gathering of devotees followed the Bhajan in chorus with devotional fervour. Soon after this started nightlong Sivarathri Bhajan which was led by boys and girls students of the Institute alternately. Sivarathri Bhajan continued with zest and devotion up to 5.00 a.m. on 27th February 2006 when the Suprabhatam was sung invoking the blessings of Bhagavan. Bhajan was resumed immediately after Suprabhatam. While the devotees were thus engaged in Bhajan singing, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall to shower His blessings on them at 6.25 a.m. Bhagavan’s presence rejuvenated the singers and devotees who sang Bhajans with great enthusiasm despite nightlong vigil.

### **Emergence of Hiranyagarbha Linga**

Occupying His chair on the dais, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on devotees as the Sivarathri Bhajan proceeded towards its culmination. At about 7.15 a.m., devotees could observe signs of Lingodbhava as Bhagavan started sipping water from the tumbler placed on the table in front of Him. The Bhajans gathered greater momentum as Bhagavan manifested more and more signs of the emergence of the Linga. The vast Sai Kulwant Hall reverberated with Siva Bhajans but all eyes were now riveted on Bhagavan because no devotee wanted to miss the rare opportunity of witnessing the divine phenomenon of the emergence of the Linga. Bhagavan started drinking water with more frequency as His body movements showed sure signs that the Linga was about to come out. At this sacred moment, the students led Siva Bhajans at a high pitch followed with zeal and gusto by the mammoth gathering of devotees in the Hall. Now the total attention of one and all was on Bhagavan as Lingodbhava neared its culmination. As the Bhajan reached its crescendo, a big golden oval-shaped Hiranyagarbha Linga emerged from the mouth of Bhagavan at 8.25 a.m. inundating each heart with divine bliss. All anxiety was over and there was widespread feeling of relief and happiness in the entire Sai Kulwant Hall. Soon after its emergence, Bhagavan cheerfully held the Linga in His hand and showed it to the entire gathering. Thereafter, Bhagavan went into the rows of devotees and showed the Linga to them. The function to honour and bless Smt. and Sri K. R. Paramahansa followed this. The holy function of Sivarathri came to a happy conclusion at 9.30 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was distributed to all the devotees at the conclusion of the Sivarathri function.

# REALISE YOUR DIVINITY WITH FAITH AND DEVOTION

*Everyone has to face the consequences of his Karma (actions). Who has made the bats to hang from the branches of a tree with their heads downwards? Has anyone tied them upside down out of hatred? No, it is their fate. Likewise, nobody can escape from the consequences of Karma.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

AFTER the coronation of Parikshit, many people advised and assisted him. They wanted to help him to become an able and successful ruler. But it was not an easy task since Parikshit was merely a boy of tender age when he ascended the throne.

## **Rare Courage and Confidence of Parikshit**

There were no elders left in the lineage of the Pandavas. Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva had already decided on their final journey to the Himalayas. Young Parikshit was the lone survivor of the Pandava clan. There was none who could ascend the throne except him. The young lad was thus faced with a heavy responsibility. Dharmaraja realised the gravity of the situation and advised him that the consequences of the passage of time were inescapable. Even Krishna who was their constant support had left them. They also had no choice but to follow in the footsteps of Krishna. After all, they had always adhered to the advice and guidance of Krishna. Krishna treated them as His intimate friends. He had reared them like His own children. He had been their closest relative. In fact, he had sustained them in every manner of relationship. He alone was their refuge. In this manner, Dharmaraja advised Parikshit to face his responsibilities with courage, confidence and faith in God. Both Dharmaraja and Draupadi were eager to know how Parikshit would conduct himself in such a situation. Parikshit replied bravely that he would not shirk his responsibilities nor let down the glory of his lineage. “I shall rule this kingdom with your blessings and Lord Krishna’s grace”, he averred. He was full of confidence and courage. Dharmaraja and Draupadi were happy and relieved. They were astonished at the courageous demeanour of the young lad.

Parikshit was then reminded of the happenings prior to this. He had gone to each of the Pandavas and asked them to take up the responsibility of ruling the kingdom. But all of them had declined. Others insisted that Dharmaraja alone was qualified for ruling the kingdom, which was also the wish of the people. There were some who even thought that Draupadi herself might rule the kingdom. But in those days it was not possible for women to become rulers of kingdoms. It was thought that women were soft by nature and could not take hard decisions when such situations arose in the management of the affairs of the kingdom. They only advised the king as to what was right to do. They strengthened

his faith in God and led him on the right path. It was Draupadi who spoke reassuring words to Parikshit to infuse courage and confidence in him. Finally, they settled on the young Parikshit as the only suitable person. Thus, the crowning of Parikshit as emperor took place.

### **Unwavering Faith of Yudhishtira in Krishna**

After this, the Pandavas and Draupadi made preparations for their departure. People closed their eyes when they saw them leaving the kingdom. Their mind was filled with anxiety, worry and fear. Then Draupadi said, "Please do not worry; worry is the worst enemy of mankind." Birth is worry, death is worry. Future is the cause of worry. In fact, life of man is full of worries. The only way to escape from worries is contemplation of God. Devotion to Swami will make you free from all worries (*loud applause*). Follow the Godward path and act in the righteous way. Then God will help you at all times. The entire universe is under the control of God. But people fail to see this truth. Everyone only thinks of the body, which is made of five elements. It is bound to fall and disintegrate some time or the other. But the indweller is eternal. It is beyond birth and death. Draupadi said, "Oh! people, at least from now onwards develop faith in the indweller. Of what use is the Deha (body) without the Dehi (indweller)? Therefore, contemplate on the indweller. It is the indweller that protects all." Dharmaraja turned to Draupadi and said, "Truly, it is Krishna Himself speaking through you - such is your faith in Him." Dharmaraja felt as if he was hearing all this from Krishna Himself who seemed to promise him that He would be constantly overseeing the situation in the country. With this, Dharmaraja felt greatly reassured. He prayed to Krishna, "You are everything for us. It was Your power that helped us in war and peace. Of what value is power and kingdom without You? Hence, we want to come to You leaving all our worldly possessions. We leave the responsibility of looking after child Parikshit with You."

Dharmaraja then went before the people and reassured them not to be afraid of anything. He said, "Oh people! Krishna is always with us. He is protecting us, and all that is happening is the Will and play of Krishna. It is beyond our ordinary understanding because the ways of God are inscrutable and inexplicable. God is all-pervasive and indwells all beings though He cannot be seen by the physical eyes." Listening to these reassuring words of Dharmaraja, the people were infused with confidence and courage.

### **Exemplary Qualities of Draupadi**

After his coronation, Parikshit called an assembly of all his vassal kings. Some of them wrongly thought that the young king was fear-stricken and that was why he was summoning all of them. When all the kings were seated in the chamber of the court, Parikshit spoke to them with full confidence without even a trace of fear. He saluted all and said, "You see a young boy as the king of this great empire. Though I have no experience of ruling the kingdom, I shall not shirk my responsibility nor should you from yours. I extend all help and support to you and seek your help and support. We are together committed to see to the welfare of this empire." All the kings then assured him that they would accept him as their leader and extend all help to him. After deliberating on the affairs of the kingdom, all of them left for their respective places.

In spite of Parikshit's reassurance to all the kings under his empire, some evil-minded kings got together and started a war against him thinking that the youthful king lacked determination and could be vanquished easily. However, many other kings came to support him. He fought the battle with the name of Krishna as well as all the 12 names of his grandfather Arjuna on his lips – Arjuna, Phalguna, Partha, Kiriti, Swetavahana, Bheebhatsu, Vijaya, Krishna, Savyasachi and Dhananjaya. He prayed to Krishna and Arjuna as also to all the Pandavas as well as his grandmother Draupadi. This infused all the more courage and valour in him and he felt as if Krishna and all the Pandavas along with Draupadi were present around him.

Draupadi was not an ordinary woman. She was a great leader in her own right and an ideal for the entire womanhood. In fact, Draupadi was Parikshit's mentor, both at worldly and spiritual levels. She advised him, "Dear child! You should love your subjects like your life-breath. Provide comfort and happiness to them. You are young and should avoid involving yourself in war, because war is harmful for the country. Draupadi's advice to Parikshit stood him in good stead. All his subjects young and old stood by him addressing and adoring him as Maharaja (the king of kings) with affection and awe. They were happy and proud that they were under the rule of a virtuous and valorous king. With such a king presiding over their welfare, where was the room for any fear? And Parikshit reassured them that in spite of his being so young, there was no power on earth that could vanquish him because he was the recipient of the blessings of his elders and grace of God. God alone was his refuge. He undertook the administration of the empire with full faith in God.

Draupadi had unmatched devotion for Krishna who showered His grace on her. He was always ready to grant her whatever she prayed for. Her grooming of Parikshit in administration helped him to become a successful ruler. Even before the formal coronation of Parikshit, Draupadi along with Dharmaraja used to address the people of Hastinapura, saying that this young child was their future ruler. They would say, "Do not be misled by his youthful looks. Parikshit might appear to be young, yet he was endowed with a sharp and mature intellect. He is blessed with the grace of God and is replete with all kingly virtues. At present, he is a small child and needs your support and protection. Take this up as a duty given to you by God. In due course, he will be the king and will look after your welfare. When the time is ripe, you shall be protected and provided with your needs by him. He is not an ordinary child; he is verily a gift of God to us and to all. When you follow him sincerely, he will look after you with the same earnestness. Everything happens according to the Will of God. The Will of God cannot be tampered with by any other force."

Thus, Draupadi and Dharmaraja paved the way for the crowning of Parikshit. That was the manner of political administration in those days. The king used to treat the people as his own children. The people had also great love and respect for the king. When such a loving and noble king rules over such loyal and obedient subjects, the country will not lack anything. Thus, Parikshit became a great emperor. Are there any parents who can bring up their children in this way? Even if you are prepared to train them in the right way, the children will not be ready to listen. But Parikshit was not such a child. He was

intelligent and courageous. Courage is the means of success in life. This is also a true spiritual practice. That is the true strength. Armed with such divine and spiritual strength, Parikshit achieved greatness. And the whole empire prospered thereby. Such a great benefactor is very rare to find.

### **Unity of the Country under Parikshit**

Parikshit summoned all his ministers as also representatives from the subcontinent and spoke to them on the importance of unity. The unity achieved by Parikshit in his empire was indeed unmatched and rare. When there is the spirit of unity in the community, purity will prevail there. Bharat is suffering today because there is lack of unity in the country. Where there is unity, there is purity. And purity is the way to divinity. With divinity, all tasks will be fruitful. It is essential to sustain and maintain purity both at the individual and at the community level. In this way, people were taught the ideals of unity, purity and divinity. Thereby, an ideal community was created in his empire. The young king Parikshit smilingly approached his people and even apologised to them for any mistakes that he might have unwittingly committed. The type of communication that should exist between the ruler and his subjects was exemplified by Parikshit par excellence. Young Parikshit had full faith in God whose benevolence and grace ensured the welfare of his subjects. He treated his subjects with kindness and love and made them happy. The people also loved and respected him. They were totally loyal to him. It is a matter of great significance that Parikshit ruled over this country. You should have the same firm faith in God and purity of heart as exemplified by Parikshit.

Dasara celebrations will have significance if all of you imbibe virtues and adopt the path of righteousness. I bless you all to achieve this great ideal. If all of you acquire the greatness and idealism of Parikshit, the country will achieve rare glory. It is your great good fortune that you are listening to these words of Swami. Besides, you have the opportunity of listening to the chanting of the Vedas and singing of the glories of the Lord. All these merits will help you to cross the ocean of Samsara (worldliness). I exhort you to continue these spiritual practices throughout your life. Women should also participate in these spiritual practices and follow the ideals of Draupadi. Draupadi could achieve great heights of nobility because of her faith in God and firm devotion. You should also attain such nobility of character and mould your family to attain this greatness. With these words, I bring My Discourse to a close.

– **From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 8th October 2005.**

**Our life is like a bird with two wings. We should have the two wings of love and service. Just as birds fly with their wings, we should reach noble heights with the two wings of love and service.**

– **Baba**

# **FESTIVITIES AT BRINDAVAN AND PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

## **CELEBRATIONS AT BRINDAVAN**

IN response to the earnest prayers of devotees of Brindavan, Whitefield (Bangalore), Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba went there on 21st January 2006 and stayed on for nearly one month before returning to Prasanthi Nilayam on 18th February 2006. Bhagavan's arrival created a festive mood at Brindavan where many cultural and musical programmes were held during this period.

### **Chinese New Year Day Celebrations**

Chinese New Year was celebrated at Brindavan on 6th February 2006. Over 200 devotees from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia specially came to Brindavan to celebrate this function in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, the venue of celebrations, was beautifully decorated in typically Chinese style for the festive occasion. There were special decorations on the dais with attractive red and yellow lanterns, red paper cuttings, colourful buntings and cherry blossoms. Bhajan in the Hall started at 9.30 a.m. led by the Chinese devotees. Bhagavan came at 9.45 a.m. in a procession led by lion dancers and other dancers wearing masks. They danced their way to the Hall to the beat of drums and cymbals. After taking a round of the Hall and accepting letters from the devotees, Bhagavan came to the dais at 10.00 a.m. All the while, Bhajans led by the Chinese devotees continued.

As soon as Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the Chinese devotees started sacred chants which were followed by Lunar New Year songs. Thereafter, they made their customary offerings to Bhagavan on the dais. They went up in pairs, one lady from ladies side and one gent from the gents side and offered to Bhagavan Chinese tea, Chinese cakes, Mandarin oranges and red packets considered as marks of auspiciousness and prosperity. One pair showed to Bhagavan the photos of the tsunami which destroyed big concrete buildings on a coast of Philippines but left the wooden mosques untouched showing how Divine grace saved the places of worship. They also showed to Bhagavan the photos of Seva done in Batam and Aceh in Indonesia.

After this, a group of Chinese children presented a skit highlighting the customs associated with the celebration of the Chinese New Year and their significance. It was noteworthy that the traditional Chinese teachings were similar to the teachings of Bhagavan whose axioms and dictums were quoted in the skit by the children. After this, there were Bhajans led by Chinese devotees. The pronunciation, tune and rhythm of the Hindi Bhajans were so perfect that none could say that the Bhajans were being led by overseas devotees. In the end, Prasadam of red packets (containing candies) blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all the devotees. The programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.05 a.m.

### **Excellent Programmes by Brindavan Campus Students**



Bhagavan's stay at Brindavan provided a welcome opportunity to the students of the Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning to present some very beautiful and interesting programmes in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Their first programme was "Hridaya Pushpam" which was held on the afternoon of 29th January 2006. The students presented soulful group songs in Hindi, Telugu and English interspersed with speeches. The students narrated their experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity and expressed their love and gratitude to Bhagavan for the wonderful opportunity of His proximity.

The students presented their second programme entitled "Bhakti Sagar" on 5th February 2006 which described the nine modes of worship of God. Citing the examples of great devotees like Prahlada, Mirabai, Hanuman etc., students described each mode of worship followed by an appropriate devotional song sung by a group of students in different languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, etc. Besides Bhagavan, some other dignitaries including Sri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice President of India and Sri T.N. Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka enjoyed listening to this most captivating presentation. The programme which started after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the afternoon came to a close at 6.45 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

The students showed their poetic talent in a Poets Meet programme organised by them on the afternoon of 12th February 2006. Dressed in the traditional costumes of poets, 15 students recited beautiful poems in many languages which included Hindi, Telugu, English, Kannada, Nepali, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Oriya, Bengali, Tulu, etc. The themes covered by these budding poets in their poems included the Glory of Sai Avatar, Sai's Mission, Message of the Bhagavadgita, Role of Students in the Divine Mission of Bhagavan, etc. As the programme concluded, Bhagavan blessed the students and posed for photographs with them.

### **Yajna for the Welfare of Mankind**

A Yajna was performed from 10th to 14th February 2006 in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam for the welfare of mankind. There was daily chanting of Vedic Mantras along with offering of oblations into the sacred Yajna fire, sanctifying the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. On 14th February 2006, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba put precious clothes and other offerings into the sacred fire to mark the Poornahuti (final oblations) of the Yajna. At the completion of the Yajna, Bhagavan distributed clothes to the priests who performed the Yajna, and blessed the couple who organised it. Thereafter, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the devotees by sprinkling Akshatas (sacred yellow rice) on them to mark the conclusion of the sacred ceremony.

### **CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

The bond of love that exists between Bhagavan and His students is so deep and subtle that it defies all definitions and descriptions. But its sweetness and bliss can be experienced not only by the students themselves but by those fortunate devotees also who get an opportunity to witness the programmes presented by the students in the close proximity of Bhagavan. Thousands of devotees got this rare opportunity when the

students organised a series of functions in Sai Kulwant Hall to pour out their hearts to express their love for their Beloved Bhagavan.

The joy of students was worth seeing when they formed a colourful procession and performed a Bhangra dance before the car of Bhagavan when He came from Whitefield on 18th February 2006. They offered Bhagavan a hearty welcome with Poornakumbham and Veda chanting. They also organised a function in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 19th February 2006 in which the Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak and two students of the Institute expressed their feelings of delight and happiness on behalf of all the students and staff of the Institute on the return of Bhagavan from Brindavan.

After this, three more functions were held in which the final year students of undergraduate courses, Higher Secondary School students of 10th and 12th Classes and final year students of postgraduate courses made their presentations to express their gratitude and love for Bhagavan for His bountiful love and grace, and the priceless lessons learnt by them at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan during their stay in Bhagavan's school and college as students. The first programme was presented by the final year undergraduate students on the afternoon of 20th February 2006. The programme, entitled "Educare: Education for Life and not for a Living" not only gave the essence of Bhagavan's teachings on educare, but it expressed deep gratitude and love of the students for Bhagavan for His loving care and divine grace. The students presented various incidents from mythology and enacted some parables to elucidate these values taught by Bhagavan. The importance of Bhagavan's teachings through experiences of some devotees and students was also highlighted by different student speakers. About 70 students took part in the programme. In all, they sang eight beautiful songs. Bhagavan showered His grace and blessings on the students in the end. He also materialised a gold ring for one of the students during the course of this excellent programme. The programme which commenced at 3.30 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 4.45 p.m.

On the afternoon of 23rd February 2006, the students of 10th and 12th Classes of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School made a musical presentation expressing their gratitude to Bhagavan, singing His glory in group songs and narrating their experiences of Bhagavan's divine grace. The programme started after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.30 p.m. with a dialogue between two students reminiscing their sweet memories as students of Primary and Higher Secondary schools. What followed this was a beautiful medley of group songs, poems, anecdotes and experiences which delighted one and all. Bhagavan was touched by the sweet feelings of love expressed by the students and blessed them with a nectarine Discourse exhorting them to control their senses and purify their mind and feelings. In the middle of His Discourse, Bhagavan called one of the students and materialised a gold ring for him to the delight of the entire gathering. Bhagavan concluded His Discourse at 5.30 p.m. after which there was a brief Bhajan session. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.45 p.m.

The final year students of postgraduate courses presented their programme on the afternoon of 24th February 2006. The programme appropriately named “Prema Dhara” really was a stream of love which flowed in Sai Kulwant Hall immersing the entire gathering in sweetness of love and bliss. The students made speeches, recited poems and sang songs in Telugu, English, Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, etc., to express their love and gratitude to Bhagavan. At the end of this programme also Bhagavan blessed the gathering with a Divine Discourse from 4.45 p.m. to 5.55 p.m. The programme concluded at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **T H A I L A N D**

On 8th October 2005, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on Richter scale devastated north-eastern Pakistan. The immediate estimated death toll was over 87,000. On 17th October 2005, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Thailand donated 30,000 Baht (or 33,000 rupees) for the relief efforts. This led the Pakistani Ambassador of Thailand to enquire more about Bhagavan Baba and the Sathya Sai Organisation.

A medical camp was held on 16th October 2005 in the Khut Tung Khaophuang district in Chengdau. Thirty Sai devotees volunteered for the camp where 186 patients were seen for health screening and preventive healthcare. Lunch was served to all patients during the camp and the young adults played value games with children for two hours during the camp.

Bhagavan’s Birthday was celebrated in Thailand on 23rd November 2005 with ceremonial chanting by Buddhist monks at the Sathya Sai Foundation in Rajdamnern, Bangkok. This was followed by serving food to the monks followed by Bhajans. It was attended by approximately 100 devotees. A cake was cut for our Beloved Bhagavan and a birthday song sung in honour of the Lord.

Sai devotees of Thailand visited the Klong Tooey slums on 4th December 2005 to distribute 600 packets of full meals and deliver Swami’s teachings on human values. This is part of a monthly service activity which also involves distribution of toys and clothes.

### **L A O S**

The People’s Democratic Republic of Laos is landlocked between China, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In this tropical country, the Sathya Sai Organisation has been engaged in monthly activities and special celebrations. On 23rd November 2005, they celebrated Bhagavan’s 80th Birthday with Bhajans and continued their weekly human values school attended by about 230 children. In addition, they have opened a Sathya Sai Community Centre and carry out weekly Narayana Seva at a school for the visually challenged.

### **S R I L A N K A**

Devotees in Sri Lanka have been working on providing housing for the poorest of the tsunami victims. The district of Hambantota is a multi-religious set of villages located about 250 km south-east of Colombo and was devastated by the tsunami. Sai devotees in Sri Lanka undertook a project to provide houses for those families. A total of 10 furnished houses were built and donated to families during December 2005.

### **S W I T Z E R L A N D**

In a large cooperative effort by Sathya Sai devotees of Ticino, Switzerland and Sri Lanka, several container loads of milk and rice cereal have been distributed to malnourished children between the ages of one and five in tsunami-devastated villages. This project continues to the present day since the tsunami, and 254 children from several refugee camps have been given milk and rice cereal daily. The children are also visited by Sathya Sai physicians and screened and treated for any health related problems.

### **I T A L Y**

Large public meetings were held on 4th and 5th February 2006 at the Serena Majestic Hotel by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation in Pescara, Abruzzo, one of the largest commercial and tourist cities on the bank of the Adriatic sea. The event was highlighted by four movies on Bhagavan and talks by four devotees. The first film shown was on the 80th Birthday celebrations in India. This was followed on the same day by screening "Sai Schools in the World." The next day, two films were shown entitled "Social Service in Africa" and "Water Project in Madras." On the second day, Gabriele Ducross, Amilcare Monaldi, Alberto Caratti and Gianni Cecere spoke of their personal experiences with Bhagavan and how they have had a major impact on their lives. Finally, Marco Pesce highlighted the messages of the 8th World Conference of Sai Organisations and committed to a two-year programme of national activities.

### **J A P A N**

The historic city of Kobe, which is a twin city of Osaka, has one of the busiest ports in the world. Kobe which means "God's Door" in Japanese established the first Sathya Sai Centre in Japan over 30 years ago. It was in this milieu that Japan's Sathya Sai public meeting was held on 11th December 2005. More than 350 people from all over Japan attended including special guests such as the Ambassador of India to Japan, Sri Manilal Tripathi, Consul General of India in Osaka, Sri Om Prakash and President of Kansai India-Japan Cultural Society, Sri Kazuaki Kurosawa. The programme began with the screening of the movie "His Work" followed by inspiring talks by the Indian Ambassador, and by Ryuko Hira, Masako Yamamoto and Genzo Makino, the vice chairman of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Japan. They spoke about the national and worldwide activities conducted by Sathya Sai Organisation and were grateful for the opportunity to serve their fellow human beings. Finally, Hiromasa Fukai, the Councillor of the City of Ohmi Hachiman spoke on Bhagavan's Education in Human Values.

### **C O L U M B I A**

The Sathya Sai Centre of Santa Elena has been renting a house for the past nine years for children who have been orphaned by violence. About 20 Sai devotees take turn to care for the 63 resident children. They wake up in the morning to prayer and meditation. They then eat a healthy breakfast before going to school. The children are given a snack to take to school. Once a week, there is EHV instruction and they are asked to follow one value during that week.

For the past five years, the Laureles Sai Centre in Medellin has been working with children who are homeless and are addicted to drugs on the street. There are 29 children in the programme at present and about 18 Sai devotees participate. They meet at the Sathya Sai Centre five days a week. Some of the devotees teach while others prepare and serve meals for the children. They also provide EHV instruction once a week and through constant interactions share Bhagavan's love with the children. In fact, the children do not like weekends because there are no classes. Many of these children have been motivated to return to school to study. This has resulted in their remarkable transformation from high risk social delinquents to loving responsible individuals.

#### **U. S. A.**

In Jacksonville, Florida, a medical camp was conducted on 28th January 2006 wherein 74 patients were seen and screened for cholesterol, glucose, hypertension, HIV and sickle cell disease. Dental and visual examinations were also performed. The influenza vaccine was also administered. Primary prevention presentations were given on heart disease, obesity, cancer, stress management, diabetes and anger management. The event was covered by a local television station.

Amidst the glitz of Hollywood, downtown Los Angeles has a sizeable homeless population of about 48,000. These individuals have no shelter from inclement winter weather and often spend days without meals. The Glendale and Arcadia Sathya Sai centres teamed up on 26th January 2006 to provide blankets and toiletry bags to the homeless in downtown Los Angeles. The toiletry bags and full meals were handed out to 400 people. In addition, blankets were imported from China and distributed to 1,000 people. These centres have been distributing full meals to the homeless every Sunday for the past 18 years.

#### **A R G E N T I N A**

Inspired by Bhagavan's healthcare mission, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Argentina has a regular programme called Sai Medicare to provide both health education and medical treatment. The programme began in the year 2002 and, on an average, about 300 patients are seen in each camp. The camps are held 3 or 4 times a year in Santa Fe, Rosario, Gonzales Katan, Gran Bourg, Quilmes, Cordova and Tucuman. Health education addresses topics such as well-baby care, breast feeding, child development, alcoholism and family violence.

In addition, medical camps are conducted which not only include medical treatment but also the serving of meals and entertainment for children. The medical camps are conducted four times a year and about 3,000 patients have been seen so far. In one of the

camps, an individual who was not familiar with Sri Sathya Sai was so impressed with the charitable and loving service that he donated 60 pairs of eyeglasses and free vision testing for all patients.

## **I N D O N E S I A**

A free cataract clinic was organised in Surabaya in February 2006. At the opening of the clinic, 388 patients were seen and 112 of them were deemed as requiring cataract operations. First surgeries were conducted on 4th February 2006, and were followed by more surgeries every weekend.

**– Prasanthi Council**

## **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Srikakulam district distributed 108 tricycles to physically challenged children at Srikakulam and opened a Multipurpose Community Centre at Polla village in the presence of the District Collector on 25th December 2005. The district also distributed Amruta Kalasams to 300 poor tribal families at Polla and Killada tribal villages and came to the rescue of 65 fire-victim families by providing food provisions, new clothes and utensils in Ungarada village on 20th December 2005. This district came to the rescue of 201 fire-victim families of Chillapeta village on 22nd January 2006 by providing to each of the families, 8 kg rice, one mat, one blanket, one Sari, one Dhoti and a cooking vessel. Similarly, the district helped 64 fire-victim families of Santhakaviti village on 12th January 2006 by providing one cloth-bed, clothes and 5 kg of rice to each family. The district organised a service camp at the pilgrim place Suravaram on 18th January 2006, providing footwear-keeping counter, drinking water supply, Narayana Seva to 7000 pilgrims, first aid centre and information centre.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** Akhanda Bhajan was held from 6.00 p.m. on November 12th to 6.00 p.m. on November 13th in 18 centres of Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya. A total of nearly 1,500 people participated in the Akhanda Bhajan.

In Guwahati, Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations on 23rd November 2005 started with chanting of Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan from 4.30 a.m. onwards followed by Abhishekam of Shirdi Sai idol up to 12.00 p.m. in a traditional way with Brahmaputra river water brought in vessels by 110 ladies. Narayana Seva was conducted from 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. for more than 1,000 people. Lighting of 80 lamps was done at 4.30 p.m. Bhajan initiated with Veda Mantras was conducted from 5.00 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. with more than 2,000 devotees participating. Bursting of fireworks marked the end of the programme. Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was also celebrated at Dibrugarh, Borgolai (Tinsukia), Digboi, Dhubri and many other places where various spiritual and social welfare programmes were organised to mark this important event. Similarly, many excellent programmes of far reaching importance were organised in Agartala (Tripura), Imphal East (Manipur) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Bhagavan.

**Gujarat:** A Conference was organised at Savani Hall, Rajkot on 5th February 2006 which was attended by nearly 800 persons. The theme of this Conference was Unity,

Purity, Divinity. After deliberating on this subject in the Conference, a workshop was organised to discuss this subject threadbare. After the workshop, the recommendations of the Conference were finalised for follow-up action. Besides the State President and Trust Convener of Gujarat Sathya Sai Organisation and the Mayor of Rajkot, many dignitaries including the All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation guided the deliberations of the Conference.

**Haryana and Chandigarh:** 24-hour Akhanda Bhajan was conducted in 30 Samithis of all the 13 districts of the State attended by approximately 500-600 people at each place on 12th to 13th November 2005.

On 23rd November 2005, Youth Wing of the State held celebrations in all the districts with Nagar Sankirtan, Veda recitation and 2 to 3 hours special Bhajan at Samithi level benefiting approximately 400-600 people at each place. Colourful Bal Vikas Rally at Panchkula, Ratha Yatra at Yamunanagar and Palki with 80 Kalashas with recitation of Veda Mantras at Hisar were highlights of the celebrations of 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. On this auspicious occasion, special Narayana Seva was conducted in all the districts. Sai Samithis conducted health awareness and medical camps in all the adopted villages. 34 decently designed cushioned patients' trollies were also gifted to the PGI hospital by Chandigarh district for the convenience of the patients.

Declamation contests to create awareness about the Divine Mission of Bhagavan were held at school and college levels in Chandigarh, Panchkula, Gurgaon, Sirsa and Yamunanagar wherein 31 school and 17 college teams participated. 83 speakers took part in the contest in the presence of 1050 students and teachers.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** To follow the divine message that Grama Seva is Rama Seva and Manava Seva is Madhava Seva, two Samithis, namely, Talab Tillo and Marh, distributed blankets, shawls and other warm clothes comprising jackets, sweaters, shirts and pants among 558 very poor and needy villagers of Jammu district. Apart from this, 50 kg rice and 20 kg wheat flour was provided to a poor widow in village Rehal Kandarian. This act was appreciated by all the villagers. In order to help the poor people, the Sai Organisation has decided to adopt 12 villages. Efforts are being made to spread the message of Bhagavan in all these villages.

**Orissa:** Global Akhanda Bhajan from 6 p.m. on 12th November 2005 to 6 p.m. on 13th November 2005 was held in all Bhajan Mandalis and Seva Samithis of the State Sai Organisation in 1296 centres, covering 4 cities, 154 towns and 542 villages.

All the 160 Samithis and 549 Bhajan Mandalis and other 587 centres celebrated the 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba with various daylong programmes in a grand manner with common activities like Nagar Sankirtan, Puja, Satsang, devotees meet, Bal Vikas students cultural programmes and essay / elocution competitions among school students. In addition to that, some special activities were organised by Balasore, Bolangir, Gajapati, Ganjam and Sundergarh districts to celebrate this important event. Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Jarsuguda, Bhrajarajnagar Samithis also conducted many programmes to help the less privileged sections of society on this auspicious occasion.

## **CHINNA KATHA**

### **VIKSHEPA**

THERE lived in a village a reputed lawyer. He used to chant Panchakshari Mantra and one could hear the chanting of 'Om Namah Sivaya' from his Puja room everyday.

One day when he was in his Puja room, a person came to meet him for an urgent case. He asked his daughter-in-law who was present in the house, "Amma! Is the lawyer in the house?" "My father-in-law is in the house of the cobbler", replied the daughter-in-law rather loudly. On hearing these words of his daughter-in-law, the lawyer came out and shouted at her. "What is this? What are you saying? You are telling that I am in the house of the cobbler when I am chanting the Panchakshari Mantra in my Puja room! Are you out of your mind?" The daughter-in-law replied calmly, "Father-in-law! While chanting Panchakshari Mantra, how many times did you ask: 'Amma, has he brought my shoe after repairing? Six days have passed when the shoe was given to him for repair; still he has not brought after repairing it! All right, let him come, I will give him a sound thrashing.' Did you not say all this?" "Did you really recite the Panchakshari Mantra! Were you not thinking of the cobbler all the time?" She questioned. The lawyer realised his mistake and praised the intelligence of his daughter-in-law.

While doing prayer, Bhajan, Japa (recitation) and Dhyana (meditation), we should not think of anything else; our entire attention should be fixed on God only. It is due to the effect of Vikshepa (unsteadiness) that our mind runs after all sorts of unnecessary matters and our concentration gets destroyed. Regular spiritual practice and God's grace are necessary to achieve concentration.

## **SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD FOUNDATION**

THE INTERNATIONAL SRI SATHYA SAI ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN FORMED FOR THE SPIRITUAL UPLIFTMENT OF MANKIND. FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER, AUTHENTICITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AMONG THESE ORGANISATIONS, THE "SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD FOUNDATION" IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED. BY THE DIVINE COMMAND OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA, THIS FOUNDATION WILL HENCEFORTH ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF ALL FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SRI SATHYA SAI ORGANISATIONS. THE FOUNDATION WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PRASANTHI



## **COUNCIL TO ACCOMPLISH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THESE ORGANISATIONS.**

### **BE IT KNOWN THAT:**

Sri Sathya Sai Baba teaches that man is born to live a spiritual life and demonstrate the principles of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Selfless Love and Non-violence.

Good-willed men and women have come together from many countries to study and incorporate these teachings in their lives and thereby uplift the quality of human life.

The incorporation of these teachings requires the practitioners to selflessly serve mankind and exemplify these noble principles in every aspect of their lives.

The Foundation called the “Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation” is formed to function as the highest administrative body of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations that have been formed.

### **THE MISSION OF THIS FOUNDATION IS:**

To ensure the authenticity of all programmes engaged in by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

To ensure that all programmes, publications, interactions with other legal entities is conducted in a manner that is compatible with the principles enumerated above.

To ensure that the actions of the International Organisations bearing the name of Sri Sathya Sai Baba are conducted according to His express guidance and the teachings that He has expounded all these years.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES. THE FOUNDATION WILL COMMENCE ITS FUNCTION BY:**

Accepting international responsibility for all publications, films, photographs and audio/visual materials distributed by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

Accepting responsibility for all education programmes conducted by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations/Institutions.

Accepting responsibility for all healthcare programmes conducted by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

Accepting international responsibility for any other humanitarian programmes that will be initiated by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

Accepting comprehensive legal responsibility for all programmes and activities conducted by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

The Foundation will assume the role of the governing body of all International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations and Institutions while the Prasanthi Council will remain the managing body of these Organisations and Institutions. The Foundation will initially be comprised of three Directors: Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman and Director, Dr. Narendra Reddy, Director, and former Vice Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Sri S.V. Giri, I.A.S. (Retd.), Director.

The members of the Prasanthi Council remain unchanged. With Bhagavan's Grace, this new structure and relationship between the Foundation and Prasanthi Council will enable us to bring all elements of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations and Institutions together in a concerted effort towards the spiritual transformation of mankind.

**Michael Goldstein, M.D.**

*Chairman*

Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

## **BACK COVER MATTER**

### **Remedy for our Problems**

Absolute purity or perfection is not beyond man's capacity. It is possible for him to be perfect. But to obtain the absoluteness of truth, beauty and goodness, man has to struggle hard. He should develop deep understanding, follow hard discipline and put forth ceaseless effort. Man should regard

himself as a representative of divinity and not just a “man”. It is his duty to cultivate such qualities as reflect the divine within him. He should develop these divine qualities and spread them around him in society. This is the best and the only suitable remedy for many of our contemporary problems.

- Baba

APRIL 2006

DIVINE DISCOURSE: 23rd FEBRUARY 2006

## CONTROL OF SENSES IS THE REAL SADHANA

*Embodiments of Love! Dear Children!*

MY BLESSINGS to you all. I am happy that you all studied here right from the Primary School stage up to the 12th standard, obtained good marks and earned good name.

### **Divinity Permeates the Entire Creation**

Right from the Primary School stage, you imbibed many good qualities like love, compassion, kindness and discipline. You acquired many talents and skills and developed noble character. Playing, singing and moving together, you all lived like brothers with mutual love and affection. However, there occurred a decline in these qualities of yours when you reached the Higher Secondary School stage. You can yourself see what change has come about in you. All the same, your words are full of purity and devotion, and your presentation (just before Bhagavan’s Discourse, the students made a musical presentation expressing their love and gratitude to Bhagavan) has made everybody happy. I am not saying that all the boys are following the wrong path. It is only a few boys who take to wrong ways and spoil their minds. You can judge for yourself how pure is your mind.

Human being is an amalgam of five components – body, mind, intellect, consciousness and senses. Since these five components are the very basis of his being, man has to keep them pure if he wants to proceed on the path of liberation. But, first and foremost, he has to cleanse his mind. It is a serious mistake to desire for that which does not belong to you. Whenever the mind craves for something, you should enquire first whether the particular thing belongs to you or someone else. When you know that it belongs to someone else, you should carefully avoid the temptation of possessing it. The mind has to be kept

absolutely pure and sacred and free from all conflicts and controversies. All of you should develop this Jnana (knowledge) right from this early age. Unfortunately, people today are ruining their lives by harbouring all sorts of desires. This is sheer madness.

Whatever you do, do it with a sense of dedication and surrender to God. All the work you undertake must be carried out in this spirit. *Sarva Karma Bhagavad Pretyartham* (do all actions to please God). First of all, try to know, “Who am I?” The entire universe, right from the microcosm to the macrocosm, is permeated by divinity. Be it a particle of sand or sugar, a mosquito or an elephant – all are the embodiments of divinity. God assumes all these forms. *Sarvam Bhagavanmayam* (everything is permeated by God). There is nothing in this universe which is not permeated by God. The entire creation is the manifestation of divinity. In fact, it is God alone who plays all the roles in this cosmic drama though the characters of the drama appear to be different donning various costumes. All dialogues and songs are also His only. Hence, whatever you do, whatever you see and whatever you say – everything is God. You have to realise this truth and conduct yourself accordingly.

### **Shun Divisive Tendencies**

Unfortunately, today some people take to wrong ways because of their bad qualities, bad conduct, bad thoughts and bad outlook. Whomever you come across, treat him as the embodiment of divinity. Whatever you say, it should reflect divinity. When you conduct yourself in this sacred manner, that itself is Mukti (liberation). Conduct yourself in such a manner that neither you hurt others nor are you hurt by others. The words that you use should be sacred. You should not covet or steal others’ property or wealth. Cultivate faith in the unity of divinity. Everything is divine. Unfortunately, some people are not able to develop such universal outlook. They harbour the feelings of mine and thine and create differences between people. The ancient history of India is replete with instances of the ill effects of such divisive tendencies.

You all know about the history of the Kauravas and the Pandavas as described in the great epic Mahabharata. The Kauravas were the sons of Dhritarashtra and the Pandavas, of Pandu, the younger brother of Dhritarashtra. Both Dhritarashtra and Pandu were the sons of the same father. They were brothers. Their kingdom was one. Then, where did the fault lie? Their thoughts and aspirations were different. A malicious desire for annexing the entire kingdom for themselves on the part of the Kauravas resulted in evil thoughts and divisive tendencies. This was the cause of the war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas. Similar is the story of the two brothers Vali and Sugriva as described in the Ramayana. They were also born to the same father. While Vali enjoyed regal comforts in the city of Kishkindha, his younger brother Sugriva had to languish in the hills and forests. The differences between the two brothers resulted in a fierce battle between them.

You may do Japa (repetition of God’s Name) and Tapa (penance) for months and years, but if you do not give up your divisive tendencies, there is no use. Such Tapa converts itself into mere Tamas (sloth and ignorance). Many people give up their Sadhana in the middle with a sense of frustration and despair, thinking that God is not merciful enough to reveal Himself before them in spite of doing Japa for many years. If you wish to have the vision of God, first and foremost you should develop oneness with God. In fact, your own mind is the form of God. People often question, “Where is God?” “Who is God?, etc.” I would say, “Your mind is God.” *Mana Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause for bondage and liberation of man). Both bondage

and liberation occur due to the mind only. Hence, the mind is God. Next comes the intellect. It is common to observe people praising a person of sharp intellect as an intellectual. But, God alone is true intellectual. Not only our mind and intellect but our Chitta (mind-stuff) also manifests divinity. Once a great devotee sang, “Oh God! Let me offer my worship to You with Chitta Shuddhi” (mental purity).

### **You can Control Your Senses**

Just as the mind, intellect and Chitta are permeated by divinity, so also are the senses. Hence, you should not taint your senses with Kama, Krodha (desire, anger), etc. Kama signifies desire. We should desire only God and nothing else. We should love only God. That alone is true love. Love for people and worldly possessions cannot be termed true love. That is only worldly love. If you have love for God, you will have everything else added to it. All your desires should be God-oriented. Desire only to please God. Even if you love an individual, do not treat him as a mere mortal. Visualise the divinity within him.

There is no object other than the Panchabhutas (the five elements of earth, water, fire, air and ether) in this universe. You will not find a sixth element, however much you may try and explore. For example, this is a hand consisting of five fingers. There is no sixth finger. In case someone has a sixth finger, he will have to be taken to the hospital for removing it by surgery. Similarly, we all have five senses. What is Mukti (liberation)? Liberation lies in the control of the senses. Unless one controls one's senses, liberation is not possible. It is foolish to think that God is somewhere at a distant place. He is within you permeating the five senses. So, sanctify the five senses.

It is only the senses that are responsible for our pleasure and pain, good and bad. Hence, first and foremost control your senses. You may ask, “Swami! Is it possible for us?” I am emphatically saying, it is possible, provided you make an effort with firm determination. When you have the capacity to please God and attain His grace, sense control is not a big task for you. It is a comparatively small task. Unless one controls one's senses, one does not deserve to be called a human being. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). To be born as a human being is a rare gift of God. Having obtained this rare gift, one should strive to achieve sense control. If you allow even one of the five senses to go out of control, you will lower yourself to the level of an animal. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). Having attained such a rare and sacred birth of a human being, how foolish it is to say that you cannot control your senses? One who goes by the dictates of the senses is a Rakshasa (demon), verily! In fact, such a person is worse than a Rakshasa. One has to evolve oneself into a noble human being.

### **All are the Children of God**

You may be fond of your wife and children. But this does not mean that you should hate others. You should not entertain the feeling that so and so is mine and others are not. All are the embodiments of divinity! All are the children of God. All the people in this world are intimately related to each other. Whatever object you come across in this world, it belongs to God only. It does not belong to any particular individual. In every object, every being, divinity is immanent. *Visvam Vishnu Swarupam* (the entire universe is the embodiment of Lord Vishnu). The whole universe is one family. Hence, one has to cultivate such universal love. That is Atmic love. It is only when you cultivate such love,

you deserve to be called a human being. Only then can you visualise the Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma). Devoid of love, if you go on cultivating evil qualities like anger, hatred, jealousy and feelings of difference between one another, you will be worse than an animal. Beasts and animals fight among themselves. If you also fight like them, then what difference is there between you and animals? In fact, anger and hatred are not the qualities of a human being.

The feelings of difference originate in man when he considers himself different from God. Where there is a feeling of difference, there hatred raises its head. Whatever activity you undertake, it should be done in a spirit of dedication to God. We extol Lord Easwara as *Hiranyagarbhaya Namah* (I offer my salutations to the golden-wombed Lord). He is the embodiment of gold. Here gold signifies immutability. You are all golden children. But, you forget your real nature and associate yourself with dust and rust. Hence, noble souls incarnate in this world now and then to transform you and make you realise your innate divinity. However, when a noble soul embarks upon such a mission, some people doubt his motives, saying, "It is all his foolishness. Can earth become gold? Can sand become sugar?" Modern man is full of doubts and doubts! What could be the reason for these doubts? It is only when one thinks that one is separate from God that doubts arise.

It is a well known fact that a vessel which is completely full is steady. Similarly, God is the repository of all knowledge and hence He is always steady. People who come here have many experiences. (Swami called a student onto the dais). I am aware of the past, present and future of every individual, irrespective of his caste, religion and place of birth. Some people who come here may think, "Perhaps Swami does not know who I am." But, there is nothing that I do not know. Even though I know everything, I pretend as if I do not know. (Swami pointing to the student) The parents and brothers and sisters of this boy visited Prasanthi Nilayam quite some time ago. I called all of them for an interview and said to the father, "My dear! The mother of these children may not survive for long. In fact, she may breathe her last even before you reach your village. You don't worry. I will take up the responsibility of all your children." The children started crying. I told them, "Don't cry. Why fear when I am here? (*loud applause*) I will look after everything." From that day onwards, I have been looking after them as promised. The girls are all married. All the children have been provided with due requirements. None of them faced any difficulty. There is one boy among our band group. He was very young when he came here along with his parents. I called him and told him, "My dear! You don't need to worry for anything. I am your father, mother and everything. I will look after you in every respect." Whenever he came here, I used to call him and talk to him, instilling a sense of security and confidence in him. Now all the members of the family are leading a happy life. This boy was very young then. Now, he has grown up. Thus, I have been showering My love and grace on one and all, whether I talk to them or not.

What is My property? Love! Love! Love! I have no anger whatsoever. It is only to correct an erring individual that I pretend to be angry. But, I am not angry with anyone. My entire body is suffused with pure love. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). Who is Easwara? Easwara is not the one who is portrayed as wearing Rudraksha (sacred beads) garlands around his hands and serpents around his neck. It is only a form that is created for the common man to comprehend divinity to some extent. The various names and forms like Easwara, Vishnu, Parvati, Lakshmi, etc., were created to enable the common man to worship God in some form or the other. In

fact, every human being is an embodiment of Easwara. There is nothing in this world which is not permeated by Easwara. All names and forms originated from Easwaratwa (Divinity).

### **Be Ideal Students**

Divinity is not limited to one name and form. People say they had the vision of Rama, Krishna, etc., but it is only their imagination! However, divinity is only one. Unable to comprehend divinity, people ascribe several names and forms to it and get deluded. It is the devotees who change their chosen deities frequently. But, God does not change. God is one. He is permanent and eternal.

Real Sadhana lies in gaining control over the five senses and realising one's divine reality. In fact, it is only the one who has gained control over the five senses can comprehend divinity. One has to undertake that Sadhana which enables one to gain control over one's senses. There is little gain in doing spiritual practices like Japa and Dhyana (repetition of God's name and meditation) if the senses are not under control. For example, even if you engage yourself in Japa and Dhyana closing your eyes, your monkey mind will be roaming about in all the three worlds. People do not realise this truth and engage themselves in different types of Sadhana. They should try to realise the divinity that permeates all the five elements in the universe. In fact, there is nothing in this world except divinity. Whatever you see, whatever you hear, everything is permeated by divinity.

God does not observe any differences. God is Love. Love is one. There are several thousand people gathered in this Hall. However, the love that is immanent in all of them is one. There may be differences in the names and forms of people and their relationships, but their innate divinity is one and the same. Hence, all should lead a life filled with love like brothers and sisters. In educational institutions where the system of co-education is in vogue, the boys and girls should move like brothers and sisters. They should develop equal-mindedness, and should not observe any differences on account of gender. When the children reach the Higher Secondary School stage, these differences may arise in them. But they should not entertain such differences. Whoever entertains such differences is sure to fail in the examination of divine love. There is nothing great in passing examinations in the worldly sense. Everyone can pass, provided he puts in a little effort. Real achievement lies in passing the examination of divine love, i.e., seeing God in fellow beings and considering all of them as divine. He who passes the examination of divine love is the most successful person in life.

All are God's children. All are the reflections of the Hiranyagarbha present in the human body. Hence, from now onwards all of you should live like brothers and sisters with mutual love and affection. Then only you deserve to be called ideal students. But, I do not find in the present-day students such feelings of kinship. Instead, they are cultivating differences such as, "I am different and you are different." Never entertain the feelings of hatred and anger at any point of time. Anger should be controlled and hatred, given up. Your safety and welfare lie in controlling anger. When the controls on a railway station are not functioning properly, it can cause rail accidents. Similarly, the mind is the controller of all our thoughts and feelings. Hence, if the mind is controlled, the entire body comes under our control.

You are all pure gold. You are all golden children. Your words are sweet. But if your behaviour is bitter, then what is the use? Let your behaviour also be sweet in conformity with your words. Wherever you go, live happily displaying exemplary conduct and behaviour as the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions. You do not deserve to be called students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions merely because you wear white dress. In keeping with your white dress, keep your mind also pure and sacred. Only then will you become ideal students. Swami will then be constantly with you, in you, around you. I am prepared to give everything to such students. I can sacrifice even My life for them. In fact, I am protecting many people in several ways; but, no one has realised this point till today.

### **Earn the Grace of God**

Develop firm faith that Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma) is Iswaratwa (Divinity). God is the indweller of all beings. How can you be called a human being when you do not have faith in the divinity of man? *Love is God; live in love*. Your love should not be limited to an individual or your family members. You should share it with all. If only you develop such broad-mindedness, you can become a true leader and set an ideal to others. (When Swami enquired of the students whether they had faith in Swami's words, all of them unanimously responded by saying loudly, "Yes, Swami!"). It is not enough if you just pay lip service by saying 'yes'. The conviction must come from the depth of your heart. You commit a mistake and say 'sorry'. That is not enough. You should desist from repeating the same mistake.

Truth is the very life-breath of a human being. Truth is God. Do not speak untruth. If only you follow truth in your life steadfastly, you can achieve everything. Truth is like a shield that will protect you. Truth is your support. If you give up such a noble quality of truth and speak untruth, how can you be called a human being? You should never give scope for falsehood in your life. God is the only leader in this world. He is the only judge. It is only God who can judge what is just and what is unjust. You should not forget such an omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient God.

Do not entertain the feelings of mine and thine. Develop equal-mindedness. Live together happily, pass the examination and earn a good name. (Bhagavan created a gold ring with a green stone embedded in it and gave it to the student standing in front of Him). Everyone should thus earn the grace of God. Green colour is the sign of peace and prosperity. I wish that all of you attain peace, prosperity, love, devotion and grace of God. When you get rid of your bad qualities, Swami will always be with you. Divinity cannot be attained merely by offering prayers and doing Bhajans. Along with these Sadhanas, you must also develop a pure heart and offer it to God.

God is present in you in the form of five senses. Considering God as your everything and sole refuge, dedicate your senses to Him. This is an easy method to reach God. When you follow such an easy path, you will attain Moksha (liberation). After all, what is Moksha? Moha Kshaya is Moksha (removal of attachment is liberation). There is no use chanting "Ram, Ram, Ram ..." when your mind is full of Moha (attachment). Whatever work you undertake, consider it as God's work. Whomever you come across, consider him as an embodiment of God. Even the beggar who comes to beg at your door is an embodiment of God. Whether one is a king, an emperor or a beggar, the same divinity is present in everyone. Dedicate your life to win the love and grace of God. Undertake every activity



as an offering to God. Do your studies also with a sense of surrender to God. You will surely secure 1st class. I am happy to find that you are all good boys. But it is necessary for you to maintain the same good behaviour in Higher Secondary School also, as you did in the Primary School.

Let Me remind you that the teachers in our Higher Secondary School will not allow you to go on the wrong path. They will check your undesirable behaviour with firmness. They have nothing against anybody, but they are duty bound to put you on the right track. If a teacher shirks his responsibility and condones your bad behaviour without giving punishment, then he is a 'Guddi Guru' (blind teacher). He cannot be called a Guru in the real sense. The role of the headmaster in the school is also very important. He is the head of the school. He should oversee the work of all the teachers and correct them when they make even small mistakes.

Education does not mean simply reading of books. There is no greatness in acquiring degrees. It lies in attaining the Divine. Only then will your life become sanctified and your education, meaningful. Your parents will also be happy. Your parents have admitted you in Sri Sathya Sai educational institution with great hopes. You should not disappoint them. You should make all efforts to please your father, mother, teacher and God. Make your life meaningful and sacred by good thoughts, good qualities and good conduct.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

- **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd February 2006.**

## **CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

### **Story of Shirdi Sai in Burra Katha**

THE FOLK art of Burra Katha came alive in Sai Kulwant Hall when the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented the story of Shirdi Sai Baba in this ancient art on the afternoon of 9th March 2006 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Three students in traditional Burra Katha dress unfolded the story of Shirdi Sai Baba through lively dialogues and sweet songs sung to the accompaniment of traditional simple musical instruments to the delight of devotees and students in the Hall. The programme which began at 4.35 p.m. came to a close at 5.25 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students in the end. He also gave them the coveted opportunity of photographs with Him.

### **Devotional Music by Music College Students**

The students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music organised a programme of vocal devotional music on the afternoon of 13th March 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall, presenting sweet Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Commencing with Ganesh Vandana, the students filled each heart with deep devotion by singing soulful Mira Bhajans like "Mein To Leeno Govind Mol", "Pag Ghunghru Baandh Mira Nachi Re" and "Payo Ji Mein Ne Rama Ratan Dhana Payo", etc.,

with the accompaniment of sweet instrumental music. The programme which started at 4.05 p.m. kept the audience enraptured for nearly one hour and came to a close at 5.10 p.m.

### **Talks by Eminent Educationists**

Two eminent educationists addressed the students and devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 12th March 2006. Renowned educationist and former Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj and Annamalai universities, Prof. S.V. Chittibabu, Member, Governing Body of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning gave his talk first. Prof. Chittibabu began his talk by narrating his first experience of Bhagavan's Divinity when Bhagavan not only told him without his asking that he had problem in his head, but instantaneously cured his chronic headache also by applying Vibhuti on his forehead. The learned speaker observed that Bhagavan has incarnated on earth to rescue humanity from the chaotic condition to which it has drifted. Bhagavan, he said, has been teaching us by His words and example to serve mankind with selflessness and purity of heart because if one was pure in heart, everything else would follow. Bhagavan, he said, has been expressing His love for mankind by relieving their suffering through His humanitarian projects and in so many other ways.

The second speaker was the Warden of Anantapur Campus of the Institute, Prof. (Smt.) Jayalakshmi Gopinath, another old and ardent devotee of Bhagavan. Prof. Gopinath reminisced her old days spent in Puttaparthi and described how lovingly Bhagavan interacted with His grandfather Kondama Raju who was simplicity personified. He was one of those fortunate persons who recognised Bhagavan's Divinity during His childhood days, she said. Describing her experiences of those early days, the learned speaker told how she for the first time heard Bhagavan declare emphatically "I am God". She also described the love, simplicity and nobility of Mother Easwaramma with whom she had the rare fortune to interact many times. Dwelling on the message of Bhagavan to mankind, she said, Bhagavan sums up His message when He says, "Be Good, See Good, Do Good".

### **Holi at Prasanthi Nilayam**

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand organised two programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon to celebrate the joyous and colourful festival of Holi on 15th March 2006. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of celebrations, was beautifully decorated on this occasion. Besides floral decorations on the dais, colourful buntings covered the performing area in the Hall and many banners in the entire length and breadth of the Hall displayed the message of Holi and teachings of Bhagavan.

On the morning of 15th March 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.35 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the School and Institute students. The programme commenced with a beautiful dance and song expressing gratitude to Bhagavan soon after Bhagavan occupied His chair on the dais. What followed this was a medley of dances, folk songs, Holi songs and an excellent Qawali presented by the Bal Vikas students of Bihar and Jharkhand. Soulful music, joyous songs full of devotion, rich variety of colourful costumes of the performers and their scintillating dances immersed all in the ecstasy of Holi and filled the entire milieu with colour of love, devotion and joy. Bhagavan showered His love and blessings on the performers at the end of the

programme and gave them the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him. This was followed by Bhajans. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.00 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

### **Bhakta Kavi Vidyapati: A Play**

In the afternoon, Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Bihar and Jharkhand presented a play on the life of Vidyapati, a famous poet and Siva devotee of Mithila, Bihar. The play commenced at 4.15 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. It depicted the deep and intense devotion of Vidyapati for Lord Siva who came to serve him in the form of Uzna to do daily chores in his house. The identity of the Lord became manifest when Uzna produced water from his locks to quench the thirst of Vidyapati in a jungle. When Vidyapati decided to merge in the Ganga, it changed its course to meet him in response to his intense prayers. Powerful acting of the youth, beautiful dialogues interspersed with teachings of Bhagavan, appropriate background commentary, perfect choreography and simplicity of the story brought forth the power of devotion showing that the Lord can go to any extent to save and protect His true devotee and can even change the laws of Nature in answer to the prayers originating from his pure heart. The play concluded at 5.05 with a very beautiful devotional song depicting the theme of the play. At the end of the play, Bhagavan blessed the performers and posed for group photos with them. He also created a gold ring for the youth who enacted the role of Vidyapati. Bhajans after the play were also led by the devotees of Bihar and Jharkhand. The holy festival of Holi came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.05 p.m.

### **The Inward Path: A Journey to Sai**

On the afternoon of 27th March 2006, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented this excellent programme conveying the essence of the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba through dialogues, skits and group songs in Telugu, English and Hindi. The presentation made in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall showed how even the school students had thoroughly grasped the subtle truths taught by Bhagavan for man's inward journey to Divinity which they could communicate effectively. The programme which started at 4.05 p.m. came to a close at 4.45 p.m. In the end, Bhagavan blessed the participants and posed for photographs with them.

### **Bhakta Chaitanya: A Drama**

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School presented a drama on the life and teachings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu on the afternoon of 29th March 2006. The drama portrayed through powerful dialogues, appropriate commentary, sweet lyrics and excellent acting of the students how Chaitanya adopted the path of devotion after his initiation and attained the vision of Lord Krishna through his deep devotion and intense yearning. Picking up the strands of his life story from his childhood, the drama depicted the main events of this great devotee of the Lord which included the humbling of the arrogant scholar who claimed himself to be world conqueror in learning and the transformation of two notorious rowdies Jagai and Madhai. The drama which began at 3.40 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 4.40 p.m. Bhagavan blessed the cast at the end of the drama and posed for photographs with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the student who enacted the role of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

## **DASARA DISCOURSES 2005**

# **INTENSE YEARNING EARNS DIVINE GRACE**

*Dear Students!*

ALL THE PEOPLE in this world yearn for the proximity of God and their ultimate merger with Him. This yearning is not new; it has been there since the beginning of human history. In accordance with this yearning to see God and merge with Him, sages and seers in the past extolled Him in many ways, contemplated upon Him and performed intense penance. This is truly an ancient tradition which has been passed on from one generation to another.

### **God Incarnates to Transform Man**

Sage Narada sang the glories of God and recited the Divine Name incessantly. Thinking that the chanting of the Divine Name merely for one's own satisfaction was not enough, he propounded the nine- fold path of devotion which all the devotees of God could follow for their redemption: *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender).

One day, Sage Narada prayed to Lord Narayana "Lord! We are chanting Your Divine Name, but its essence is in You. Our life will be sanctified only when You bless us to experience the sweetness of the essence of the Divine Name." Some people misunderstood the prayer of Sage Narada and started doubting the efficacy of Namasmarana in attaining God. There were some who criticised Narada. They said, limiting of Sadhana to mere chanting of the Divine Name is a sign of laziness. Arguments and counter arguments continued. Such differences of opinion have been there since ancient times. Some people told Narada that they were not able to visualise God in spite of the fact that they followed the path shown by him. Narada replied, "You can have the grace of God in proportion to the intensity of your yearning for Him." Each individual in this world follows his own chosen path according to his nature and taste. No one has the right to criticise others. God is one who resides in the hearts of all!

Radha intensely prayed for the proximity of Lord Krishna. She had a sister by name Prabha who had no such intense yearning. She was always in the company of her husband. She could not bear her separation from him even for a moment. On the other hand, Radha could not bear her separation from Krishna. The conduct and attitude of the two sisters was contradictory to each other. So, Radha prayed to Krishna to change Prabha's mind and develop devotion in her for Him. Krishna, however, counselled patience saying, "Why do you worry? I will do it at an appropriate time." Krishna

performed many Leelas (divine pranks) to bring about transformation in the hearts of people. He showed some of His Leelas to Prabha also. Since Radha was longing for the transformation of her sister, Krishna told her, “You wanted Me to transform your sister and develop devotion in her. She has seen some of My Leelas. In keeping with the saying, *Brahma Vid Brahmaiva Bhavathi* (one who realises Brahma will become Brahman verily), she will herself become an embodiment of divinity. First of all, one has to get rid of Bhrama (delusion) if one wants to realise Brahma (God). I am Brahman. I am beyond both Dushan and Bhushan (blame and praise). For Me both praise and blame are one.”

God makes people realise His divinity to bring about transformation in them. In course of time, there was a perceptible change in the attitude of Prabha. She was now always in the company of Radha and both spent their time happily in the divine proximity of Krishna. They used to share this divine experience daily. Thus, Krishna could bring about a change in Prabha by showing His divine Leelas to her. God is unblemished and pure. In fact, He corrects the mistakes of the devotees and takes them into His fold. He will not distance Himself from anyone. Lord Krishna is *Leelamanusha Vighraha* (God in human form). Both Radha and Prabha firmly decided that they would not leave Krishna under any circumstances. Earlier Krishna told Radha, “Radha! Human beings are entangled in Maya (illusion). They are deluded to think that God in human form is also a human being like them. You cannot develop love towards a person without developing attachment to him. This is true in the case of God in human form also. Hence, first you will have to develop attachment to a particular form of God in order to love God. God assumes many forms so that people may develop attachment to the form of their choice. However, God is unblemished and embodiment of purity.”

None can fathom the Leelas of Lord Krishna. Sometimes, He manifested His full divine glory. At other times, He behaved like an ordinary human being. Nevertheless, Krishna was Krishna, God in human form! In fact, even those who moved constantly in the company of their dear Lord and who were witnesses to His many divine Leelas could not fully realise His divine nature. The question that people asked often was why Krishna should perform such divine Leelas. He did this only to develop intense attachment to His form in the minds of His devotees and thereby develop devotion in them. He had no desires at all excepting this. The constant company of Radha developed intense devotion in her sister Prabha. As is the company, so is the transformation. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are!* Accordingly, Radha and Prabha became one in the end. Prabha’s other name was Chandrika. Her mother used to call her Prabha, but others called her Chandrika.

### **Divine Will is Immutable**

It is very difficult to bring about transformation in human mind. It is only God who can accomplish this. Krishna furthered His Divine Mission by transforming many people. The Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata describe how God brings about transformation in people to redeem their life. Many people approach Me and pray, “Swami! Please change the mind of my son. He has developed hatred towards his parents for some reason; we do not know why. Normally, he is a good boy. He never takes to bad

ways. Please Swami! Change his mind so that he will behave well towards his parents.” A mind is a mind after all! *Manomoolam Idam Jagat* (the mind is the basis for the objective world).

*A knotted gnarled tree trunk may be made straight as a pole,  
A shapeless hunk of rock may be carved to form a beautiful idol,  
But, is there anyone who can change human mind? (Telugu Poem)*

It is beyond the power of man to change the mind of others. In fact, he is unable to change even his own mind. Under these circumstances, man should develop firm faith in God. When our faith in God is firm, God will help and protect us.

Divinity is not confined to any form. It is a power, and that power is infinite. This infinite power can accomplish any difficult task. God may assume any number of forms, but the divine power is only one. The same Atmatattwa (principle of the Atma) that is residing in this body as the indweller is present in every human being as well. For example, you may refer to the electric current as DC or AC, but the basic characteristic of the current is the same. Similarly, the Atmatattwa is the same in every human being. Considering the Prapti (deservedness) of the concerned individuals, God brings about transformation in them. Transformation of the human mind cannot be brought about by man. It is not possible by any Mantra (incantation), Tantra (esoteric doctrine) or Yantra (mystic diagram). It is only when God wills so, it becomes possible. God can accomplish anything and everything. He can be present anywhere and everywhere. In keeping with the declaration *Ekam Eva Adviteeyam Brahma* (Brahman is one, without a second), He is one. Lord Krishna was one, but the Kauravas and the Pandavas looked at Him differently. God does not change. If He changes, the whole universe will change. It is a serious mistake to think that God is subject to change. God is changeless, eternal and unblemished. None can change such a Paramatma (Supreme Self). It is not easy to comprehend divinity.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Divine love is unique and unparalleled. No human being's love equals that of God. God's love is changeless. He may assume any number of forms, but His love towards human beings remains unchanged. *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (God is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). You may call God by any name – Venkateswara, Rama, Krishna or Sai Baba. Only names differ, but God is one. Some people may think that God assumed the human form of Rama. Then He assumed the form of Krishna. God may assume any number of forms, but He is always one. He remains changeless irrespective of the form He assumes. There is change in your perception of God. God's Sankalpa (Will) is immutable. He can transform the whole world with His Sankalpa. But He does not want to do it in such a manner.

**Divine Grace on Swami Purushothamananda**

*Embodiments of Love!*

Cultivate pure love; for, purity is unity and unity is divinity. Let your individual love be transformed into pure love for God. This divine love will help you to experience the

Divine. Sometimes, people have a doubt whether God's love undergoes change. Never, God's love will never change. It is steady and strong. It will always remain unchanged. God can accomplish any task. Sometimes, He may give Darshan to some people, while others may not receive this grace. Much depends upon their mental attitude. Cultivate unflinching faith in God. Many sages and renunciants yearned for the Darshan of God, but only a few could win that grace by virtue of their unflinching faith and single-minded devotion.

When I visited Rishikesh, I gave Darshan to Swami Purushothamananda living in the Vasishtha Guha (cave) located on the way to Badrinath in the Himalayas. He was doing Tapas, living alone in that cave. He used to keep a small oil lamp in that cave. The cave was located a little away from the road point. He used to buy milk and make some tea with it. That was his only food. Rest of the time, he was immersed in Tapas. Days rolled by. One day, he came to know that Swami had come to stay in the Sivananda Ashram for a few days. He was longing to have Swami's Darshan. He, therefore, sent a small chit through a messenger praying, "Please come Bhagavan and grant me Your Darshan." I was aware of his intense devotion towards Swami. As soon as I saw this chit, I immediately rushed to Vasishtha cave to bless him with My Darshan. Purushothamananda was extremely happy on seeing Me. He wanted to spend a few minutes alone with Me. He, therefore, advised Kasturi to go inside and have a look at the place. Kasturi, with his journalistic inquisitiveness saw everything. Purushothamananda fixed his gaze on Me and was lost in bliss. After a few moments, he regained his normal self. Purushothamananda requested Me to stay for one more day. The very next day, I visited Purushothamananda again. After receiving My blessings, he went into Samadhi (superconscious state). After My return to Sivananda Ashram, Swami Sivananda was a bit perturbed that I visited Purushothamananda's cave twice and did not find much time to spend in the Sivananda Ashram. Everyone was happy to read in newspapers that I had visited the Ashram of Swami Purushothamananda on two days. I give happiness to one and all. Your happiness is My happiness.

On My second visit to Vasishtha cave, I took a piece of paper from Kasturi and wrote a particular date for My next visit to Purushothamananda's Ashram. On the scheduled date, Purushothamananda took a holy bath in the Ganga and was eagerly waiting for My Darshan. Deeply lost in contemplation on My Divine Form, he had divine vision after some time. A few minutes later, he left his mortal coil in that deep Samadhi state itself. I was informed by a telegram that Purushothamananda had merged in Swami. I confirmed the news saying, "Yes, yes". Strangely, his birthday and the day on which he attained Samadhi were one and the same. Later on, when the door of the Vasishtha cave was opened, the entire cave was full of Vibhuti! From then on, the name and fame of Purushothamananda spread far and wide. The disciples of Purushothamananda thereafter visited Prasanthi Nilayam. I provided them accommodation and all conveniences. They stayed here for ten days and left for their place, carrying with them the love and blessings of Swami. Purushothamananda was a noble soul. He was really a Purushothama (noble man). This is the story of Purushothamananda.

Vasishtha cave is still as it was when Purushothamananda lived there. It is perfectly clean and holy, spreading divine vibrations in the entire Ashram. The disciples of Purushothamananda told Me: "Swami! The entire Ashram is permeated by divine

vibrations. We feel as though Swami Purushothamananda is still with us.” I told them: “Fine! You continue to feel his presence there and enjoy bliss.” During one of My visits to Delhi, I arranged for conducting Bhajan in memory of Purushothamananda, keeping his photograph there. Thus, many sages and seers show intense love and devotion towards Me and yearn for My Darshan.

- **From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th October 2005.**

## **JOYOUS UGADI FESTIVAL**

THE AUSPICIOUS day of Ugadi became doubly blessed when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba entered His new abode adjacent to Poornachandra on the morning of 30th March 2006.

Sweet notes of Nadaswaram and holy chants of Vedic Mantras welcomed Bhagavan when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.00 a.m. in His sparkling yellow robe to bless the devotees on the auspicious day of Ugadi. Sai Kulwant Hall and Bhagavan’s residence were tastefully decorated with flowers, festoons and buntings on this happy occasion. While a mega size Kalasha in the centre of Sai Kulwant Hall marked the auspiciousness of the occasion, decorations with plantain leaves and sugarcane from new crop on all its gates augured plenty and prosperity. Special decorations however were done in Bhagavan’s new residence with beautiful floral designs and myriad-coloured lights and trees and designs of light which glittered at night. After showering His Divine blessings on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan started ceremoniously in a grand procession to enter His new abode. The procession was led by the bands of girls and boys students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, followed by Veda chanting students and Nadaswaram troupe. Bhagavan entered His new residence at 8.30 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the students and priests and performance of Puja by the priests. On this happy occasion, Bhagavan hosted a sumptuous feast for all the students and staff in Poornachandra Auditorium and in His new residence.

The festival of Ugadi was celebrated in the afternoon in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme commenced with a beautiful and sweet devotional song in praise of Lord Ganesh by the Institute students soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall at 4.00 p.m. Thereafter, the students made a very illuminating and powerful presentation to bring forth the inner significance of Ugadi celebrations through group songs, skits and dialogues. The programme also included the traditional ritual of Panchanga Sravanam (listening to the almanac) which was made lively and interesting by the students who gave the inner meaning of this custom on the basis of the teachings of Bhagavan.

After this excellent programme of the students, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His nectarine Discourse exhorting them to follow Sathya and Dharma and give up anger and hatred. He advised the students to control their senses and mind and follow the path of goodness. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho ...*” After this, the devotees experienced the bliss of singing the glories of the Lord when they followed in chorus the Bhajans led by the Institute students. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all. The festival of Ugadi came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.



## INTERVIEW

### **SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY IN THAILAND**

*“The local school administration had given a target of 52% for all school leavers in grade 12 to gain entry into universities. The Sathya Sai School had already two batches of grade 12, and we achieved 100% entry into universities, the only school in the district to do so. The source of all the success and name and fame is, of course, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba,” said Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, Director, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Thailand in reply to a question of Dr. G. Venkataraman.*

*SAI RAM, JUMSAI! Tell us a little bit about how you happened to come to Swami?*

Well, it is not how I came to Swami, but how Swami caught hold of me.

*Of course, that is always the case. He always pulls the string, but in the purely worldly sense we always think that we have come to Swami. All right, whichever way it is.*

See, even before I knew about Swami, He had already made an appearance to my mother. He came during the war time and saved all of us from bombing.

*There was bombing in Thailand also!*

Yes. At first we were invaded by Japan, then later on by the Allies.

*So, you got it both ways (laughs).*

Yes, we got it both ways. In any case, it was proved that Swami actually came because He said that Himself.

*In which year was that?*

It must have been around 1940-41.

*It's amazing. He was just a 14-year-old boy in physical frame. He had just declared that He was Sai Baba. When your mother saw Him, what was His appearance? How old did He appear at that time?*

Well, He seemed to be a young man. My mother described Him as someone who looked like a monk, but not a monk.

*In the later years, did you have any chance to show the photograph of Swami to your mother? Did she recognise the Form?*

Well, I didn't know Swami.

*No, much later, after you came.*

Well, when I came to know about Swami, I immediately talked to my mother about it. But my mother did not recognise that Swami was the same person as that young man. But she accepted Him immediately and we came together for the first time. Anyway, I like to tell you how I came. This was just over 20 years ago in Thailand, when first few people came to Puttaparthi – Thai people. Before that, there were Indians and people of other

nationalities who had come from Thailand. But we didn't hear much about it until a very prominent Thai Buddhist came and he was transformed by Swami. He came back and started to talk about Swami and translated books into Thai language. Then he came to me because he is a friend of mine. He said, "Would you like to go and see Swami?" I said, "If He is so great, He better call me. Otherwise, I won't go." Well, that put a challenge (laughs). On the same day as that challenge, I was sitting all alone; suddenly, I felt there was a lot of light and energy entering my body and I was shaking and shaking.

*It was daytime?*

Yes, it was daytime. And I was shaking and crying. Tears were coming out. I felt I was peaceful. So I thought, well, may be this is the call. I went to my mother and told, "Would you like to come with me?" She said, yes. So, we came. It was in the year 1982 during Bhagavan's Birthday festival. Of course, there was a huge crowd. I couldn't get anywhere near Swami. I didn't know my way. Swami came out for Darshan. I was outside the enclosure and He glanced in my direction. Suddenly, I felt the same light and energy entering my body and I was crying and crying and crying. So, I knew that was the call. He did make that call.

*Now let me come to your current activity, which is in the field of education. You have been in it for many, many years now. I have seen you here at Prasanthi Nilayam participating, organising, running so many courses. What I would like to ask you is what EHV in simple terms is and what you are doing in Thailand and later on how the movement has spread across the world, because very few people know really much about it. You are the best person to tell us about it.*

It all began in 1983 when a delegation of nine from Thailand attended the first International Conference for Bal Vikas Gurus held at Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan spent a lot of time with the delegates and we were very much inspired. When we went back to Thailand, we started to work immediately. First, we experimented on children from the slum areas of Bangkok. With Sathya Sai Education in Human Values, the children underwent noticeable changes and parents reported that they were very happy at the changes that had taken place. The Organisation officially known as the Sathya Sai Foundation of Thailand then decided that we should now inform teachers about the five human values and their associated instruction. Thus, we held seminars for teachers twice a month. Devotees worked hard to prepare food for the delegates, wash dishes, serve food, prepare banners, contact the Government and the Ministry of Education, clean up the hall and prepare floral arrangements. The seminars were popular and about 15,000 teachers had been trained when the teachers started to ask to see a school that used everything that we had described in the seminar. The Organisation then made a historic decision that a model school, the Sathya Sai School, was to be established to demonstrate how children were to be taught to bring about Human Values excellence.

Thus, in 1992, the Sathya Sai School was opened. It was a residential school and children came from all over the country. We started only with grade 1 with only 14 children. Today we have kindergarten and grades 1 to 12 with 350 children. Teachers and educators that have been trained number over 50,000. The impact on society and the country as a whole was very great. After training 25,000 teachers, the Organisation

stopped all seminars as they became redundant. The schools, colleges and universities continued to arrange the seminars themselves and the Organisation was requested to provide the speakers.

The important part of this training is that teachers learn to integrate values in all subjects. So, in other words, they don't have to change the curriculum. They use the same curriculum but learn to integrate values. Values would be an integral part of everything that they do in the school. We just need to motivate them, inspire them because they are already professional teachers.

*Do you maintain any contact or feedback from them?*

We invite them to come and see Sathya Sai School because that's very important. Many of them come. They visit, they see and are very much moved by what they see in the Sathya Sai School because the atmosphere is completely different from other public schools.

*Are you hopeful of making some impact on the children and the youth of Thailand?*

Certainly, the children in Sathya Sai Schools are really transformed. They have changed so much.

*Are the lawmakers lending you an ear?*

Well, I tell you the secret. I had to become an M.P. myself. I was elected three times as Member of Parliament in Thailand. I was always in education work in Parliament, always in house committees for education and so on and that helped a great deal to influence the laws and, in fact, we now have been able to put out a new law five years ago. This education law states that values must be an integral part of all subjects. So, this is a great help in Thailand because there is a great demand for training. They don't know how to apply the laws in their schools. So, they came to us because we were really the originators in Thailand. That's why we have been training so many teachers. Almost weekly, we have to travel all over Thailand and give training.

In 1997, the Parliament passed a new Constitution and Article 81 of the Constitution stated that the Government must provide education that will bring about knowledge and human values at the same time. The Parliament then had to enact a new Education Law of 1999 and Article 6 of the new law stated that the purpose of education was to bring about human excellence with human values and the ability to live together in peace. The Ministry of Education was searching for a model school for the new Education Law and when the Vice Minister of Education visited the Sathya Sai School, he was very much impressed by what he saw and declared the Sathya Sai School as the perfect model school for all to come, visit and learn. Now we have visitors from various schools, colleges, universities as well as Buddhist monks from all over the country coming to visit the Sathya Sai School. There are over 200 visitors every week. The Sathya Sai School was declared by the Government as the most outstanding Buddhist School as Thailand is a Buddhist country. A prestigious university awarded the title, the Philosopher of Thai Wisdom to me. Thailand is now proceeding on the course of self-transformation. Not only has the Sathya Sai School become an example of Human Values, but also in the academic field. The local school administration had given a target of 52% for all school leavers in grade 12 to gain entry into universities. The Sathya Sai School had already two

batches of grade 12, and we achieved 100% entry into universities, the only school in the district to do so. The source of all the success and name and fame is, of course, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. For He is the Inner Motivator and He is the Doer of all things.

*Allow me to ask a somewhat difficult question at this point. One of the things I am rather worried about is the following: It is all well for us to try and tell students about values; we may do it with the best of motives and best possible way. But the practical problem is that many of these students are subjected to two very powerful opposing forces – one is the media and the other is the peer pressure. Of course, media works through the peers to its advantage. So, how do you take across the message to those people who might be reluctant listeners, who might not be willing to accept what is really good for them? If you have some good tips, I think it will be useful to share them with our listeners who might be teachers.*

Well, we are getting across to teachers; this is not too difficult because already teachers are thinking in that line.

*Teachers, of course, but the teachers must get across to students. At least 20-25 per cent must accept what the teachers say.*

Yes, getting across to students is not that difficult. It depends on the teachers. If the teachers are convinced and if they really believe in this programme and if they are an example, then it is not difficult. This is very important. They must express values in their own life. Then it is easy to transfer to the children.

*That's a good point. I have not heard anyone say that. What you are saying is that you can overcome any scepticism with example. If the teacher becomes a role model, it is much easier to convey. I think you have a real point there, which has not been stressed enough. We were able to accept Mahatma Gandhi because he was a role model. The long and short of it is that any teacher training programme must focus on making a teacher into a role model. Is that what you would say?*

Yes. They must be a role model for the children to emulate.

*Tell us something about the clones of your institute, if I may use that word, which have come up in many other continents. There is an institute for Sathya Sai Education, somewhat similar to you in many other continents. Is it not?*

Yes, we cannot work alone in one country. We need to spread out and delegate the work and so we have been asking many countries to start Institutes of Sathya Sai Education.

*One per continent or something like that.*

Well, at first we were thinking of regional institutes where each region will have one, but when the country becomes very strong, then they will set up their own institutes. You may have two in the region, that doesn't matter, like in Africa. They already have four or five Sathya Sai Schools and they do a lot of work.

*Oh, there are two institutes!*

There are two institutes now in Africa.

*What about Latin America?*

In Latin America, we have institutes in Argentina, Brazil and now institutes are being set up in Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. Many institutes are being set up. South America is very active.

*In Asia, apart from Thailand where do you have Sathya Sai Institutes?*

In Asia, we have institutes set up in the Philippines, and if you go little further south, then of course, we have one in Australia. We do have institutes that are being set up in Japan, but they are not full-fledged institutes as they don't have diploma courses. But they do train teachers. So, they have already arranged national training three or four times in Japan.

*There is no penetration in China?*

Oh yes, we are working hard in China. You remember we had a conference here in the year 2000, an international conference. There were Chinese educators, really top educators who were invited and they came. They were so impressed. They went back and contacted us to help them in training teachers. We have sent some of our people from Hong Kong to go and train teachers with these educators. It's been very successful; they are very happy. So, we are going to continue the work.

*Now before we sign off, I would like you to give our listeners with some ideas which they can think about relating to education and values. What would you like to tell our listeners as a parting remark?*

Life itself is an education. We learn all the time, every minute we are learning something because we are interacting with the environment; we have our instruments for learning – the five senses are always used to interact with the environment. So, through the five senses we are receiving a lot of information all the time and we need to process that so that it is useful to uplift our mind to become a better person.

*Am I right in assuming that a better person is one who serves society?*

A good person is one with values. Such persons become selfless and therefore they work for others rather than for themselves. Because our life is a learning process, we cannot avoid it. We need to have education, we need to teach everyone how to learn. That is very important. The learning process we all need to use in our life. So, when we study, we will see that values are always there in our learning process because it applies to our own life. Human values and integrated learning concepts are now globally accepted. So, we have at present 57 Sathya Sai Schools in 35 countries of the world, besides several Sathya Sai Institutes for training of teachers in human values.

*Courtesy: Radio Sai Global Harmony*

## **SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES**

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*Director*

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Zenica is an industrial city located in central Bosnia and Herzegovina, north of Sarajevo on the river Bosna. A meeting was held in the Big Hall of the Zenica Council on 7th February 2006 which was attended by 100 people. Five speakers spoke in the programme that lasted two hours. The speakers were Jakob Finci, Svetlana Broz and Ivan Vrhunc, Sabina Mujezinovic, the Coordinator of a radio programme on Radio Kameleon, and an Imam from local community. The speakers spoke of Sri Sathya Sai and His works of service and global charities. A question period was provided during the meeting. The proceedings were broadcast by an independent television station with satellite reach throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, many journalists were also present in the audience. The attendees appreciated the meeting and requested for future meetings to learn more about Bhagavan.

### **BRAZIL**

A free dental clinic was established in August 2005 by Sai devotees in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This clinic runs for three hours every Tuesday and sees poor children between the ages of 6 and 12 years. The goal is to provide loving preventive dental care and dental treatment when required. During the preceding six months, 82 fillings, 20 tooth extractions and four dental surgeries have been carried out. The perennial love of Bhagavan and the overwhelming appreciation by patients' families keep devotees committed to the clinic.

### **CANADA**

A public meeting was conducted by Sathya Sai devotees in Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan on 26th November 2005 to celebrate Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 80th Birthday. The meeting was attended by about 120 people and was based on the theme of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. Two teachers from the Sathya Sai School of Canada spoke on Bhagavan's Education in Human Values and how well it could be integrated into the school curriculum. Smt. Sara Longman, Director of the Public School System in Regina, was present and was impressed by the magnitude of Bhagavan's work. For 11 months from January to November 2005, the Sathya Sai Gayatri was sung in Saskatoon 1008 times every week with rice Abhishekam. The rice used for the Abhishekam was then cooked and a rice pudding was served to 300 homeless people in Saskatoon. In addition, 250 T-shirts were donated to school children in an impoverished neighbourhood and 800 lilies planted throughout the city by the devotees.

### **S O U T H A F R I C A**

The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of South Africa held a national conference on 4th and 5th March 2006. The conference, held at the University of Kwa-Zulu in the province of Natal, was attended by 1200 delegates. The day began with chanting of the Gayatri Mantra and verses from the Vedas. Delegates were then informed that there was no pre-determined programme for the event and that the proceedings would be driven by the sharing of individual experiences of the impact of Bhagavan's teachings upon their lives. Topics covered through discussions included educare, parenting, health and diet, business and human values, leadership and service. This event also marked the occasion of the graduation of 300 delegates who received a diploma in Education in Human Values at the Institute of Higher Learning, South Africa.

### **U. A. E.**

A medical camp was held in Abu Dhabi on 24th February 2006. A team of general practice physicians and ophthalmologists saw 120 patients during that day. Patients were provided free transportation in an air-conditioned bus to facilitate travel to the clinic. Health screening was provided for diabetes and hypertension and treatment for respiratory and dermatological ailments. Free medications were dispensed as needed. Counselling was provided for general hygiene, healthy lifestyle, alcohol and smoking cessation. Patients were given a total of 130 white T-shirts with the Sarva Dharma logo. The Indian ambassador to the U.A.E. enthusiastically took part in the camp and gave a talk on healthy living to the patients, arranged for the embassy to provide furniture and video display units and assisted in the distribution of the T-shirts. The films, 'His Work' and 'Pure Love' were shown continuously during the clinic.

### **U. K.**

The ancient city of Bath is located in England in the rolling Somerset meadows west of London. On 5th February 2006, a meeting was held to herald the glory of unsung heroes by the Mayor in the famous Guild Hall built in 1779. About 150 people attended the event. After presentations from several religious groups, the event was capped by an informative session by the Sathya Sai Organisation. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and

His global service activities were introduced to the public. In addition, a question and answer session was held along with a display of photographs of the activities undertaken by the Sathya Sai Organisation. The Mayor of Bath wrote to thank the Sathya Sai Organisation for its activities and for the “thought provoking finale”.

The Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Manor Park, London, conducted a seminar on the theme of “Love and Harmony” on 21st January 2006 attended by a large multi-faith audience. A presentation was made on the life and work of Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the events, Sri Patrick Handley, the advisor on interfaith matters to the Bishop of Brentwood spoke and applauded the efforts of the Sathya Sai Organisation. He remarked, “The example you offer is all the more needed in today’s world of materialism where the power factions, the news and the media are offering the opposite of what the Sai Baba Organisation stands for.”

## UKRAINE

A national public meeting was held in the idyllic town of Sumi near Minsk in the Ukraine on 21st and 22nd January 2006. Devotees gathered to welcome the long-time devotee of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and the active nonagenarian Phyllis Krystal. Bhagavan had approved the visit and the long train ride in the depth of Russian winter upon the request of Steve Picullel, Zonal Chairman of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Russia. With Bhagavan’s blessings, it was not surprising that the meeting, held at – 25 degrees centigrade was attended by 135 devotees who gave her a thundering standing applause after her talk. A second public meeting was held in Belo, Russia on 3rd to 5th March 2006. About 150 devotees gathered to listen to Phyllis Krystal. At both these meetings, she spoke of the importance of heeding to Bhagavan’s Discourses and not engaging in gossip, rancour and criticism. She narrated her own experience of how with complete surrender to Bhagavan and by focusing on divine love, she could escape from a life-threatening situation when she was on a hijacked plane with terrorists. She also patiently addressed several spiritual questions.

On Sunday, 26th February 2006, Sivarathri Akhanda Bhajans were held in the historic town of St. Petersburg. The Bhajans were attended by over 200 devotees, many of whom returned to work the next morning after a full night of devotional singing.

## U. S. A.

A group of Sathya Sai Baba devotee physicians from the U.S.A. gathered together a multinational and multidisciplinary medical team to render free medical service to the needy in Guyana. A total of 55 members from the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K. departed for Georgetown, Guyana to set up their medical camps from 17th February to 24th February 2006. There were 13 camp sites in the various cities of Georgetown, Demerara, Essequibo, Linden, Village of Enmore and Wakenaam City. The group carried with them medical equipment, medications and supplies to provide primary medical care with the help of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Guyana.

The magnitude and scale of the camp was unprecedented. A total of 3,622 patients were seen for general medical care and 1,600 patients seen for ophthalmological care. Of these, 65 eye surgeries were performed for diseases including cataract and glaucoma, 60 laser



treatments for diabetic retinopathy and 1018 corrective eyeglasses were distributed for patients with visual impairment. Preventive health screening and education was provided for cardiac disease, diabetes, dental hygiene, hypertension, osteoporosis, HIV, nutrition, health education for smoking and alcoholism and women's health. Treatment was provided for respiratory, cardiac, gastrointestinal, gynaecological and infectious diseases. First aid was taught to young adults.

The President of Guyana was very much pleased with the service provided and met the group. He thanked Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and pledged his full support for future medical camps. On the last day of the camp, the Health Minister of Guyana commented, "Guyana is better today than it was one week ago – thanks to all of you."

### **THAILAND**

On 6th February 2006, Sathya Sai devotees from Maesai in Northern Thailand donated 50 blankets to the local temple and provided meals to the temple monks. Another group of Sai devotees went to the Klong Toey slums on 5th February 2006 for Sai Seva. After chanting the Gayatri Mantra and Brahmarpanam, the regional coordinator Sri Sachdev spoke on Human Values and distributed a spiritual diary to 120 children. In addition, 731 food packets consisting of noodles, milk and fruits were distributed.

**– Prasanthi Council**

### **BHARAT**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Khammam district planned and executed Children's Joy Festival at district level on 5th February 2006 at Kothagudem on the lines of Children's Joy Festival at national level held at Prasanthi Nilayam in October 2005. As part of the programme, elocution competitions on "Bhagavan's Life – An Ideal for the World", essay writing on "The Unity of all Religions", and quiz programme on the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata and Bhagavan's life were organised in a fruitful way in which 69 children took part. 81 children participated in various cultural programmes. A district-level Bal Vikas Rally was also conducted, highlighting Bhagavan's teachings.

Karimnagar district organised the foundation stone laying ceremony of Sri Sathya Sai Gurukula Vidya Niketan on 16th February 2006 at Bejjanki village. This district arranged a big service camp at Vemulawada during Sivarathri festival to serve a huge number of devotees visiting the famous Bheemeswara Temple. 278 Seva Dal volunteers, both gents and ladies, took part in maintaining queues, distribution of Prasadam, Narayana Seva and distribution of clean drinking water.

Prakasam district conducted an eye check-up camp at Badinenipalli on 29th January 2006, examined 417 patients, selected 87 cataract cases and got 21 of them operated in Government Hospital. To and fro transport charges, food and medicines were provided free. This district conducted a seminar on "Science and Spirituality" at Ongole in which doctors, lawyers and leading citizens took part.

West Godavari district conducted a major medical camp at Antarvedigudem, a very remote tribal village, treating 1,250 patients and giving free medicines. During Sivarathri, this district carried out various services like maintaining queues, sanitation in and around

temples, distribution of water and food packets to devotees, milk to children and maintaining cloak rooms at Pattiseema and Natta Rameswaram pilgrim centres.

Srikakulam district conducted two free medical camps – one at Chinna Kedari village treating 200 patients and another at Polla tribal village treating 700 patients on 15th February 2006. This district carried out various services at Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple during Rathasaptami, i.e., on 4th and 5th February 2006. About 10,000 devotees were provided with accommodation. Sales counter, cloak room, information centre were organised, besides carrying out sanitation work.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** The inmates of the Ashram for leprosy patients at Boko in Kamrup district of Assam received a pleasant surprise on 17th January 2006 when a group of Sai volunteers from Diphu, Guwahati and Uparhali Sarpara Samithis visited them with a number of essential items. In the spirit of the tradition of Assam's Magh Bihu, the items including a wall clock, towel, rice, Dhal, utensils, woollen clothes, lentils, fruits, Bihu sweets, etc., were distributed. Guwahati and Diphu Samithis are offering them basic food-stuffs and other much needed essential items at intervals. They took a silent resolution to make such visits more frequent.

To accelerate the process of availability of healthcare facility particularly in rural areas inhabited by economically less privileged people, a series of medical camps are arranged by Sai devotees. As a part of this programme, Sai devotees of Golaghat in collaboration with the devotees of Diphu (Karbi Anglong) organised a free daylong medical camp in Borpathar Bilgaon village on 28th January 2006 in Golaghat district. Free medicines were also distributed. Participated by local social organisations, the Seva Dal volunteers distributed leaflets and booklets on sanitation, AIDS prevention and child and women healthcare. At the close of the camp, mosquito nets were distributed free to the more needy persons among the patients.

**Kerala:** Sai Neethi, the lawyers forum of the Sai Organisation of the State conducted a three-day training course in counselling for lawyers. Participants came from different parts of the State. This was conducted on 10th, 11th and 12th March 2006. These advocates are participating in our Grama Seva programme.

A cleft lip and palate screening camp was organised at Shornur on 19th February 2006. 41 patients were selected for free plastic surgery. The first batch will undergo operation on 1st April 2006.

An orientation programme for Bal Vikas Gurus was conducted at Thiruvananthapuram. This was part of strengthening the activity as 2006 has been declared as Bal Vikas year.

During Sivarathri, all the districts of the State organised Seva Centres in different parts of the State. There was display of Sai Literature also on this occasion.

Ten lakh devotees participated in the temple function at Attukal, Thiruvananthapuram. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Kerala organised medical camps at different points for the benefit of the pilgrims. Services like distribution of clean drinking water were also provided.

Pathanamthitta district organised free distribution of food packets during Sabarimala festival. Clean drinking water was also distributed to the pilgrims.

Bal Vikas children participated in the 'Bhagavatha Sathram' at Thiruvalla as young Seva Dal volunteers. They distributed drinking water to 10,000 devotees everyday. All devotees appreciated the discipline, humility, care and love of these Bal Vikas children.

Under Sri Sathya Sai Vasthudhara Project, the Sai Organisation of the State has provided a number of newly constructed houses to the needy poor people. About 75 houses were distributed during the last three years. On 12th March 2005, another house was handed over to a needy family at Thirur, Malappuram district.

### **Back Cover Matter**

#### **Proof of True Devotion**

The proof of true devotion is in the peace of mind that the aspirant has been able to attain; the peace which makes him unruffled by loss and dishonour; the peace that does not perturb his mind with anger, hatred, jealousy, conceit and lower passions; the peace which makes him feel tranquil, unconcerned and unattached under all circumstances and with all human natures. Know that you are the embodiment of that peace. Whoever has determination, discrimination, steadfastness and enthusiasm to reach the goal will reach it.

*- Baba*

**MAY 2006**

### **UGADI DISCOURSE**

## **ATMA IS THE NAMELESS, FORMLESS DIVINITY**

DRAUPADI'S father Drupada organised a Swayamvara (ceremony to select a groom by the bride) to perform her marriage. Thousands of youth, princes and kings came to his court to win the hand of Draupadi in this Swayamvara. Just as King Janaka had declared

that he would give his daughter Sita in marriage to the prince who could string the bow of Lord Siva, King Drupada arranged a Matsyayantra (a device with replica of fish). The condition of the contest was that whosoever was able to hit the eye of the fish revolving high above on a pole with an arrow by looking at its reflection in water below would be successful in winning the hand of his daughter.

### **Extraordinary Qualities of Draupadi**

Many valorous youth and princes who were confident of their victory tried their luck without any success. This was not an ordinary test that everyone could succeed. Many people thought that it was easy, but in reality it was not so. When no one could succeed in the contest, the entire assembly fell into a stunning silence. The Pandavas were present incognito in this assembly. Lord Krishna, who was also present, looked at the Pandavas and smiled. At that point of time, the Pandavas spoke to each other in whispers. Soon after this, Arjuna walked majestically towards the Matsyayantra, smiling all the way. He was totally calm and composed. Looking at the reflection of the fish in water, he shot an arrow. When it hit the target successfully, the entire assembly went into raptures. All the people looked at Arjuna in admiration with great delight. King Drupada then asked his daughter Draupadi to garland Arjuna.

At that time, the Pandavas were staying in the house of a potter. When they went to their house along with the bride, their mother Kunti was inside the house. Even before entering their house, they announced to their mother that they had received a very valuable fruit. Their mother replied from inside the house that they should share the fruit equally between themselves. The Pandavas always obeyed the command of their mother and honoured every word that she uttered. They went inside and offered their salutations to their mother and vowed to follow her command religiously. In this way, Draupadi became the wife of all the five Pandavas. The Pandavas dutifully accepted the command of their mother. But, how could the world accept this? It is the duty of the children to obey the command of their parents, irrespective of the fact whether the world accepts it or not. People, however, accepted this in view of the intimate relationship that existed between the five brothers.

When can one consider a woman as one's wife? Not merely because one is married to her. One can call her as wife only when one considers her as half part of his body. Many people questioned Krishna how Draupadi could be called a Pativrata (chaste wife) when she was the wife of five husbands. Then Krishna described her qualities which earned her this noble ideal.

*She dutifully obeyed the command of her husbands. She would never say to any one of them that she had no time to serve him. She was satisfied with whatever she got in life. She was the supreme example of chastity and none could match her in this respect.*  
(Telugu Poem)

She never asked for anything beyond the means of her husbands. A true chaste woman is one who conducts herself according to the condition of her husband. The husband should also recognise the qualities of his wife and have equal concern for her. Only then can both of them lead a virtuous and noble life.

Looking at her virtuous conduct and her power to control the five senses, Dharmaraja told Draupadi, “You do not merely belong to us; you are the embodiment of primal energy.” Her father Drupada had also held this view and considered her as the embodiment of divine energy. Only those who achieve control over the five senses and the five elements can know the reality of the world and conduct themselves in a righteous manner. One who has complete control over one’s senses can achieve the greatest heights in life.

Draupadi was endowed with great power of discrimination and she could discriminate between what was good and what was bad. Both good and bad are present in this world just like darkness and light. She encouraged all those who were virtuous and imparted sacred teachings to evil-minded people to transform them. Not only she had control over the five senses and five elements, she had thorough knowledge of Pancha Koshas (five sheaths of the soul) and Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths) also. She could differentiate between Atma and Anatma (Self and non-Self). Thus, she set an ideal to the world and earned a good name.

Draupadi taught that one should do one’s duty with dedication. She exhorted all to exercise control over their desires and discriminate between good and bad, imbibing all that was good and giving up all that was bad. One should never forget to perform good actions and discharge one’s duties, she advised. Everyone should discharge his duty with dedication and should not interfere in the duties of others, she counselled the people. “You may have wife and children. It is your duty to fulfil your responsibility towards them, but at the same time all your desires should be directed towards the path of goodness and righteousness”, she said. Thus, she became an ideal to the world and showed the path of truth to one and all. One can attain Dharma only by following the path of Sathya. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). There can be no Dharma without truth. It is the path of truth that leads one to God.

### **Follow the Path of Sathya and Dharma**

Everyone should perform his duty meticulously and adhere to Dharma. Even an ant follows its Dharma. Wherever it finds food, it carries it to its place and consumes it. It does not harm anybody nor does it steal anything from anybody. All the birds and animals follow their natural Dharma and conduct themselves accordingly. The path of Dharma is the same for Cheema (ant) and Brahma. The same principle of truth is present in both. This truth was propagated by Draupadi. She also taught that one should not

become a victim of the six inner enemies, namely, Kama (desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed) Moha (attachment), Mada (pride) and Matsarya (jealousy).

Anger is the greatest enemy of man. One with anger cannot follow the path of Dharma. This is contrary to human nature. One should not unnecessarily show anger towards others.

*One with anger will not be successful in any of his endeavours.*

*He will commit sins and will be ridiculed by one and all.*

*His own people will abandon him.*

*He will lose all wealth and respect.*

*His anger will ruin him completely.* (Telugu Poem)

Hatred is another great enemy of man. Whom should you hate? Should you hate those who oppose you or those who have harmed you or those who dislike you? No; none of these. You should hate only the evil qualities. You should extend your love and support to those who follow Sathya and Dharma. If you hate Sathya and Dharma, you are not a human being at all. Truth is the basis of all virtues. By following the path of truth, Draupadi could experience peace and love. She taught that one should refrain from violence. One should not indulge in violence through one's actions, words and even thoughts. By following the path of truth, Draupadi set the greatest ideal to the world.

### **As you Sow, so shall you Reap**

By exercising sense control, man can achieve great heights in life. Damayanti was a woman of great virtues like Draupadi. She earned this name as she was endowed with Dama (sense control). The senses are wayward by nature, and it is difficult to control them. Man should, however, do his best to control them and put them to right use. Why has God given you ears? Is it to hear vain gossip? Never listen to anything that is bad. Listen to all that is good. Why has God given you tongue? It is not merely to satisfy your sense of taste. It has been given to sing the glory of God. Just as the tongue accepts all that is tasty and palatable and rejects all that is bad and unpalatable, man should accept all that is good and reject everything that is bad.

People think that it is God who is the cause of their happiness and sorrow. But it is not really so. Each one is responsible for his actions and reaps their consequences, good or bad. God is the eternal witness and does not interfere in this. He neither gives happiness nor sorrow. If you talk endearingly to someone, he will also speak to you in the same loving manner. But if you talk in an arrogant way, you will get a similar response. As is the action, so is the reaction. The reaction, reflection and resound are based on your own thoughts, words and actions; God is not responsible for them. If you stand before a mirror, you will see your own reflection. In whatever way you speak to others, you will have the resound in the same way. Whatever thoughts you have in your mind, they will

be reflected back to you. It is therefore essential for man to know whether his thoughts and actions are good or bad. Whatever good or bad you experience is the result of your thoughts, words and actions. When any bad thought comes into your mind, give it up immediately. If you conduct yourself in this manner, you will become a true devotee of God and achieve liberation.

*Everyone has to face the consequences of his actions, whoever he may be.*

*No one can know what lies ahead for him in future.*

*But this much is sure that everybody has to reap the consequences of his actions.*

*Even the mighty Rama suffered the pain of separation from His consort Sita and cried like an ordinary person.*

(Telugu Song)

*Young Men!*

Good and bad coexist. It is not possible for anyone to separate them. When you cultivate more of goodness, the bad in you will become absolutely insignificant. There is no need to use any force to drive away all that is bad. When you forget bad, goodness will develop in you in full measure. This is the message I would like to give on this day. Do not think that the New Year will give you some new fruits. The fruits that you earn will be based on your qualities and actions. All that you think will be reflected back to you. Everything is the result of your thoughts.

### **World is Reaction, Reflection and Resound**

Once there was a cowherd who used to take cows for grazing to a place surrounded by three mountains. One day when the cows were grazing, he sat down under a tree and started singing a song in praise of God. As he sang the song, he heard its echo. He thought that someone was imitating his song to tease him. Therefore, he shouted in anger at the invisible intruder, and heard its resound in the same angry tone. In this state of anger, he went home and did not even take his food. His mother asked him why he was so upset. He narrated what had happened. Next day, his mother accompanied him and came to know that it was his own echo which was the cause of his trouble. In the same manner if you criticise or abuse anybody, all that will come back to you. The world is nothing but reaction, reflection and resound. Whatever you do will come back to you, and nothing else. This is the divine law. Those who are full of love will see love everywhere. Those who are full of hatred will see enemies all around. Therefore, love and hatred do not come from outside. They have their origin within you. The good and bad you experience arise out of your own feelings. God is not responsible for any of these. God is *Nirguna, Niranjana, Sanathana* (attributeless, pure, eternal). It is only your feelings that change. God is changeless.

*Students!*

All your feelings are reflected back to you. Everything is within you. Whatever you experience is the reaction, reflection and resound of your thoughts and feelings. You see somebody laughing and think that he is laughing at you. But how can you conclude in this manner? Once a famous wrestler was doing exercise on a road early in the morning. At that time, a woman was coming from a village to sell milk and curd. When he looked at her, he felt she was laughing at him. The wrestler became angry and said to the woman, "How dare you laugh at me? Do you know who am I? Are you aware of my strength?" The woman replied, "I am not laughing at you. You are so strong that you can stop a speeding car with one hand. What is the use of your physical strength if you lack forbearance?" All our notions are based upon our deluded feelings.

### **Be Good, Do Good, See Good**

*Students!*

No doubt, your inner feelings are good. But they undergo change depending upon what you see and hear. It is the external impulses that are responsible for changes in your thoughts and feelings. Truly speaking, there is no human form. In fact, there is no form at all. It is because of your illusion that you see a form and give a name to it. It is a sign of foolishness to think so. You may think that you are highly educated and very intelligent. But how can you call yourself so if you are ignorant of your true Self? You can be called truly educated only when you know your real nature. If you do not know your own truth, how can you know the truth of others?

First of all, you should control your mind. Only then can your worship and prayer be fruitful. The mind is the root cause of the world. *Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man). It is comparatively easy to control the body, but not the mind. When Pramila, the ruler of women's kingdom, captured the Aswamedha horse and defeated Arjuna in the battle, Arjuna told her that she could arrest his body but not his mind. It may be possible to capture the whole world with army, weapons and bombs, but it is not possible for anyone to capture the mind. When you gain control over your mind, everything else will come under your control. Therefore, you should make all efforts to control your mind. Then you are sure to become an ideal and great person. First and foremost, you should know your mistakes and try to rectify them. Only then can you aspire to become a Mumukshu (spiritual aspirant). Knowingly or unknowingly, you may have committed some mistakes. Once you know your mistakes, you should have repentance. Repentance is true atonement. This is the royal path which leads to divinity. There is little use in performing Puja (worship), Vratas (rituals) and Yajnas without repentance and atonement.

*Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). It is not easy to attain human form. Man is not a mere mortal. He is verily divine. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). If you do or think something



bad, you are not divine. First of all, you should become a good person. Be good, do good, see good. This is the way to God.

### **Develop the Qualities Exemplified by Rama and Sita**

*Students!*

First of all, you have to control your mind. Offer your mind to God. He can do everything for you. Have deep devotion to God with firm faith that He is everywhere.

*Do not doubt that God is here and not there. Wherever you search for Him, He is there.*  
(Telugu Poem)

Where is God? *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). Many people are not able to recognise this truth. God is present in all beings, be it a small insect like an ant or a big animal like an elephant or a lion. He is present in a particle of sand and also in a particle of sugar.

Discharge your duty earnestly with devotion to God. Put your knowledge into practice and earn a good name. I never prevent anyone from pursuing his studies. But along with acquiring secular knowledge, you should acquire spiritual knowledge also. Proper enquiry of the mind and purity of heart are very essential.

*Students!*

You have completed the academic year, and you will now go home for vacation. You will be looking for your results and searching your roll number in the list of successful candidates. More than searching your roll number, search your heart. If you have really written well, you are sure to find your roll number. On the other hand, if you have not written your examination well, you should not be delighted even when you find your roll number in the list of successful candidates. It is not the number of marks that are important. What is important is that you should become number one man (*loud applause*).

This morning, our students sang the song conveying the message that one should have a son like Rama and a daughter like Sita. You may aspire to have a son like Rama and a daughter like Sita. But, how is it possible when you have the demonic qualities of Ravana and Surpanakha? If you want a son like Rama, you should follow Dharma like Him. If you aspire to have a daughter like Sita, you should have the virtues as exemplified by Sita. Whatever form you aspire for, you should cultivate the same type of qualities corresponding to that. Only then can you attain harmony, tolerance and peace. Where is peace? Peace lies in the control of the senses. If you are not able to control your senses, you cannot attain peace; you will get only pieces. If you want to be peaceful, you have to imbibe the qualities of quietude and composure. Let anybody criticise, abuse or hurt you;

you should maintain your composure. When someone criticises you, do not take it to heart. Think that his tongue has produced some sound. You have nothing to do with it. If you receive the abuses hurled at you, you will be affected by them. Otherwise, you will not be disturbed. Even if somebody beats you, think that he has beaten your body and not you. In fact, none can ever harm or hurt you, because you are not the body. If you have such a firm conviction, then you will not have anger or hatred towards even those who abuse or assault you. Therefore, firm conviction is most essential for peace.

### **Offer your Heart to God in Prayer**

Draupadi had deep devotion for Krishna. She prayed to Him, “Oh Krishna! I worship You day and night. Oh Lord! Be compassionate and protect me. If You are compassionate towards me, then I will not be bothered about any other thing in life.” Draupadi faced many challenges and ordeals in life, but her devotion towards Krishna remained unaffected. Thyagaraja said, “Oh Lord! I have been praying to You incessantly. Why are You depriving me of Your love and compassion? What is that I have not offered to You?”

*I have surrendered my wealth, my family and everything to You. Now, please come to my rescue. I seek refuge only in You.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

Mere words are not enough when you pray; you should offer your heart to God in prayer. Man has a name and a form, but the Atma transcends both. It has neither a name nor a form. People like some particular names and forms. One cannot have faith in many names and forms, but one can surely have faith in the formless principle of the Atma which is present in all. *Na Atma Sakshi* (my Atma is the witness) is a common saying in Telugu, which shows that people have faith in the Atma. That is why Atma is the common name for all. Some may pray to Rama, others may pray to Krishna. Names and forms are many, but Divinity is one. Atma is the nameless, formless divinity. When you worship such a formless and nameless divine principle, you will certainly attain Divinity. (Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho ...*”)

– **From Bhagavan’s Ugadi Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 30th March 2006.**

Paramatma (God) cannot be known without faith and steadfastness. Only through Prema (love) comes Sraddha (steadfast faith); only through Sraddha comes Jnana (wisdom); only through Jnana comes Parabhakti (supreme devotion); only through Parabhakti is Paramatma attained.

- Baba

**SRI RAMA NAVAMI CELEBRATIONS AT**

## **PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

SRI RAMA NAVAMI was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with deep devotion and sacredness on 7th April 2006 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Divine Darshan and a nectarine Discourse, while the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented an excellent programme of devotional music on this occasion.

In the morning, the programme commenced after Bhagavan's arrival in Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.25 a.m. First of all, the students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music enthralled the audience by their excellent rendition of Thyagaraja Kritis (devotional compositions) on Veena. This was followed by recital of excerpts from Ramacharita Manas (the Ramayana written by Sant Tulsidas) by the students of Hindustani classical stream of music of this college. After this, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented a delightful programme of devotional songs in praise of Lord Rama. The morning programme came to a close at 9.50 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

In the afternoon, two speakers addressed the gathering before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan. The first speaker, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, remarked that the epic Ramayana had universal appeal and it was a source of great inspiration for cultures and civilisations of the world. Rama and Ramayana had, in fact, become part and parcel of the life of the people, observed the learned speaker. The second speaker was Sri Ajit Popat, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from the U.K. Sri Popat exhorted the devotees to bring Ramayana in their life by practising its teachings. This, he said, was sure to establish Rama Rajya (rule of Rama) in their heart and in their life.

After these speeches, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Divine Message on this auspicious occasion. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given in this issue elsewhere.) After Bhagavan's Discourse, Prasadam was distributed to all and Arati was offered to Bhagavan. The programme of Sri Rama Navami came to a happy conclusion at 6.30 p.m.

## **SRI RAMA NAVAMI DISCOURSE**

# **EXPERIENCE THE SWEETNESS OF RAMA'S NAME**

THIS motherland of Bharat has given birth to many noble souls who attained great name and fame in all the continents of the world. Many sages and seers of Bharat have been sanctifying their time by propagating Rama Tattwa (principle of Rama) since ancient

times. The Ramayana belongs to Treta Yuga. Though thousands of years have passed, yet the Ramayana is still being read with reverence in every village and every hamlet.

### **Do as you Say**

People, young and old, chant the sacred name of Rama even now with great devotion. They may forget any other name, but not the Rama Nama (name). Be he a millionaire or a pauper, everyone takes refuge in the Divine Name of Rama in times of difficulty. In Bharat, it is hard to find anyone who does not contemplate upon or chant the name of Rama. Many sages in the past did penance and undertook several kinds of vows to spread the glory of Rama Nama in the world. However, Rama never wished or told anybody to chant His name or contemplate upon it. He, in fact, declared that all are the embodiments of divinity.

The foremost teaching of Rama was that one should follow Sathya. Taking Sathya as the basis, one should sustain and promote Dharma (righteousness). Dharma is not confined to any particular place or country; it is present in all. It is born out of Sathya (truth). In fact, Dharma cannot exist without Sathya. What is Dharma? *Dharayati iti Dharma* (that which sustains is Dharma). Some people wrongly limit Dharma to mere feeding of the poor or acts of charity. Dharma should flow from one's own heart. Then, it should be put into practice. Do as you say. That is man's foremost duty. There should be perfect harmony between one's words and actions. On the other hand, if one says one thing and does something contrary to it, it connotes Adharma (unrighteousness). Moreover, one should carefully analyse and weigh the pros and cons before saying something. *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones). You say that you are a human being. But, you are entitled to be called a human being only when your thoughts, words and deeds are in harmony. Rama achieved unity of thought, word and deed. In contrast, Ravana's thoughts, words and deeds were at variance with each other. *Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those who lack harmony of thoughts, words and deeds are wicked).

### **Nurture and Develop your Innate Qualities**

There has naturally been a conflict between Sathya (truth) and Asathya (untruth), Dharma (righteousness) and Adharma (unrighteousness). Rama scrupulously followed Sathya, whereas Ravana resorted to Asathya. There is no Dharma greater than adherence to Sathya. Hence, we should adhere to truth even in trivial matters. We should never resort to untruth to escape from a difficult situation.

*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,*

*Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?*

*Visualise this pure and unsullied truth. (Telugu Poem)*

In fact, truth is the foundation of the entire creation. If for any reason this foundation is disturbed, the whole world will collapse. What is the reason for all the trials and tribulations of man today? It is because man has forgotten truth. He is facing humiliation and disrepute because he is indulging in injustice and falsehood. Hence, one should not resort to untruth under any circumstances. One should speak only truth. Sathya is a small term. But it connotes Sath (changeless divinity). Since we try to change this changeless truth, we undergo changes and distortions.

*Dear Students!*

You are all young. If you follow truth right from this young age, you will surely become an ideal to the entire country. What is truth? God's word is truth. Hence, when you speak with the feeling *Sarvam Bhagavad Preetyartham* (everything is to please God), then everything will become truth. Every thought and feeling emanating from man is a reflection of his inner truth. Unfortunately, it gets converted into falsehood by the improper use of the tongue. The tongue is one of the five senses. These senses are the cause of changes in us. They are responsible for the sin or merit that we earn.

The Panchabhutas (five elements) pervade the entire universe, right from the earth to sky. There is no sixth element other than these five elements in the universe. The same five elements are found in every human being in a subtle form. One has to realise this truth and conduct oneself accordingly. Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace) Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) that are present within you have to be nurtured and developed. Sathya is the path. Dharma follows it. Prema is the experience. It is only then that Ahimsa manifests. Himsa (violence) is not limited to harming or hurting others; acting contrary to one's words is also Himsa. There can be no greater Ahimsa than using our tongue in a sacred manner.

Santhi (peace) is not to be found somewhere else. It is very much within us. There are many different qualities present within us. It is for us to make good use of these qualities. You may ask, "Why does not God change our nature?" No, God does not at all interfere; He is a witness of everything. It is not for God to tell you what is good and what is bad. Your own thoughts and feelings tell you what is good and what is bad. When you eat a cucumber, you will get the belch of a cucumber. Hence, what is there in you will be reflected outside. Whatever bad you see in others, it is nothing but the reflection of your own thoughts. Some people are constantly immersed in worldly thoughts. Such people can never be happy. Only those attain the state of bliss whose mind is steady, without any thoughts. Some people consider themselves very intelligent and keep enquiring deeply into their accumulated bookish knowledge. This type of pedantry is like allergy. Once this allergy starts spreading, their energy is sapped. Unfortunately, today we are developing allergy, not energy. Do not keep deliberating upon whether something is good

for you or not. Everything is good. Whatever happens, consider that it is good for you. When you develop such an attitude, everything will turn out to be good for you.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Love all. Hate none. Do not misunderstand others. Some people develop misunderstanding even about God! It is the worst of sins. Hence, do not entertain such misconceptions. If by any reason such thoughts enter your mind, consider them as your enemies and drive them away. Be loving and cheerful always. It is only love that protects and sustains you. You are yourself the embodiment of love. Where there is love, there hatred cannot enter.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Human body is a miniature world. It is constituted by Panchabhutas (five elements), Panchendriyas (five senses) and Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths) which, in turn, are born out of truth, are sustained by truth and ultimately merge in truth. Hence, one should follow truth earnestly. Since people distort truth, they lose their purity. The main reason for the impurity of one's heart is one's tendency to distort truth. Hence, if one wishes to maintain purity and sacredness of one's heart, one has to speak truth. If you are wedded to truth, whatever you say will come right.

Some people complain, "Swami! Though we are treading the path of truth, untruth still troubles us. What could be the reason for our predicament?" The question can be answered by a simple example. While the pure and crystal clear Ganga river flows, some streams and rivulets formed by the rain water join it during its course, thereby polluting the river. However, one has to be careful not to allow any impurities to join the pure and unsullied truth of one's heart. It is because of the weakness of our senses that various impurities enter our heart and pollute it. These impurities are the six inner enemies of man. The purity of nectar can be destroyed even by an atom of impurity.

Once a music director composed a song:

*I am aware, You are like the moon in the distant sky;*

*Yet my mind tries to grab You;*

*I don't know why ...* (Telugu Song)

In fact, where is the moon? Not in the distant sky. Our mind itself is the moon. We are unable to gain control over the mind because of these six inner enemies coming in our way. Is it not a fact that even the bright light of the moon on a full moon night is not visible if the clouds come in its way? The moment the clouds move away, the moon is visible. Similarly, you have to do constant Namasmara in order to drive away the clouds of these six inner enemies.

**Follow the Ideals set by Rama**

Today we are celebrating Sri Rama Navami. On this sacred day, we should resolve to follow the teachings of Rama. Sathya and Dharma are the two main teachings of Rama.

Do not consider yourself as a mere human being. Develop full faith that you are none other than Rama! People often say, "Only my Atmarama knows it!" Thus, our Atma itself is the embodiment of Lord Rama! The Atma has no specific form. The same Atma that pervades the entire universe took a form and incarnated as Rama. Similarly, Dharma took the form of Lakshmana who constantly followed Rama. Lakshmana considered Rama as his very life-breath. Rama was everything for him.

During the exile of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita, once Lakshmana ventured into a particular part of forest. Soon he was beset with evil thoughts. As soon as he returned, he told Rama, "Oh! Rama! Why are we undergoing all these troubles? Why should the innocent mother Sita be put to these ordeals? Come! Let us go back to Ayodhya, this very moment." Sita was surprised at the sudden change in the attitude of Lakshmana. Since Rama knew everything, He called Lakshmana to His side smilingly and made him sit near Him. Immediately, Lakshmana realised his fault. With great agony, he enquired from Rama, "Dear brother! How come these evil thoughts entered my mind? Never before such a thing had happened to me." Rama then explained, "Dear brother! This is not your fault. This is the region of a demon. Hence, all evil thoughts entered your mind." *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* As is your company, so are your thoughts. Hence, keep yourself away from bad company. Join the company of good and noble souls. Then, you will get good thoughts. As are your thoughts, so shall be the result. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as are the feelings, so is the result).

When Kausalya was shedding tears after Rama left for the forest, Sumitra tried to comfort her, saying, "Dear sister! Why do you cry? Is it because Rama is going to the forest? No, no. You are mistaken that Rama would live in the forest, while we would enjoy royal comforts in Ayodhya. In fact, wherever Rama lives is Ayodhya and the rest is nothing but a forest. We should lead our life with equanimity, remaining equal-minded in happiness and sorrow. Happiness and sorrow come one after the other. We should not be affected by them. We should neither be elated by happiness nor depressed by sorrow. Can there be a human being in this world without happiness and sorrow? Rama is, in fact, omniscient and omnipotent. No harm can ever befall Him by wild animals or demons in the forest."

Kausalya was also worried about Sita since she was accompanying Rama to the forest. Rama had tried to dissuade her from going to the forest, saying, "Sita! The forest is full of thorny bushes and wild animals. You will be put to a lot of difficulties in the forest." Sita then reasoned with Rama, "Oh! Rama! You are the protector of the entire world. Can You not protect Your own wife from the wild animals? You are omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. I am sure that none of these wild animals can cause any harm to me when You are with me. I have no such fear." Rama felt very happy to hear these words of Sita.

When Sita was abducted by Ravana, both Rama and Lakshmana became very much worried about her. Seething with anger over Ravana's mean act, Lakshmana approached his elder brother Rama and said, "Dear brother! Give me Your permission. I will reduce all these wicked demons to ashes." Rama counselled patience and said, "Lakshmana! We don't need to do any such thing. The demons will destroy themselves on their own. In fact, they will become victims of their own evil qualities." Subsequently, Ravana was killed by Rama and His army of Vanaras. Rama then explained to Lakshmana thus: "Lakshmana! People behave in a particular way and reap the consequences of their actions, depending upon their Prarabdha (destiny) and their qualities. We need not be too much concerned with that. As long as one is attached to worldly objects and thinks in terms of mine and thine, one will be afflicted by sorrow. Hence, one has to treat the worldly objects with the attitude: These are not mine; all these are the property of the Divine."

All acts should be performed to please God. If one develops ego with thoughts of 'I' and 'mine', one is sure to perish. You say 'this is mine' and 'that is mine'. In fact, what really belongs to you – the body, the mind, the intellect or the senses? You say 'this is my body', 'this is my mind', 'this is my intellect', etc. But, none of these belong to you truly. The body which you consider as belonging to you will leave you in a moment, even without your knowledge. Similarly, the mind roams about like a monkey. Is it possible to restrain this mad monkey? Do not say, 'I am this or that'. Say, 'I am I'. This is your correct description. The correct answer to the question 'Who are you?' is 'I am I'. Rama did not criticise or harm anyone. Then, who will have hatred towards Him? Good acts of Rama brought good results to Him. Thus, when we do good to others, there is no possibility for us to undergo sorrows and difficulties. If we still feel we are put to difficulties, the fault lies with us. God is not responsible for our sorrows and difficulties; it is the waywardness of our senses that is responsible for them. So, we should control our senses. If we are able to control our senses, everything else will come under our control. That is the essence of the teachings of Rama. The Ramayana is not merely the story of Rama. In fact, it is the story of every human being.

### **Sweetness of Rama Nama never Diminishes**

We blame God for our problems and difficulties. But, God loves one and all equally. He has no hatred towards anyone. He is always cheerful and smiling. A smiling countenance is the natural quality of a divine being. Where there is a smile, there can be no hatred at all! People with such divine attributes do not get disturbed under any circumstances. Hence, be always smiling and cheerful. Never put on a 'castor-oil face'. Some students are very much worried about examinations; they want them to be delayed or postponed. However, the sooner you write the examinations and pass them, the quicker will you



move onto the higher class. Instead of examination worry, you should make hurry to go to the higher class. There is no worry in this hurry.

*Come! Oh devotees! Come!*

*Take the sweet of Rama Nama.*

*Do not buy and eat other sweets out of ignorance,*

*They will spoil your health.*

*By mixing the wheat flour of the essence of the Vedas*

*with the milk of Vedic declarations,*

*Adding the sugar of Subuddhi (virtues)*

*and the ghee of Nibaddhi (truth),*

*Removing the dirt of Abaddhamu (falsehood),*

*Our ancient Rishis have prepared this most delicious sweet of Rama Nama.*

(Telugu Song)

Your health will be spoiled by eating all kinds of sweets sold in the marketplace. Those sweets may be tasty, but are harmful for you. Instead, take the sweet of Rama Nama that has been prepared by our great Rishis. It has a wonderful effect on your mind. It can never become stale or spoiled. The more you eat this sweet of Rama Nama, the more joy will you derive from it. It is sweeter than sugar and tastier than curd.

The Divine Name of Rama is full of sweetness and it remains sweet forever. There have been many incarnations of God on earth. But the Divine Name of Rama has remained eternal. Since ancient times, Rama Nama has remained as the Taraka Mantra (Mantra that liberates) for one and all. Right from children to elders, everyone can derive the bliss of chanting Rama Nama. Age is no obstacle in experiencing the sweetness of Rama Nama. There is immense sweetness in this name. We should never give up such a sweet, nectarine and blissful Rama Nama even for a second. Unfortunately, today people are neglecting the chanting of Rama Nama. It is their misfortune.

### **Lead an Ideal and Exemplary Life**

When Mirabai was asked to leave the Krishna temple in the palace by the Maharana, she was full of anxiety, thinking, “How can I leave my dear Lord Krishna and go away!” But her unflinching faith in Krishna developed firm conviction in her, “Krishna Himself would come along with me.” She prayed to Lord Krishna, “Oh Lord! I have obtained the precious pearl of Divine Name after a great effort. Please bless me that I do not lose this invaluable pearl.” Chanting the name of Krishna incessantly, she reached Dwaraka. However, she found the doors of the temple closed. Unable to bear the agony of separation from her dear Lord Krishna any more, she banged her head against the doors of the temple. Lo and behold! The doors of the temple opened and Lord Krishna appeared before her. After having Darshan of her dear Lord, Mirabai merged with Him.

We have to broaden our heart. This does not refer to the physical heart. If the physical heart is enlarged, it requires surgery by the doctors. Broadening one's heart implies the quality of large-heartedness. Some people sit here stretching their legs and occupying a lot of space. Instead, if people sit closely, some more devotees can be accommodated. We can help each other by caring and sharing.

*Dear Students!*

The summer vacation has started. From tomorrow onwards, you will be going home to spend your vacation with your parents. Spend your time happily with your parents. Contemplating upon the happy time you have spent here learning many sacred teachings, make your parents also happy. If you are happy, they will also be happy. Never make your parents unhappy by your conduct. Your parents occupy an important place in your life. It is your foremost duty to make them happy. It is not enough if you look after your own comfort and welfare. First and foremost, the parents are to be made happy. Life is not confined to Khana (food), Peena (drink), Sona (sleep) and Marna (death). We are not born to eat and roam about and enjoy comforts. We are born to serve our parents and make them happy. If you make your parents happy now, your children would make you happy in future. Lead an ideal and exemplary life. Only then will your life be sanctified and the education acquired by you in Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions will become meaningful. I wish that all of you should earn name and fame as the students of this great institution.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Rama Rama Rama Sita ...*”)

- **From Bhagavan's Sri Rama Navami Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th April 2006.**

## **CELEBRATIONS AT KODAIKANAL**

TAMIL NEW YEAR AND VISHU were celebrated with all their traditional flavour in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Kodaikanal on 14th April 2006.

Sai Sruthi, the abode of Bhagavan in Kodaikanal, and its surroundings were decorated tastefully by the Seva Dal members of both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. If the Muthukkudas (ceremonial umbrellas) of various colours and tender coconut leaves made into different designs marked the traditional decorations of Kerala, decorations with flowers, mango leaves and garlands revealed the presence of Tamil Nadu. Thousands of devotees from both these States thronged Sai Sruthi to participate in the festivities and receive the blessings of Bhagavan on this auspicious occasion. Traditional rendering of Nadaswaram reverberated the entire milieu since early morning, creating the festive atmosphere for celebrating the function.

Amidst the ambience of the Bhajans sung by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Bhagavan filled the hearts of devotees with joy by His Divine Darshan at 9 a.m. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Prof. Mukundan, State President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala and Sri Ajit Popat from the U.K. made brief speeches.

In His Discourse on this sacred occasion, Bhagavan exhorted the devotees to reduce their worldly desires if they wanted to experience real happiness in life. Giving up worldly desires was true renunciation, He observed. Giving the example of the world conquerer Alexander, Bhagavan remarked that ultimately he also had to go from the world empty-handed. Man should develop love and truth which were permanent instead of wasting his time and effort in accumulating ephemeral worldly possessions, said Bhagavan. This was followed by Narayana Seva and Vastradanam (distribution of clothes). After the devotees received Prasadam, the morning programme ended around 11 a.m.

The evening programme commenced with Bhajans by the students, followed by devotional music by the Sundaram Bhajan Group from Tamil Nadu. This was followed by devotional songs by Sri Kavalam Sreekumar and Sri Padma Kumar from Kerala.

In the end, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning filled the hearts of devotees with joy by their sweet and thrilling music in various styles providing a befitting finale to the celebrations.

### RadioSai's e-journal 'Heart2Heart'

The official website of Radio Sai Global Harmony, [www.radiosai.org](http://www.radiosai.org), has been offering an internet journal "Heart2Heart" since August 2003. This is a free monthly journal carrying inspirational articles on Bhagavan Baba's Life, His Message and Work. In every issue, there are more than 100 pages of Sai literature, experiences of students and devotees, detailed accounts of events and festivals held in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba and lots of pictures. To view this journal, visit [www.radiosai.org](http://www.radiosai.org) and click on the icon "Heart2Heart". You can also have access to all the previous issues of this e-journal (there are more than 40 of them) by clicking on the link "Previous Issues" present in every web page of Heart2Heart. In whichever part of the world you are, Sai pictures and articles are just one mouse click away! Take full advantage of this opportunity!

For any further enquiries, please write to [h2h@radiosai.org](mailto:h2h@radiosai.org)

Radio Sai Global Harmony

## I N T E R V I E W

## LIVING WITH GOD IS TRUE EDUCATION

*In an interesting interview, Sri Anil Kumar tells Dr. G. Venkataraman how Bhagavan imparts invaluable lessons to students when they get the unique opportunity of living with Him at Kodaikanal.*

*YOU ARE a very good teacher and you also know a lot about how Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Supreme Teacher, moulds students. In particular, I want you to share with all of us your thrilling experiences of Kodaikanal. You have been to Kodaikanal with Bhagavan many times. It is indeed a very very extraordinary event, an event with a purpose.*

Swami selects students whom He takes to Kodaikanal, and the selection is based on their performance here in the college, their conduct, their devotion, their excellence in sports and games, their talents in singing and dramatics as well. Besides, a few teachers are also selected by Bhagavan to accompany Him. Kodaikanal is an extremely beautiful place. The description of heaven or paradise in the scriptures of any religion would certainly match with the life at Kodaikanal in the divine proximity of Bhagavan.

At Kodaikanal, Swami gives us everything, right from a sleeping bag... One suitcase load of gifts of daily need and certain presents that we feel like preserving for the posterity. We take one suitcase and bring back with us three suitcases. Also, at times He takes boys to certain distant places on a picnic where He virtually plays with them.

*It reminds us of Krishna and Gopals except for so-called age difference of the physical bodies.*

I think that's all action replay as you call it. He crosses all age barriers and He materialises certain things. One year, He materialised the white stone ring presented to Sri Ramachandra by His father Dasaratha. Then, He materialised another green stone ring presented to Him by His father-in-law Janaka.

*I am told that these rings are very big.*

Very big. I said, "Swami, it is almost of the size of my wrist. It is such a big ring!" Then Swami said, "Ramachandra's personality was such... Ajanubahu, very tall stature."

And He also materialised Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn by married woman) worn by Sita. I have also seen Swami materialising the necklace of Ravana with 365 Siva Lingas, three large Siva Lingas at the centre, down below, where you have the pendant, one yellow, one green, one blue and all the other 362 Lingas made of gold.

*What happens to these things afterwards?*

These things go back to 'Sai stores'. He also materialised the golden deer that had drawn the attention of Mother Sita.

*You are allowed to touch these things?*

Yes, we are allowed to touch these things. I have also seen on another occasion, Swami materialised an arch with diamonds in three to four rows!

*How big was the arch? How many centimetres ?*

I can say, it was not less than 15 centimetres. At the centre of the arch, there was a gold chain from which a swan was hanging, with eyes very clear, beak very clear, stomach very transparent and translucent. Then everybody started looking at it. Swami came and said, "Hey look, look deep, look deep." And when I started looking, there in the stomach of the swan we saw Bhagavan Baba in reclining posture, like Sesha Sai (Lord reclining on the thousand-hooded snake). He also materialised

Chudamani, the jewel that Sita gave to Hanuman as a mark of identification to establish his credibility.

*I see! Fantastic! Can you recall some really moving or heartwarming incidents, because there must be quite a few of these.*

About seven years ago, there was one student from the State of Kerala. Swami was showing special concern for him. Even I was feeling a little jealous. He materialised a ring for him, a chain for him, a watch for him as if the whole trip was meant for that boy. After a few days, He materialised a pair of earrings for that boy.

*Earrings?*

Yes, He materialised earrings for the boy! I didn't understand. After a few days, He materialised another set of earrings for the same boy. I thought to myself, "Swami, I have three daughters, You can give me those earrings. Why to that boy, after all an unmarried fellow!"

Then, after a week, Swami in His Discourse said, "Some people started questioning why Swami was showing special concern for that boy. Some people were also doubting why I gave earrings to that boy. They do not know. That boy lost his mother long ago. He has two sisters. His mother's wish was to present gold earrings to her daughters. Before that wish materialised, she died. I am his mother, I am their mother also. If not Me, who else will care for them? So, I materialised these earrings for the boy. You don't understand what I do. Whatever I do, whatever I say has got a deeper significance and inner meaning. The boy's father, out of frustration, wanted to commit suicide. I made him come here and took a promise from him that he would not make an attempt to die. And I am taking care of the family. It is only after that day, the boy started smiling."

That really touched my heart. Swami! You are the mother of mothers, dearer and nearer than the physical mother. You care for them. I am sure that none of us experiences that depth, that intensity, that magnitude of love which we receive from Bhagavan.

*Can you recall any other memorable incidents that you witnessed at Kodaikanal?*

There at Kodaikanal, one day Swami was distributing peppermints and chocobars and various other things. Suddenly, He said, "There is one fellow who is not eating and he is dumping them all in his bag. Come on boys, search everybody's bag." It was something like income tax search, income tax raid! Then I said softly, "Bhagavan, why all this trouble? Yes! I'm not eating. I am keeping them in the bag." Bhagavan said, "Why do you do that?" "Swami! I have four children, they expect something from me. Whatever You give is most valuable for us. When I take back these most precious things, the children will jump in joy." Swami said, "Oh, is it so?" Then He told everybody there, "Hereafter, you give Anil Kumar five items, four for his children and one for him."

Then He said to me, "Just as you feel happy when your children eat, I feel happy when you eat here." How can I forget that incident! I don't remember anybody loves me more than Bhagavan Baba. This is the feeling of every devotee. It is the experience of millions of devotees all over the world.

*Now, what does Swami expect in return for all this? This is a sort of typical human question. I know God does not expect anything in return. But let us hear what you have to say.*

He only wants us to learn from Him. Just as He loves us, we need to love our fellowmen, family and God, because God is love and love is God. Live in love. That is the message He wants to convey.

*I am told that one year on Easwaramma Day, Swami personally distributed blankets to the poor. That seems to be a very moving incident. So, why don't you tell us something about it?*

The blankets were distributed to the poor people who had assembled in “Sai Sruthi” Mandir (Swami’s residence at Kodaikanal.) Suddenly, Swami said, “Let us go out.” He got into His car and the convoy started moving. He stopped here and there, noticing poor people, got down and started personally distributing the blankets. It was because some of them were disabled and could not come to receive the blankets. He said, “You should take every opportunity to serve the poor and the needy.” This is an example that everybody should learn from Bhagavan. You should not expect them to come to you; you should go to the Daridra Narayana (God in the form of poor people) and serve them with love. Not only that. On our way to Kodaikanal, sometimes He suddenly stops the car. He finds a beggar going over there. He finds a village woman carrying a head load of firewood. He stops and gives them money. They never see Swami and they never know that it is Sai Baba who gave them the money. He simply gives money like that. When I mentioned this to Him, He said, “I do not want recognition. I don’t want publicity. I cannot see these poor people suffering like that.”

You will be thrilled if I tell you another incident. Bhagavan bought candy puffs (Peechu Mittayi). He bought about twenty-five of them and His car was full of these. He started distributing to all V.I.P.s. They were rather surprised. Then Bhagavan told them, “You know why I bought them? Here at Kodaikanal, there are some aged people. They cannot move about. Their children carry on their livelihood by selling these candy puffs. So, when I buy them, they go back home with the money, give it to their parents and in this way they are taken care of.”

From that day everybody started buying candy puffs, because Swami said you should buy! For twenty-five candy puffs, after all we may have to pay ten or twenty rupees. But Swami gave him five hundred rupees. I said, “Swami, You have given much more than the actual price.” Then He said, “It is not the price of the candy. It is the love of Bhagavan towards them.” I was deeply touched by this incident.

He calls the boys and tells them, “There are some Tibetan women, selling woollen clothes. They are poor people. They carry on their livelihood because of these sales only. Go to them and buy whatever you require. They will be happy that they have got good business.” One day, Swami bought a straw hat and wore it. Then everybody bought straw hats. In this way, He helped the poor man who was not having good business. They are all poor people. They all wait for Bhagavan, because the goddess of wealth follows Him necessarily.

One day, He called two servant maids and gave them silk Saris. I said, “Swami, You are giving such costly silk Saris to servant maids!” Swami looked at me and said, “When I give, why do you cry like that? Are you jealous?” Then Swami said, “When they go and attend marriages and when they go to their relations, they can wear these Saris. It will give them a lot of joy”. That is Sai’s love. It is uniform for everyone.

*Yes, He is always trying to make everybody happy. And the message is that we should try to do the same. It is said, “Living with God is true education.” So, can you tell me what are the lessons He subtly imparts to the students?*

He watches every student how he conducts himself. And if there is any mistake, He will at once point out. Starting from dining manners, He teaches how one should conduct oneself in day-to-day life. When there are so many guests, how to serve? That also He teaches them very carefully. And how to receive guests and extend hospitality, how to talk to elders, how to dress? All these minute things Bhagavan teaches them. These days, even parents have no time to observe their children and teach them these basic things. They are busy in their own way. But Bhagavan being more than a parent

cares for them. The result is, the parents will be surprised to see a great transformation in their child when he returns home. That is Bhagavan's way of bringing about transformation.

*Do you feel it is rather strange that God has to do even these small things?*

God comes for both. For reformation and also for transformation; reformation from the worldly point of view and transformation from inside.

*You say boys are immensely talented. How does Swami help them to develop their talents further at Kodaikanal?*

Swami makes them sing devotional songs. They will be asked to play on musical instruments. Boys who are gifted with the talent of public speaking will be asked to address the devotees. And sometimes we have Kavi Sammelan (poets meet) also. Sathya Sai University is unique in the sense that we have students from all over India and a few from overseas also. Each student is talented. Some of them can write poems and compositions in their own language. They have altogether some fifteen languages. Swami organises the Kavi Sammelan, the assembly of poets. Swami will ask the boys to sing a song or recite a poem in his own native language. Swami explains, interprets and translates them. He also corrects them wherever they go wrong.

*Oh! That is amazing. Now please tell us something about picnics. I heard Swami takes boys for picnics at Kodaikanal.*

Swami takes boys to the nearby mountain area for a picnic with food packets. They all sit in the form of a circle. Swami talks to them in a very informal way. There small slips are picked up. And on the slips are written various items. "You tell a story, you sing a song, you tell a joke" like that. The number of slips will be equal to the number of boys and the elders who are present there. And these slips are picked up by each and every one. And everyone has to necessarily do what is written there.

Once it so happened, Prof. Sampath was in the group. He was a scientist par excellence. He was very well known in national and international circles. He was a man of wit and humour. When he picked up the slip, it was written – you sing a song. He said, "Swami, should I sing a song? Can I be exempted?"

Swami said, smilingly: "I cannot help it. That is what your slip says." He was not used to singing at all. He started singing in his hoarse voice. ...And everybody including Swami had a hearty laugh.

*If you have to summarise these extraordinary experiences that Bhagavan gives to students at Kodaikanal, how do you describe them?*

There at Kodaikanal you have a number of opportunities to put any number of questions to Bhagavan covering all topics. Once I started singing some songs. Swami at once filled the gaps. I asked Swami, "How You know these songs?" Swami said, "I know before the composer starts writing."

*Oh! Very subtly He says that He is the source of everything. How are the boys changed or influenced by all these experiences?*

When they go out with Bhagavan, they see thousands of devotees waiting. It is an opportunity for the boys to know how lucky they are. "People wait right from the early hours in the cold just for a glimpse of Bhagavan. ...And Bhagavan is moving with us; how lucky we are! Swami is spending time with us. We are really fortunate." This is the first experience of the boys.

If Swami watches a boy relishing a particular item, He sees to it that the boy is served that item extra. When you see all this, you will understand how much He cares for students. The concern and love of

Swami really touches the heart. The students might not have experienced that type of love till then. This brings about transformation in them. They start thinking, “What shall I do in return for all that He has done for me, for all the time He has spent on me, for all the love that I have received from Him?” But Swami says, “I do not want anything from you. I want you to get a good name for yourself, for your parents and for the institution in which you have studied. That is the only way of expressing gratitude to Me.” “Do Good, Be Good, See Good” is the quintessence of Sai Message.

*It is incredible! We do not know whether Lord Ramachandra ever did such a thing. Probably the Vanaras had the thrill of being in His proximity and certainly we know extraordinarily wonderful time the Gopalas had with Lord Krishna. We do not need to read scriptures to understand all that. If you go to Kodaikanal with Bhagavan or just hear about it, it is enough. It is so wonderful. It is said in our tradition that hearing about the Lord itself brings one redemption. I hope that all our listeners would feel thrilled.*

Courtesy : **Radio Sai Global Harmony**

At a distance from the bazaar, one hears only a loud indistinct noise. But, as one approaches it and walks into it, one can clearly distinguish the separate bargainings. So, too, until the reality of Paramatma is known, you are overpowered and confused by the uproar of the world. But once you enter deep into the realm of spiritual endeavour, everything becomes clear and the knowledge of the reality awakens within you. Until then, you will be caught up in the meaningless noise of argumentation, disputation and exhibitionist flamboyance.

– Baba

## NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A medical camp was held in the city of Kozarac on 18th February 2006. About 200 patients were seen at the camp free of charge. Consultations were provided for internal medicine, neurology, paediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology, gynaecology and psychiatry. Basic laboratory tests were also provided. Participants in the camp included volunteers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Germany. A local television station interviewed the organisers who provided information on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His work.

In addition to the medical camp, 466 packages of school stationery were distributed along with lunch bags, washing detergent, soaps and clothes at the same site.

A concurrent veterinary camp was conducted where 49 animals were examined.

### CANADA

The Sathya Sai Centre of Saskatoon, Canada has been involved in teaching Sathya Sai Education in Human Values to elementary school children through the board curriculum since 2001. Children of grades 1-4 are taught Sathya Sai values of love, truth, right conduct, peace and non-violence through



examples. Theatrical productions highlight Bhagavan's teachings. This has led the Superintendent of Schools in Saskatoon to acknowledge the importance of SSEHV in today's education. In addition, an annual Christmas gifting for students and staff of a school for special-care children is undertaken by the Sai Centre. In Toronto, hot meal and about 600 sandwiches were served lovingly to homeless individuals. During the harsh Canadian winters, young adults hold an annual drive for blankets and warm clothing and deliver to the homeless.

## **C H I N A**

Sri Sathya Sai Educare was enthusiastically appreciated by senior educationists in China when they met the members of the Sai Education Committee of the newly formed Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation in the city of Nanjing on 30th and 31st March 2006. The meeting was organised by the United Nations as part of its Human Values-based Water Education Programme in Asia and the Pacific region. In addition to the People's Republic of China, the programme is being introduced in countries of the Mekong Region (Laos PDR and Cambodia) and in South Asia.

The UN programme has adopted Sai Educare principles to promote a new ethic of caring and sharing and responsible water-use behaviour among primary and secondary level students in Chinese schools. Water education is a strategic entry point for mainstreaming Sai Educare principles in formal education in China. The Nanjing Education Bureau is spearheading this programme. Members of the Sai Education Committee who spoke at the meeting were: Dr. Art-ong Jumsai from Thailand, Dr. Pal Dhall from Australia and Dr. Ronne Marantz from the USA. The meeting decided to organise a Training Workshop in Nanjing in May 2006 to sensitise Chinese teachers, curriculum development specialists and teacher trainers on Sai Educare principles, in preparation for introducing Human Values-based Water Education in Chinese schools.

The Human Values-based Water Education Programme of UN-HABITAT has been operational in 14 African countries for the past three years. The programme focuses on mainstreaming Sai Educare principles in the national curriculum, training of trainers and demonstration through pilot schools. The African Institute of Sathya Sai Education, based in Zambia, is assisting in the implementation of the programme in African countries.

## **D U B A I**

In the Middle Eastern kingdom of Dubai, the Al Noor Centre hosts an Annual Fun Fair which attracts thousands of visitors who view the handicrafts of children with special needs. At this fair, the Sathya Sai Organisation had a prominent booth that was one of the most visited sites at the fair. The booth was adorned by a banner "Serve and Inspire" and staffed by Sai Youth volunteers with T-shirts sporting the slogan "Love All, Serve All". Coffee mugs were also available at the booth with Bhagavan's message "If you cannot oblige, speak obligingly."

In a dual effort to help a cottage industry in Puttaparthi and, at the same time, to bring environmental awareness, a drive to encourage the use of paper bags was made. These bags were manufactured in Puttaparthi from used newspapers and distributed in Dubai. The Sai booth captured the attention of local radio and news media who interviewed the booth staff.

## **E L S A L V A D O R**

San Salvador is the capital city of El Salvador abutting the North Pacific Ocean between Honduras and Guatemala. Since 1997, a small free nursing home for physically challenged individuals has been

run by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation. On 1st April 2006, a permanent Sai Medical Clinic was inaugurated at this site. The clinic will provide free medical care to patients on an ongoing basis while continuing to care for physically challenged individuals. A fully-equipped pharmacy housed in the clinic will provide free medications as needed.

### **INDONESIA**

Sai devotees from Medan, Indonesia organised food distribution to more than 645 families in Jaring Island in North Sumatra. This drive was in response to national news regarding the plight of local fishermen with depleted catch. Devotees lovingly transported goods and personnel through large distances, and the difficulties faced during transportation to the island did not dampen their spirits. The long journey by land and sea took as long as two and a half hours. Each family received five kilograms of rice, five packs of instant noodle, one pack of soap and a towel. Families were moved to tears and many expressed their love and appreciation for the Sathya Sai Organisation.

### **MALAYSIA**

The holy festival of Thaipusam is widely regarded as an important festival in Malaysia, and it draws large crowds. This year, it fell on 10th and 11th February 2006. Hordes of devotees climb the 272 steps to reach the temple of Batu Caves in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. In this setting, the Sathya Sai Organisation organised the voluntary donation of blood while conducting 33 hours of continuous devotional singing on a stage where a large picture of Bhagavan Baba was prominently displayed. Devotees worked continuously during the period of 33 hours. About 80 beds were laid out for donors and a target of 2,006 units of blood was set. Similar blood donation camps were held in Perak, Penang and Johore during the same period. Several volunteers from different faiths joined the blood donation effort. The event was covered live by satellite radio. Remarkably, the total amount of blood collected was in excess of 2,500 units.

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation is one of the single largest blood donor groups in South Africa, contributing 5-10% of the total blood donations. There are about 60 blood donation centres around the country which are regularly hosting clinics. Generally, about 10,000 units are collected annually due to the direct efforts of the Sathya Sai Organisation. As a result of this, the South African National Blood Service has remarked, “(We) wish to acknowledge the dedication of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation and the commitment of its devotees who so willingly serve the community with this vital need of providing safe blood.”

### **U. S. A.**

On 8th April 2006, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, addressed a gathering of Sai devotees, comprising mostly SSE children, parents and members of Sai Baba centres of greater Seattle in Bellevue, Washington located on the beautiful pacific coast of USA. The programme began with devotional songs by SSEHV children.

Sri Giri discussed the importance of Management and Education, particularly management in a “knowledge society”, highlighting the foresight of Bhagavan in terms of managers needing to be aware of the relations between nations and cultures, a fact that is becoming more and more important as globalisation moves forward. Sri Giri then gave the efficient delivery of disaster relief and post-disaster support by the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation during the Tsunami relief and Bhuj

earthquake in India as examples of responsible ways of handling service needs. He also stressed that self-confidence and self-awareness led to self-sacrifice and ultimately to self-realisation. He shared Bhagavan's message on the importance of the need for SSE teachers to treat the SSE students as their own children and be ultimately responsible for their performance. After a brief question-answer session, the programme concluded with Bhajans and Arati.

– **Prasanthi Council**

## **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Nellore district conducted a regional conference at Nellore on 12th March 2006 to discuss the recommendations of the 8th World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations. 200 delegates from Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Prakasam, Chittoor and Nellore districts participated and decided to work in the direction of implementing these 9 recommendations.

Visakhapatnam district gave 10 steel almirahs to the students of a school for the visually challenged in Lakshmipuram village on 12th March 2006. Each almirah contained four portions so as to enable 40 students to keep their belongings.

Anantapur district Sai Organisation started five new Bhajan Mandalis in the villages named Mamillakuntapalli, Veldurthi, Amudalakuntapalli, Salakamcheruvu and Prasannayapeta in the month of March 2006. This district distributed school uniforms worth Rs. 25,000 to 174 students in the Government School for the visually challenged at Hindupur on 7th March 2006.

The Mahila Vibhag (women's wing) of West Godavari district visited the school for the speech and hearing impaired at Eluru on 19th March 2006 and gave the inmates 12 chairs and 12 cots for their daily use.

The newly-built Sri Satya Sai Mandiram in Chinamerangi village, Vijayanagaram district was inaugurated on 5th March 2006. Narayana Seva was carried out for nearly 1,000 people on this occasion. This district came to the rescue of fire victims of Krishnarayudupeta village by giving to each of 248 households, 10 kg rice, vessels and two pairs of clothes on 19th March 2006.

The Kurnool district organisation successfully dug a much-needed bore-well at the burial ground, spending more than Rs. 25,000. This district carried out Narayana Seva for 7,864 pilgrims going to Srisailem at S.R.B.C colony near Atmakur from 22nd March to 27th March 2006.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** The inhabitants of flood-ravaged Kuruwa area felt greatly relieved when the Guwahati Samithi in collaboration with Kuruwa Unnayan Samithi organised a free medical camp on 26th March 2006 in the premises of Kuruwa Higher Secondary School. Deprived as they were of basic medical facilities, the villagers felt happy when the doctors and the Seva Dal volunteers arrived in the village with medicines.

The local school became the hub of activities when it temporarily housed the departments of medicines, gynaecology, ophthalmology, ENT, dentistry, paediatrics, dermatology and surgery with a view to provide services to the rural community. Attended by 37 doctors with the active support of 87 Seva Dal workers, over 1123 beneficiaries got the treatment and free medicines. Along with the camp, arrangements were made for examination of blood pressure and also the blood groupings. The camp ended with smiles of the patients as well as the doctors and Seva Dal volunteers. Love added to the occasion was the participation of village elders and more particularly the youth of the area. In a loving gesture, the medicine companies and some doctors of Guwahati voluntarily provided the medicines.

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI**

### **Exhibition on “Journey with Sai”**

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of “Sanathana Sarathi” around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in “Sanathana Sarathi” and other relevant records. Copies of publications / records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required.

It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P.). Email: [editor@sssbpt.org](mailto:editor@sssbpt.org)

*Convener*

Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

## **Chinna Katha**

### **Compassion on Living Beings**

ONCE an animal fell into a pit of mud. When it put its one foot out of the pit in its effort to come out, the other foot slipped deeper into it. The helpless animal was thus put to a lot of suffering. Two days passed in this manner. None of the passersby who passed that way tried to bring an end to its suffering. Some feared that if they tried to pull the animal out, they might themselves slip into the mud pit. So, they went without doing anything. For some mischievous youngsters who stood there, it was a great fun to watch the animal as it tried to come out and slipped again into the mud pit.

Meanwhile, a Sadhu (holy man) passed that way. He was very much distressed to see the pitiable condition of the animal. Without thinking a bit, he immediately jumped into the mud pit. At this, the onlookers remarked with derision, “When so many strong men are here who could not venture to bring the animal out of the pit, how can this lean and thin renunciant perform this arduous task!”

The holy man however paid scant attention to the remarks of the onlookers. With the name of God on his lips, he prayed to God for help and strength. Invoking thus the grace of God, he slowly and steadily brought the animal out, half by pulling and half by carrying it on his shoulders. He made it drink some water after this. The mischievous youngsters remarked derisively, “What an act of Seva (service)! But for this, we could have had fun for some more time.” The holy man said to them, “Dear ones! What I have done is not Seva. Neither is it an act of benevolence. I have saved this animal to relieve myself of the agony that I underwent on seeing its suffering. I performed this task only to get over my own distress. Now I am relieved of my agony.” Saying this, the holy man went his way.

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### **BACK COVER MATTER**

#### **Dharma and National Service**

National service implies service to every being in the nation. Whoever undertakes national service should realise that he is serving himself when he is serving others because he is a part of the nation. This realisation itself will be a great national service. Very often, men tend to cloak their own self-interest in the garb of national service. Our ancients were convinced that if one followed Dharma, one would be automatically serving both himself and society.

- Baba

## **JUNE 2006**

### **EASWARAMMA DAY DISCOURSE**

## **MOTHER'S LOVE HAS IMMENSE POWER**

*When man emerges from the womb of his mother, one does not find any garland around his neck. There are no jewels made of pearls nor are there glittering gold ornaments. There are no chains studded with precious stones like emeralds and diamonds. But there is one garland around his neck. Brahma strings together the consequences of his past deeds into a heavy garland and puts it around his neck at the time of his birth.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

WHAT we have to understand today is that we are born with a garland of Karma around our neck. Brahma strings together every single action of ours, be it good or bad, to make this heavy garland. Hence, before performing any action, we have to enquire whether it is good or bad.

### **Make Sacred Use of your Senses**

There is always a reward for our good deeds, whether we aspire for it or not. Likewise, we cannot escape from the dangerous consequences arising out of our seeing, thinking, hearing, talking and doing all that is bad.

*Do you know the purpose for which the eyes are given to you?*

*Is it to look at anything and everything that you come across?*

*No, no, you are endowed with eyes so that you may attain the vision of the Lord of Kailasa.*

*Do you know the purpose for which the mind is given to you?*

*Is it to wander in the lanes and bylanes?*

*No, no, the mind is given to you to experience bliss by contemplating on the beautiful form and name of God.*

(Telugu Song)

In this manner, you have to enquire what is good and what is bad and act accordingly. No one can escape from the consequences of his actions. Everyone born in this world has to experience both good and bad. Some noble souls understand this truth, experience the bliss of treasuring in their mind all that is good and ignore all that is bad. Sometimes your vision is polluted by seeing bad things and bad people. In such a situation, you should at once exercise caution and remind yourself that eyes are given to you to have the vision of noble souls and not to look at all sorts of people around you. Some people indulge in evil talk and criticise others. It is the worst of sins to criticise others. Instead of criticising others, criticise your own evil qualities. How can you acquire merit when you criticise others? You will earn only sin.

The world has acquired the name Prapancha as it is the manifestation of the Pancha Bhutas (five elements). Man today is misusing them. He thinks it is quite natural for him to exploit them to his maximum advantage. But it is most unnatural and unsacred. It may seem to be good and natural for the time being but later on he will be faced with insurmountable difficulties. These five elements are present in every human being in the form of the senses of Sabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa and Gandha (sound, touch, form, taste and smell). Your life will be redeemed only when you make proper use of the five senses and the five elements. Never use your senses in an unsacred manner. Today people are interested in seeing wrong things. They are all ears when someone indulges in vain gossip and evil talk. Never lend your ears to evil talk and get carried away by it. God has blessed you with two eyes and two ears so that you may see His beautiful form and hear His sweet and sacred name. It is only when you adhere to these principles can you lead the life of a true human being. Human birth is highly sacred. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). It has been called rare and precious because you can perform sacred deeds in it. But, if you do not sanctify your five

senses and make proper use of the five elements, your life as a human being becomes unsacred and meaningless. Of what use is such a life? It is, in fact, a living death. Hence, it is very essential for boys and girls as also for elders to follow the right path and make proper use of the five senses.

Human life is highly sacred. What is the meaning of the term Manava (human being)? Ma – Maya (delusion), Na – without, Va – Varthinchuta (to conduct oneself). Hence, true humanness lies in transcending Maya and following the righteous path. Man is not new to this world. He is ancient and has been here many times before. It is unfortunate that he is yet to understand the true significance of human life in spite of passing through a number of human births. He spends his entire life in eating, drinking, sleeping and enjoying worldly pleasures. Is this the purpose of life? Even the birds, beasts and animals do the same. Then, on what basis can man consider himself to be superior to animals? If you fight with your fellow beings and hurt them, then your behaviour is no better than that of wild animals. It cannot be called human behaviour. Do not hold others responsible for your suffering and point an accusing finger at them.

### **Students should Follow Noble Ideals of Indian Culture**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

When you are born from your mother's womb, you are free from delusion. But as you grow up, you are overcome by delusion. Your desires also grow in number. You should exercise control over your desires. In fact, there should be a limit for everything in life. But man today is conducting himself without any restraint. World today has provided man with many modern means of comfort in life. No doubt, they have made his life easy and comfortable, but at the same time these very things are leading him on the unsacred and sinful path. You are aware that having a cell phone has become an obsession with modern youth. Even the government is encouraging the use of cell phone as it is considered to be the most convenient way of communication. But no one is enquiring into the negative impact it has on the students. Once you have a cell phone, you can talk to anyone, anything, anywhere and at any time. When youth are given such freedom, they are bound to misuse it and ruin themselves. Even innocent youth are lured on the wrong path by the use of cell phones. If you do not put the students on the right path and do not inculcate virtues in them, these gadgets and means of comfort will certainly spoil their minds, and they will commit grave mistakes. It will take quite some time for them to rectify their mistakes and walk on the Godward path.

Modern students are highly intelligent. Their intelligence should be properly channelised. They should be made aware of what is important for them in life. That is the type of education we have to give them. But, due to the impact of western culture, students are being given such education that has no relevance to their life. Under the influence of western culture, they are developing limitless desires, unnecessary relationships and are crossing the limits of propriety. Indian culture is highly sacred and noble. It has demonstrated high ideals for the rest of the world to emulate. Unfortunately, the Bharatiyas have forgotten their own culture and have become slaves to western culture. The difference that should be observed between men and women with regard to their conduct is totally forgotten. The history of Bharat is replete with examples of women who have demonstrated great ideals. Since time immemorial, the culture of Bharat has stood as a beacon light, showing the path of redemption to the people of the world. But

these days, leaders themselves are unaware of our glorious culture. Bharat is the birthplace of men and women of great virtues who made great sacrifices to uphold this ancient culture. This is the land ruled by the noble king Harishchandra who considered truth as his very life-breath. This is the land that gave birth to Sita who proved her chastity by coming out of blazing fire unscathed. People today have forgotten the ideals as exemplified by noble and virtuous women like Draupadi, Savitri and Damayanti who proved that women were in no way inferior to men in terms of courage, determination and power. Hence, one should never look down upon women. They are endowed with infinite divine power.

*Forbearance is the real beauty in this sacred land of Bharat. The nectarine feeling in this country is the feeling of love towards one's mother. (Telugu Poem)*

There is no love greater than mother's love in this world. It is imbued with immense power. But such a sacred principle of mother's love is being neglected today. Mothers are being treated like servants. When parents grow old, they should be looked after with love and care. Instead they are being sent to old age homes. One who ill-treats his parents is bound to suffer a similar fate at the hands of his children. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as is the feeling, so is the result). Whatever actions you do, they will come back to you as reaction, reflection and resound. Love your mother. Then you will be loved by all. As is the seed, so is the sapling. Hence, first and foremost, develop sacred and selfless love. When people share their love with each other, the whole world will be replete with love. But do not taint your love by selfishness and self-interest.

### **Love is the Foremost Quality of a Human Being**

Everything in this world is subject to change except truth. There is none in this world who can change truth. Humanness is sustained by the twin principles of love and truth. Both are essential for humanness to blossom. People have to open their eyes and recognise this fact. But they have become narrow-minded today. They should develop broad-mindedness and strive for the welfare of society and the nation at large. Bulbs may vary in size and shape but the electric current passing through them is one and the same. The physical bodies are like bulbs and the Atmic power is the current that illumines them. Here you find a number of bulbs illuminating this place. When you put off the main switch, the light goes out from all the bulbs. Likewise, when the divine principle is withdrawn, all beings will become lifeless. The same truth is declared by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). The same divine spark is present in all. When God says that you are a part of His Being, should you not cultivate divine qualities? Should you not behave like a divine being? Everyone born in this world is an aspect of divinity. Considering each being as divine, offer your salutations to him. There is nothing wrong in doing so. If you want to be respected by others, first of all you should respect them. You should love everyone. Only then will your life become a shining example for others to emulate.

Human life is highly sacred. The principle of love immanent in man is infinite. None can describe the power of love. It is impossible. But worldly love has limitations. It diminishes with the passage of time. Take, for instance, the case of a newly married couple. In the first week of the marriage, the husband cannot bear separation from his wife even for a moment. If the husband happens to notice a thorn on the way, he at once

pulls her aside with great anxiety, lest the thorn should prick her foot. A month after the marriage, he merely cautions his wife if he notices a thorn. Six months after the marriage, if a similar situation arises, he shouts at his wife, “Don’t you have eyes? Can’t you see the thorn?” Worldly love undergoes change in this manner. Due to the influence of modern times, the situation has become such that married couples resort even to divorce. But in olden days, people were not so fickle-minded. Their love for each other was steady right from the beginning till the end.

Steady and changeless love is true Atma Prema (divine love). Worldly love is only Deha Prema (physical love). It is tainted by desires and body attachment. Love with desires is like a passing cloud. Divine love alone is eternal. Why do you give up such an eternal love and crave for physical and momentary love? Even the elders and parents are not able to guide the children on the right path. In fact, the elders themselves are under the influence of modern times more than the youngsters. The elders cannot set ideals to the youth and the youth do not strive for transformation. The Vedas say: *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). But these days we do not find such respect and love among children towards their parents. In this way, they are losing their humanness even. Man is endowed with a pure intellect and a sense of discrimination. One who makes proper use of his intellect is a true human being. It is a sign of foolishness to be carried away by the tide of time in the name of modernism.

When there is transformation at the individual level, only then there can be transformation at the national level. The progress of a nation depends on the character of her men and women. But these days, the Bharatiyas have forgotten humanness and are trying to imitate the western culture. It is not the right thing to do. You have a culture of your own and they have theirs. Do not imitate the culture of others. Adhere to your culture and traditions. Do not change your culture to suit your whims and fancies.

*Embodiments of Divine Atma! Embodiments of Love!*

Love is the true human quality. Consider love as your very life-breath. One without love is no better than one without life. Considering love as the basis of your life, follow the path of truth. Then you will not only find fulfilment in life, you will also attain purity and ultimately divinity. Wherever you are, whatever may be the situation, never deviate from the path of love and truth. Do not try to distort truth in order to fulfil your desires. When you say, “I want this”, you give expression to your compulsive desires. You will have satisfaction in life if you accept whatever Nature has to offer you. On the other hand, if you transgress the laws of Nature to fulfil your desires, you will ruin yourself. Leave aside your likes and dislikes.

### **Fulfil Noble Desires of your Mother**

You are born from your mother’s womb. Hence, you should express your gratitude to her and bring her a good name. In a village, near the city of Kolkata, there lived a noble soul by name Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar with his mother. They were very poor. His mother used to do odd jobs to earn a meagre income. They did not even have proper food to eat. She would prepare one Roti (bread), give half of it to her son, and she would eat the other half. Sometimes, she would starve giving to her son whatever little food she prepared. Vidyasagar used to study under streetlights at night as they could not afford to have even a lamp in their house. He worked hard day and night and passed his examinations. In the

beginning, he secured a small job and the salary he earned was sufficient for both of them to lead a comfortable life. One day, his mother was going to a fair. Vidyasagar felt sorry to see her wearing an old Sari. He told her, "Mother, today being a festival day, all are wearing new clothes. Why don't you also wear a new Sari?" He went to bazaar and bought a white Sari and requested his mother to wear it. But she told him, "Son! I have three desires. I will wear this new Sari only after they are fulfilled."

Gradually, Vidyasagar earned a promotion in his job and his salary also increased. One day, he approached his mother and requested her to express her desires. She said, "Son, the children of our village are going to the neighbouring town to attend school. I am pained to see children walking such long distances carrying a heavy load of books. So, please construct a small school in our village." Accordingly, Vidyasagar established a school in the village. He asked her, "Mother, are you happy now?" She said, "Son, I have two more desires. I feel pained to see the women of our village trekking long distances to fetch water. I will be happy if you can get a well dug in our village." Vidyasagar immediately got a well dug and fulfilled his mother's desire. After some time, she told him, "Son, you have provided water to the village and also established a school for children. But it is the lack of medical facilities in our village that is troubling my mind. Please build a small hospital here." As per her wish, he constructed a small hospital. She was highly satisfied. It was only then that she wore the new white Sari bought by her son.

Gradually, Vidyasagar's name and fame spread far and wide. People used to gather in thousands to listen to his speeches. (Bhagavan here narrated the incident how Vidyasagar carried the suitcase of an I.C.S. officer to the place of his lecture, teaching a lesson of self-reliance and humility to the officer.)

Vidyasagar fulfilled all the three desires of his mother. Sathya Sai also fulfilled the wishes of His mother (*loud applause*). One day, I found mother Easwaramma in a rather pensive mood and asked her the reason. She said, "Swami, I am pained to see small children of our village walking all the way to Bukkapatnam to attend school. Please construct a small school in our village." Fulfilling her wish, I established a small school in Puttaparthi. After some time, she said, "Swami, people of our village are very poor. They cannot pay for the medical expenses to doctors in Bukkapatnam, where they are forced to go even for a minor ailment. Therefore, please build a small hospital in our village." Accordingly, I got a small hospital built. Her third wish was to provide drinking water to the village. She pointed out that the women had to undergo great hardship to get water from the Chitravathi river which had almost dried up. To fulfil her desire, I provided drinking water not only to Puttaparthi but to other surrounding villages also. The small school that I established is now a big university. The small hospital that I constructed has become a super speciality hospital.

Mother Easwaramma shed tears of joy when she saw that her desires had been fulfilled in a grand manner. She led a life of happiness and contentment and breathed her last peacefully. It is the foremost duty of children to fulfil the wishes of their mother and make her happy. Serve others to the extent possible. You need not take up any service activity beyond your means and capacity. If you find your neighbours suffering, give them solace. Help them to the extent possible and make them happy. This is what I expect you to learn today. On the occasion of Easwaramma Day, I exhort all of you to practise these three principles of service, experience bliss and share it with all.

(Bhagavan concluded His Divine Discourse with the Bhajan “*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*”)

- **From Bhagavan’s Easwaramma Day Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 6th May 2006.**

## **YOUTH ON THE PATH OF SPIRITUALITY AND SELFLESS SERVICE**

### **Kerala Youth Sadhana Camp**

THOUSANDS of youth and students came to Brindavan to participate in the youth camps organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Kerala and Karnataka on 19th-21st May and 27th-28th May 2006, respectively. It was exhilarating to observe the youth of the country resolving to adopt the path of spirituality and selfless service under the guidance of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala organised its Fourth Youth Sadhana Camp at Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 19th, 20th and 21st May 2006 in which nearly 1800 delegates took part which included teachers, doctors and paramedical professionals besides the youth and students of Kerala. Illuminating talks by a galaxy of speakers, soul-stirring Bhajans by the Sai Youth of Kerala, devotional music by renowned artistes in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba made a lasting impact on the participants, specially the youth. Throughout the course of the Camp, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the participants and blessed them on the final day with a nectarine Discourse which filled each heart with love and bliss. The theme chosen for the Camp was: “Sai Glory: Individual and Social Transformation”. Besides the open sessions conducted in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, the proceedings of the Camp were also held in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam where many learned speakers addressed the delegates and answered their spiritual queries.

### **Deliberations in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall**

On the morning of 19th May 2006, Bhagavan came to the richly decorated Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall amidst auspicious notes of Nadaswaram. Bhajans in the Hall, after the arrival of Bhagavan were led by Sai Youth of Kerala, who enraptured the entire gathering by their excellent rendering of Bhajans to the accompaniment of elevating music.

The programme began with the introductory speech of the President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala, Prof. E. Mukundan who expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for providing to the Kerala devotees the golden opportunity to hold this Camp in His Divine Presence. Prof. Mukundan then introduced the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to speak in the opening session. He also prayed to Bhagavan to release the book entitled “Helpline on the Sathya Sai Path” which contained answers to the spiritual questions asked by the participants in the previous three camps. Bhagavan graciously accepted the book and blessed it with His signature. The first speaker was Justice Thottathil Radhakrishnan, Judge, Kerala High Court who narrated how he and his family were saved by Bhagavan from the disaster of tsunami when they had gone to the



Andamans. The learned speaker added that Bharat could become a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic in true sense only when we followed and propagated the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa as taught by Bhagavan. The next speaker was also a High Court Judge of Kerala, Justice Padmanabhan Nair. The learned speaker observed that Bhagavan's humanitarian work in the field of education and health and His water projects were pristine examples of selfless service for the entire mankind to follow. "It is for us to emulate these ideals and put them into practice in our own small way", added Justice Padmanabhan. After these two speeches, Sri Madhu Balakrishnan, the renowned playback singer of Malayalam, enthralled the gathering by popular Malayalam devotional songs and songs in praise of Bhagavan. The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.55 a.m.

On the afternoon of 19th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 3.50 p.m. amidst Bhajans led by Sai Youth, both ladies and gents, alternately. This soul-stirring Bhajan session continued for half an hour, spreading devotion and bliss. After this, four Sai Youth of Kerala addressed the gathering. They were: Sri Vijay Menon, Consultant, Human Resource Development; Kumari Nadiya, Mahila Youth Incharge of Chalappam Samithi, Kozhikode, Dr. Kaushik Narayan, State Gents Coordinator of Education and Kumari Anjali Ajay, a Youth Wing member of Kerala. In the end, State Incharge of Medical Cell, Dr. Anand Mohan shared his thoughts with the audience. Sri Anand Mohan observed that Bhagavan's concept of healthcare, viz., globalisation of healthcare, decommercialisation of medicine and human values in medicine had demonstrated to the world that healthcare was primarily a spiritual concept, which underlined the spirit of service to underprivileged masses. After these speeches, Sri Madhu Balakrishnan made a very enchanting musical presentation of classical devotional songs to the joy of the entire gathering. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the artiste and materialised a gold ring for him at the end of his presentation. The day's programme in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.15 p.m.

The programme on the morning of 20th May 2006 began with Bhajans led by Sai Youth of Kerala, both ladies and gents, after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 8.20 a.m. After Bhajans, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, Dr. Ramachandran Nair addressed the gathering. Dr. Nair exhorted the youth to make the best use of knowledge by integrating the resources of men, material and money in a positive manner. Today the nation needed a large number of leaders of good character which only the youth could provide, concluded the learned speaker. Bhagavan showered His blessings on Dr. Nair and also materialised a gold chain with a pendant for him at the end of his speech. A Carnatic music offering of devotional songs by well-known Carnatic musician, Sri Harihara Subramanyam followed this. All the Kritis (devotional songs) rendered by him had the perfect harmony of feeling, tune and rhythm. He concluded with a special composition in praise of Bhagavan. The morning programme concluded after this musical presentation with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.05 a.m.

On the afternoon of 20th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 4.05 p.m. The programme began after soul-stirring Bhajans led by Kerala devotees, both ladies and gents. At the beginning of the programme, Sai Youth of Kerala recited Vedic Mantras. After this, two Sai Youth of Kerala made brief speeches. They were: Sri Manoj and Kumari Divya. The third speaker was Dr. K.S. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady. Referring to the social welfare projects of

Bhagavan, the learned speaker observed that Bhagavan had set an ideal to the world by showing His concern for the masses. He exhorted the youth to follow the ideals and teachings of Bhagavan to bring harmony in their life and in society. Another Carnatic music presentation of devotional songs by Sri Harihara Subramanyam followed to the delight of the entire gathering. The artiste earned the appreciation of the audience and blessings of Bhagavan who also created a gold ring for him at the end of the programme. The second day's programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.10 p.m.

On the morning of 21st May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall amidst Bhajans by Kerala devotees. After a brief session of Bhajans, Sri K.R. Jyothilal, an IAS officer of Kerala, addressed the gathering. Narrating in an interesting way how he was transformed from IAS to SAI by Bhagavan's grace, the learned speaker explained that SAI meant Service first, Any other person next and I last, and not the other way round. He also narrated many incidents how Bhagavan solved his problems in his profession and saved him from many pitfalls. He advised the youth to utilise this golden opportunity to earn Bhagavan's grace. What followed this was an excellent presentation of devotional music by Sri Kavalam Sreekumar and Sri T.S. Radhakrishnan. Besides the compositions of Bhadrachalam Ramdas and Mira, the renowned artistes also presented songs on Bhagavan in Malayalam. The morning programme concluded after this with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

In the afternoon, the programme commenced with soulful Bhajans by Kerala devotees after the arrival of Bhagavan at 4.05 p.m. in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. While the devotees were enjoying the bliss of Bhajan singing, Bhagavan added to their joy by going into their rows, specially Sai Youth of Kerala, accepted their letters and materialised Vibhuti for some of them. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan and Sparshan on the delegates of the Sadhana Camp, Bhagavan blessed them with His Divine Discourse to mark the grand finale of the three-day Camp. At the outset of His Discourse, Bhagavan expressed how He felt happy to see the bliss of people of Kerala. He said that three days passed like three minutes. Bhagavan advised the delegates to always seek good company which could generate sacred feelings in their heart. In conclusion, Bhagavan exhorted the youth not to forget love which was imprinted on their heart. The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.30 p.m. With this, the three-day Sadhana Camp came to a happy conclusion.

### **Plenary Sessions**

Plenary sessions for the delegates to the Sadhana Camp were conducted in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam, where they assembled both after the morning sessions and before the afternoon sessions in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall.

On 19th May 2006, the morning session started at 10.45 a.m. with an illuminating talk by Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Narrating his personal experiences, Sri Murthy advised the students to hold on to the feet of Bhagavan. Then all their aspirations would be fulfilled, he added. The next speaker was Dr. Narendra Reddy, Member, Prasanthi Council. Quoting from the Bible, Dr. Reddy advised the youth that they should first seek the kingdom of God, then everything else would be added to it. To attain this, they should follow the command of Bhagavan implicitly, instantaneously and completely, added the learned speaker. The last speaker of the morning session, Dr. T. Ravikumar, a faculty member of Brindavan

Campus of the Institute, narrated many experiences to demonstrate the various ways in which Bhagavan reforms His devotees. He also narrated how Bhagavan saved his father's life by curing his cancer. In the afternoon session, Sri Vijay Menon, a member of the Youth Wing of Kerala addressed the delegates. The speaker observed that Bhagavan was offering both material and spiritual gains, leaving the decision to man what he wanted.

The first speaker on the second day of the Sadhana Camp was Dr. Deepak Anand, a faculty member of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute. Dr. Anand observed that human life had a higher purpose of uniting man with God. The contemporaries of Bhagavan are extremely fortunate because He is showing them the path of peace and bliss which they can follow and perceive with their senses, said Dr. Anand. The next speaker, Sri G. Srirangarajan, a faculty member of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute, remarked that Bhagavan is setting ideals in Seva for mankind to emulate. He called upon the youth to work for others which, according to Bhagavan, was the primary duty of man. The last speaker of the morning session was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute. He stressed the importance of sense control and mind control. Two golden injunctions on the path of spirituality were – talk less, have minimum contacts, observed Sri Sahni. Dr. Ramachandran Nair, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala spoke in the afternoon session. He opined that it was only Bhagavan's glory which could bring about transformation in the world. All the humanitarian projects of Bhagavan were shining examples set by Him for humanity to follow, concluded the learned speaker.

The morning session on 21st May 2006 began with a speech by Sri N. Dhakappa, President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka. He narrated a few personal experiences revealing the omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience of Bhagavan. He exhorted the delegates to firmly believe in the Avatar and remember that the aim of human birth was not to be born again. The second speaker was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy who underlined four golden guidelines on the path of spiritual evolution: Look back and thank God, look ahead and trust God, look around and serve God, look within and see God. He also narrated his many experiences with Bhagavan to substantiate these statements. The next speaker was Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute. Sri Mahalingam observed that it was our own delusion which prevented us from feeling one with God. He observed that if one had one single motive of attaining God in life, one could achieve everything. What followed this was a lively question-answer session in which the delegates asked questions on spiritual subjects, and Sri Narasimha Murthy gave the answers. In the afternoon session, Sri Ruchir Desai, a faculty member of the Brindavan Campus of the Institute, addressed the delegates. Sri Desai emphasised that the key to transformation was change of attitude. He also narrated how Bhagavan answers to even a flash of thought in a devotee's mind. In the end, Sri Desai answered the questions of the participants. With this, the three-day proceedings in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam providing enriching and ennobling experience to the delegates came to a close.

**Yuva Vandana 2006**

Karnataka Youth Camp “Yuva Vandana 2006” had a colourful start when Bhagavan was welcomed to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall with Nadaswaram, Veda chanting and folk dances on the morning of 27th May 2006.

### **Proceedings in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall**

As soon as Bhagavan started towards the Hall, Karnataka Sai Youth started Bhajans. After arriving on the beautifully and aesthetically decorated dais, Bhagavan inaugurated the Camp at 8.00 a.m. by pressing a remote controlled switch, with which a huge lotus placed on the dais bloomed and all the photos of Bhagavan were illuminated. While Bhajans continued, Bhagavan came down from the dais and blessed the school kits which were distributed to more than 1,000 school children, dressed in immaculate white clothes earlier blessed by Bhagavan, from various villages where service activities were being conducted by the Sai Organisation. After this, Bhagavan went into the rows of youth and other devotees to shower the bliss of His Divine Darshan on them. After Bhagavan came back to the dais, a group of Bal Vikas children presented an excellent dance in front of the dais to the tune of the theme and welcome song played in the background. This was followed by a programme of soul-stirring melodies presented by two renowned musicians, Smt. Sunita Bellur and Sri Shankar Shanubogue. The morning programme came to a close at 9.35 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 3.30 p.m. amidst singing of Bhajans. Thereafter, Sri Nagesh G. Dhakappa, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka made an introductory speech expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for this golden opportunity to the youth of Karnataka to hold this Camp in His close proximity. Sri Dhakappa then introduced two youth speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering before His Divine Discourse. They were: Kumari Shivaleela from Dharwad (Karnataka) and Sri Vinay Kumar from Bangalore.

Thereafter, Bhagavan gave a very inspiring and illuminating Discourse calling up the youth and students to acquire the education which developed their character and gave them the knowledge of the Self. Advising the students and youth to follow Indian culture and traditions instead of imitating the western culture, He reminded them of their duty towards the sacred land of Bharat. In conclusion, Bhagavan exhorted them to lead a life of love and selfless service. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.10 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in the end.

On the morning of 28th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 8.35 a.m. This being the 9th Anniversary Day of the inauguration of Sai Gitanjali, one of the Sai Centres in Bangalore, the devotees of this Sai Centre led the Bhajans. After the Bhajans, food and clothes blessed by Bhagavan were distributed to needy people. In the afternoon, there were Bhajans led by Sai Youth of Karnataka after the arrival of Bhagavan at 3.55 p.m. At the conclusion of this soulful Bhajan session, two very captivating presentations of instrumental music were made by the Sai Youth. The first item was the “Tala Vadya Kacheri” (instrumental music) by Sri Arjun Kumar and party which earned the appreciation of the huge gathering who expressed their delight with loud applause at the conclusion of the presentation. The second item was instrumental fusion music by Sri Muthu and party which delighted one and all. The last item of the programme was a group song on the theme of the camp “Yuva Vandana”, offering

salutations at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan and expressing devotion and dedication of the youth to the Divine Mission of Bhagavan. Bhagavan was moved by the feelings of dedication of the youth and showered His profuse blessings on them. He posed for group photos with the organisers, and materialised a gold chain with a pendant for one of them. The grand finale of the camp were the moving words of Bhagavan saturated with His Divine Love, expressing His delight and appreciation at the organisation of this Camp. On behalf of the youth of Karnataka, Sri Vinay Kumar expressed the resolve of the youth to dedicate their lives to Bhagavan and work wholeheartedly for His Divine Mission to their last breath. The proceedings of the Camp came to a close with this moving exchange of heart to heart feelings of love between the youth and Bhagavan and with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 5.05 p.m.

### **Plenary Session**

A plenary session of the Youth Camp was held in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam on the morning of 28th May 2006 after the open session in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. The first speaker of the session was Sri U.Gangadhar Bhat, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Institutions, Alike. Speaking in chaste Kannada, Sri Bhat advised the youth to follow the teachings of Bhagavan, inculcate virtues and develop a high character along with pursuing their academic studies. The next speaker was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of the Institute, who narrated his many experiences with Bhagavan and advised the students to make their life meaningful by chanting the Divine Name, keeping the form of the Avatar in their heart while doing selfless service. The next speaker of the session was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Narrating one of the experiences of his school days, Sri Sahni said that Bhagavan manifests Himself wherever His work is done. He observed that all good work is God's work, and called upon the youth to earnestly dedicate their lives to selfless service to realise the goal of life. The last speaker of the session was Smt. Gita Mohan Ram of the U.S.A. who narrated her experiences of Bhagavan's omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience and called upon the youth to seize the golden opportunity to experience God who has incarnated on earth as Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The plenary session came to a close at 12.15 p.m. with this presentation.

### **Ekalavya: A Drama**

This excellent drama depicting the rare devotion of the tragic hero of Mahabharata, Ekalavya, to his preceptor Dronacharya was presented by the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam on the evening of 27th May 2006. The drama commenced at 5.40 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Kalyana Mandapam. The actors of the drama drawn from all over Karnataka were the students of Mysore Medical College and old students of Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike. Excellent acting of the students, perfect choreography, appropriate costumes and superb direction made it an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast at the end of the drama, and also materialised a gold ring for the youth who played the role of Ekalavya. Bhagavan also distributed watches to all the actors and posed for photographs with them. The programme came to a close at 6.30 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

## **BUDDHA PURNIMA DISCOURSE**

# ATTAIN ENLIGHTENMENT BY RENOUNCING DESIRES

*All the names and forms are but the manifestations of the Supreme Being who is  
Existence-Knowledge-Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is the embodiment of Sathyam,  
Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).*

(Sanskrit Verse)

*Embodiments of Love!*

ON this sacred day of Buddha Purnima, we talk about Buddha and Purnima (full moon). But we seldom enquire into Buddha's teachings, his virtues and the exemplary way in which he led his life.

King Suddhodhana and his wife Mayadevi performed many spiritual austerities such as Japa, Tapa, Vratas and Yajnas for years together with an aspiration to have a son. They also consulted many astrologers. Suddhodhana had no peace of mind as the worry of not having an heir to the throne haunted him day and night. At last their prayers were answered when Mayadevi gave birth to a son at Lumbini. Unfortunately, Mayadevi died soon after giving birth to her son who was named Siddhartha. Gautami, the second wife of Suddhodhana, brought up the child with loving care like her own son. That is the reason he was also called Gautam. The astrologers predicted that Siddhartha would not rule the kingdom; he would leave the kingdom and become a renunciant. The prediction of astrologers was always ringing in the ears of Suddhodhana and caused him anxiety as he watched his son grow. He took all precautions to see that his son did not step out of the palace and get into the company of others lest he should be influenced by them. Thus, he protected his son from the influence of others for twenty long years.

## **Siddhartha's Yearning for Ultimate Truth**

One day, the parents of a girl came to Suddhodhana and expressed their wish to give their daughter in marriage to his son Siddhartha. The name of the girl was Yashodhara. Suddhodhana accepted their proposal and performed the marriage of Siddhartha with Yashodhara. Owing to their loving insistence, Siddhartha continued to stay with his parents in the palace even after the marriage. One year after the marriage, he begot a son who was named Rahul. Both the husband and wife spent their time happily with their son.

In spite of all the comforts of the palace and happy married life, Gautam's mind became restless when he saw people afflicted with old age, disease and death after he ventured out of the palace one day. One night, there was a sudden transformation in his mind. As his wife was fast asleep, he got up at midnight, caressed his son and left for the forest. He had to undergo numerous hardships and difficulties in the forest. But he faced all ordeals with forbearance and determination. His parents were immersed in sorrow, unable to bear the pangs of separation from their son. Though Siddhartha was also undergoing a lot of anguish, he marched on his path of attaining self-realisation.

During the course of his journey, he once met a holy man. The holy man told him that the cause of his anguish was actually within him, and it was his anguish that was coming in the way of his self-realisation. So saying, he gave him a talisman for protection and asked him to wear it around his neck. (At this point of time, Bhagavan materialised that talisman and showed it to the congregation amidst a thunderous applause). This was the talisman given by the sage to Siddhartha. When Siddhartha put it around his neck, all his anguish disappeared instantaneously. Till the last moment of his earthly sojourn, Buddha had the talisman around his neck. When he shed his mortal coil, the talisman disappeared. Siddhartha started doing intense penance which went on for a long time. He kept questioning himself, “Who am I? Am I the body? Am I the mind? Am I the Buddhi (intellect)? Am I the Chitta (mind-stuff)?” He came to the conclusion that he was none of these. Ultimately, he experienced the truth, “I am I”.

### **Recognise the Unity of all Creation**

The Vedas declare, *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman) and *Tattwamasi* (That Thou Art). Even these two Vedic declarations state two things: I and Brahman, That and Thou. True wisdom lies in seeing oneness. *Advaita Darshanam Jnanam* (experience of non-dualism is true wisdom). It is a sign of ignorance to see duality ignoring the underlying unity. Duality is not the truth. In this manner, Buddha enquired deeply and ultimately got the experience of “I am I”. That is true realisation. You may do penance for many years, you may do meditation and perform many yogic practices. But all these spiritual practices give only temporary satisfaction, not everlasting bliss. Some people talk about meditation. Even Buddha advocated the practice of meditation. What is that you have to meditate upon? What is meant by meditation? Does it mean concentrating upon a particular object? No, no. That is not meditation at all. To contemplate upon the principle of “I am I” is true meditation. No other Sadhana (spiritual practice) can match this.

So long as you have the dualistic feeling of ‘you and I’, you cannot experience unity. Buddha recognised the principle of unity and based his life on this truth. Under the direction of many yogis, he had performed various kinds of meditation and penance, but ultimately he found them to be a mere waste of time as none of these could lead him to the ultimate experience of oneness. He regretted having wasted his time in such a manner. One should find fulfillment in life by making proper use of time. This is the primary duty of man.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Many people perform different types of spiritual practices such as Japa and Dhyana without recognising the principle of unity. The tongue utters the name of Rama but there is void in the heart. This is just waste of time. Instead of wasting your time in such a manner, undertake social service, seeing God in everyone. That is true spiritual practice. Recognise the innate divinity of all beings.

In creation, there appear to be two entities, you and I. But you and I are in reality one. Vyashti (individual) is a part of Samashti (society), and Samashti is a part of Srishti (creation) which emerges from Parameshti (God). This Parameshti is Parabrahma Tattwa (principle of Brahman). That is the fundamental basis of the entire creation. In this way, you have to recognise the unity of all creation. Only then can you attain Parameshti or the principle of Brahman. Everyone has to repeatedly remind himself, “I am Parameshti, I am Parameshti.” All are the embodiments of the Atma and all are sustained by the Atma. Buddha experienced the unity of all creation. There was total transformation in him once

he attained the vision of Ekatma (oneness of the Atma). He realised that all worldly relations like mother, father, wife, children were false. He transcended body consciousness. That is why he earned the appellation Buddha (enlightened one). Man should use his Buddhi (intelligence) to understand this principle of unity. Buddhi is of two types. The Buddhi that sees diversity in unity is worldly intelligence. Man should develop Adhyatmic Buddhi (spiritual intelligence) in order to realise the underlying unity of all creation. It gives you the experience of the Atmic principle which is the same in the entire creation. Buddha attained the vision of the Atma. After this experience, he went on teaching that there existed only one divine principle in the world.

*Buddham Saranam Gachchhami,*

*Sangham Saranam Gachchhami,*

*Dhammam Saranam Gachchhami.*

Buddha taught that the principle of unity of the Atma was the only true principle in the world. One who realised it by using his spiritual intelligence was true Buddha, he said. Other than the Atma nothing existed in this world.

In this transient and ephemeral world, there is one thing that is true and eternal. That is divinity. That is what everyone should aspire to attain. *Sathyam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in truth). *Ekam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in the principle of oneness). Everything is the manifestation of divinity in this world; there is no second entity other than divinity. It is the divine principle that governs the entire world. Having realised this truth, Buddha, along with his disciples, went from village to village to propagate it. He never felt the need to take rest. He thought that it was his duty to share this supreme knowledge with his fellowmen. Even his father Suddhodhana came to him. He also recognised this truth and was transformed. What did Buddha teach? Buddha taught that everyone was endowed with the same principle of divinity. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). The same message was conveyed by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita when He said that all beings were His own reflection, and no one was different from Him. Buddha had to undergo great hardships to realise this truth. Many noble souls who were the contemporaries of Buddha acknowledged the greatness of Buddha. They said that Buddha had experienced the truth which they were unable to realise. As he gave up all desires, Buddha became an epitome of total renunciation. There was nothing in him except love. He considered love as his very life-breath. Bereft of love, the world would turn into a void.

### **Try to Understand the Profundity of Buddha's Teachings**

When you offer your salutations to someone, understand that you are saluting your own self. That someone is none other than your own reflection. See others just as you see your own reflection in the mirror. This is the message conveyed by the Mahavakya (profound statement), *Aham Brahmasmi*. Names and forms may be different, but all beings are part and parcel of the same divine principle. You may call this a handkerchief. You may call this a robe. But both are made out of cotton. Likewise, divinity is the underlying principle in the apparent multiplicity of this world. Many so-called scholars are preaching only multiplicity today. They claim to have mastered the scriptures and try to interpret them in their own way with their limited knowledge. Their interpretations do not correspond to the reality. They only add to confusion.

Buddha taught that we should not have anger, we should not find others' faults, we should not harm others, because all are the embodiments of pure, eternal principle of the



Atma. Have compassion towards the poor and help them to the extent possible. You think those who do not have food to eat are poor people. You cannot call someone poor just because he does not have money or food to eat. Truly speaking, nobody is poor. All are rich, not poor. Those whom you consider as poor may not have money, but all are endowed with the wealth of Hridaya (heart). Understand and respect this underlying principle of unity and divinity in all and experience bliss. Do not have such narrow considerations as so and so is your friend, so and so is your enemy, so and so is your relation, etc. *All are one, be alike to everyone*. That is your primary duty. This is the most important teaching of Buddha. But people do not enquire into the teachings of Buddha and do not understand the sacredness of his heart. They only talk about his story. Truly speaking, Buddha is not just one individual. All of you are Buddhas. You will see unity everywhere once you understand this truth. There is unity in the apparent multiplicity. When you are surrounded by many mirrors, you see a number of your reflections. Reflections are many but the person is one. Reactions, reflections, and resounds are many but the reality is one. When I am speaking here, My voice is heard through each and every loudspeaker in this hall. In the same manner, there exists the principle of unity in our hearts which we have to recognise. Man's life finds fulfilment only when his mind experiences the principle of unity. There is no point in bringing about unity among people without uniting their minds. *Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause for bondage and liberation of man). You see someone and say he is a bad person; you see another person and call him good. But, in reality, good and bad are present in your mind and not in the people around you. You call this handkerchief white and this microphone black. The difference in colour is perceived by your eyes, but essentially black and white are one and the same. Everyone should make efforts to visualise unity in diversity. Only then can one experience divinity.

The principles taught by Buddha have profound significance, but people are not trying to understand them. You might have observed that Buddha had curly hair on his head. One lock of hair was entwined with the other. There is an underlying message of unity in this. He had only one feeling in his heart, the feeling of love. He taught, *Dharmam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in righteousness), *Premam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in love). Bereft of love, humanness has no existence. We should love all, irrespective of the fact whether one is a pauper or a rich man. Money should not be the criterion to share your love with your fellowmen. Money is not important. *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows*. Do not hurt others. *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. Only then can you attain the state of Buddha. There is little use in giving lengthy lectures if you do not realise the principle of unity in divinity. You may call God by any name such as Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Sai, etc., but all of them embody the same divine principle. Keep the flower of oneness in the altar of your heart and let its fragrance spread everywhere. Spiritual practices such as Japa and Tapa will not yield the desired result unless you recognise the principle of unity. Many people count the beads of the rosary. But, what is the use of rotating the rosary if the mind also keeps going round the world? Understand that the mind is most important. You should have a steady mind. Only then will your life be redeemed. What is the use if your mind hovers around on each and every object like flies which hover on dirt as well as Laddus?

Do not allow your mind to vacillate between good and bad, unity and multiplicity. Focus it on all that is good and realise the principle of unity. That is the royal road which will

lead you to the experience of truth. On the other hand, if you allow your mind to follow the crooked path, it will not lead you anywhere.

*Embodiments of Love!*

The same divine principle of love is present in all of you. When you take to the path of love, you will become Buddha yourself. Today is Buddha Purnima. Purnima means full moon. The underlying message of Buddha Purnima is that the mind should shine with total purity like full moon. It should unite with its source, i.e., the Atma which is pure and effulgent. There is no darkness on the full moon night. On this auspicious day of Buddha Purnima, we should attain full purity of the mind.

*Poornamada Poornamidam,*

*Poornat Poornamudachyate,*

*Poornasya Poornamadaya, Poornamevavashishyate.*

(That is full, this is full. When the full is taken out of the full, what remains is again the full.) We have to recognise this truth.

*Embodiments of Love!*

It gives Me great joy to see that all of you have gathered here today. You are united with each other with the bond of love. Love is only one; it is not different in you, Me and others. You have unified your love with that of Swami. *Love is one. Live in love.*

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

- **From Bhagavan's Buddha Purnima Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 13th May 2006.**

## CELEBRATIONS AT BRINDAVAN

### 23rd Anniversary of Trayee Brindavan

TRAYEE BRINDAVAN, the abode of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Whitefield (Bangalore), is not only an edifice of great architectural beauty, but it is also a place of immense spiritual significance as it has been sanctified by Bhagavan's sojourn during summer months since its inauguration on 26th April 1984. Annual Day of its inauguration is celebrated with great piety and gaiety by the devotees of Bhagavan every year. Like the previous years, a variety of programmes were conducted this year also on this occasion.

Auspicious notes of Nadaswaram filled the entire milieu on the morning of 26th April 2006 to mark the commencement of the celebrations. The entire premises presented a festive look with floral and other decorations. Besides, the students of the Institute put up an attractive display which they named "Garden of Love" in the lawn in front of Trayee Brindavan. Bhajans led by Institute students commenced as soon as Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall on the morning of 26th April 2006 which were followed with great devotion by a huge concourse of devotees present in the Hall. At the close of the Bhajan session, Narayana Seva was performed, offering food and clothes to needy people.

In the afternoon, a magnificent programme of devotional songs was presented by the Ladies Wing of Brindavan Bhajan Group in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The songs in praise of Mother Easwaramma and Bhagavan in a variety of languages, viz., Tamil,

Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Kannada and Sanskrit were sung with great devotional fervour to the delight of a huge gathering of devotees. In the evening, the entire building was illuminated with candles and colourful bulbs which provided an enchanting look to this grand and sacred edifice.

### **Easwaramma Day**

In a grand function held on 6th May 2006 in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), sacred memories of Divine Mother Easwaramma came alive when Bhagavan narrated some incidents from her life highlighting the noble ideals set by her for the welfare of mankind. Besides the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Bal Vikas children and Gurus from Bangalore and other parts of Karnataka presented many programmes and carried out various service activities to commemorate this sacred day.

On the morning of 6th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 8.00 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan on a huge gathering of devotees, Bal Vikas children and Gurus. After the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall, Bal Vikas children of Bangalore started Bhajans in praise of Mother Easwaramma and Bhagavan which were followed by the devotees in chorus with great devotional fervour. The devotion and perfection with which the Bhajans were led by the Bal Vikas children filled each heart with sacred feelings. This excellent programme of Bhajans which commenced at 8.00 a.m. came to a close at 9.15 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. After the conclusion of this Bhajan programme, Narayana Seva was performed. Bhagavan Himself initiated this sacred programme by distributing food and clothes to some of the needy people. He also created a gold chain with a locket for a child after giving food and clothes to her mother. Nearly 4,000 needy people were beneficiaries of this Narayana Seva.

The programme in the afternoon started at 4.25 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute, made a brief speech underlining the importance of Bhakti as the surest path to reach God. "It is easy to say that one loves God but it requires a lot of effort to live it", added the speaker. After this, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His nectarine Discourse (full text given elsewhere in this issue). The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.40 p.m.

### **Bhakta Sudama: A Drama**

On the evening of 6th May 2006, Bal Vikas children of Bangalore presented a beautiful drama "Bhakta Sudama" in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam depicting how Lord Krishna showered His love and bounty on His friend and classmate Sudama. Good acting of the children, appropriate costumes, excellent sets, sweet songs and crisp dialogues made it a successful presentation. Bhagavan saw the entire drama, blessed the children at the end and posed for photographs with them. The drama came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

On 7th May 2006, Bal Vikas children and Gurus visited orphanages and slums of Bangalore and conducted service activities and Narayana Seva. Another Narayana Seva was conducted on the morning of 8th May 2006 at Brindavan Ashram in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan where Bal Vikas children and Gurus distributed food and clothes to about 500 underprivileged children from nearby villages and slums. On the afternoon of 8th May 2006, Bhajans in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the Divine Presence of

Bhagavan were led by Bal Vikas Gurus marking the conclusion of Easwaramma Day celebrations at Brindavan.

### **A Memorable Buddha Purnima**

Buddha Purnima is celebrated all over the world to commemorate the day on which Lord Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and Nirvana. Like previous years, this year also a large number of overseas devotees came to the Brindavan Ashram to celebrate this holy festival in Bhagavan's Divine Presence. Bhagavan showered His blessings on them, and also blessed them with His Divine Message on this occasion. A number of cultural and musical programmes were presented on 13th and 14th May 2006 by overseas devotees and children to highlight the significance of this holy day.

The entire Brindavan Ashram bore a festive look with decorations of flowers, banners and festoons put up by the devotees on this occasion. Besides, wall-size posters with photos of Buddha and Bhagavan decorated many walls of the Ashram. Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall being the venue of the programmes was specially decorated with series of banners bearing the symbols of all the religions of the world. Amidst profuse floral and other decorations, an altar was set up on the dais with Lord Buddha's idol. The illumination of the entire Ashram at night was exquisitely beautiful.

At 8.45 a.m. on 13th May 2006, recitation of traditional Buddhists chants began in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall when Bhagavan came to the Hall in a grand procession led by the children's band of Indonesia and five Buddhist monks. As soon as Bhagavan occupied His seat on the dais, bouquets were offered to welcome Him. Bhagavan then blessed the flowers which were offered at the altar by Sri Karu Jayasuriya of Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, children's band took position in front of the dais and delighted one and all with a grand display of devotional tunes. Soon after this, the devotees of host countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) began soul-elevating Bhajans which were followed in chorus by a huge gathering of devotees in the Hall surcharging the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. Led by ladies and gents devotees alternately, the Bhajans were full of devotional feelings and marked by perfection of tune and rhythm, thus filling each heart with sublime feelings of devotion and sacredness.

Two speakers addressed the gathering after Bhajans which lasted nearly one hour. Dr. Pal Dhall, Chairman, Zone 3 and 4 of Overseas Sathya Sai Organisation introduced the speakers and expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for His permission to celebrate this sacred day in His Divine Presence. The first speaker was Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, Director, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Thailand. Underlining the importance of this day, Dr. Jumsai observed that this Vesaka Purnima marking the 2550th year of the birth, enlightenment and Nirvana of Buddha had a special significance as it was being celebrated in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is the source of all enlightenment. The learned speaker told that Sathya Sai School of Thailand had been recognised as the most outstanding Buddhist school of Thailand since it was putting into practice the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa taught by Bhagavan. The second speaker was Desamanya Bradman Weerakoon, a distinguished civil servant and recipient of the highest national award of Sri Lanka, Desamanya. The learned speaker referred to the modern scenario of the world which was beset with violence, war and strife and pointed out that as war began in the mind of men, the teachings of Buddha were most relevant to the modern world. He emphasised that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings like Love All, Serve All, Help Ever, Hurt Never should become the agenda of peace in the

world. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.15 a.m. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch offered by Bhagavan to more than 1,000 delegates who had come from 15 countries of the world to celebrate this holy festival in His Divine Presence. All the devotees were also served lunch on this occasion.

In the afternoon, as Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 3.50 p.m., Bhajans were started in the Hall led by overseas devotees. After a brief Bhajan session, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker, Dr. Narendra Reddy, Member, Prasanthi Council, observed that Bhagavan is Sarva Dharma Swarupa (embodiment of all faiths). That was why, people of all faiths, from all countries of the world celebrated their festivals in His Divine Presence, he said. Referring to the values of truth, love, compassion and non-violence taught by Buddha, Dr. Reddy observed that there was total similarity between the teachings of Buddha and those of Bhagavan who has been giving the message of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa to mankind. The second speaker was Sri Phoa Krishnaputra of Indonesia who observed that Bhagavan is the source of all energy, and that anything can be achieved by His grace. Sri Krishnaputra narrated how he came to Bhagavan and how by His grace a Sai Centre, three medical clinics and a school based on Sai human values became a reality in Medan, Indonesia in due course of time.

After these two speeches, Bhagavan blessed the gathering with His Buddha Purnima Message and called upon the devotees to focus their mind on the principle of unity and realise their innate divinity. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) The day's programme in the Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.25 p.m.

Two excellent cultural items were presented in the evening programme in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. The programme started at 6.00 p.m. soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Kalyana Mandapam. The first item of the programme was a scintillating dance by the children of Nanyang School, Medan (Indonesia). Presenting this traditional dance dedicated to Kwan Yin (Chinese goddess of mercy), they enraptured the audience by their movements and formations in their brilliant traditional costumes to the tune of lively Indonesian music. The second item of the programme was a short but powerful drama presented by the Sai Youth of Singapore depicting the life and teachings of Lord Buddha as described by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in His Discourses. The drama commenced with a courtroom scene to debate the existence of God. As the story progressed, two episodes from the life of Buddha were enacted which highlighted his principal teachings that control of senses was the key to enlightenment, and control of desires and purity of thought, word and deed were the means to attain Nirvana, the final goal of life. Brilliant acting of the youth, gripping story, superb direction and perfect choreography made the drama an outstanding presentation. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast and posed for photographs with them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.40 p.m.

The programme on the morning of 14th May 2006 commenced with Bhajans at 8.20 a.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. Soulful Bhajans led by the ladies and gents overseas devotees alternately and followed in chorus by a huge gathering of devotees filled each heart with sublime feelings of devotion. This was followed by two dance items. The first item was a traditional Indonesian dance by the Bal Vikas children of Medan (Indonesia) who danced to the lively Indonesian music in their traditional

dress. The second item was a repeat presentation of Kwan Yin dance by the children of Nanyang School, Medan which they had presented on the previous evening before the drama by the Sai Youth of Singapore in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. The last item of the morning programme was a presentation by the Malaysian Sai Choir. This brilliant presentation comprising Chinese songs earned the appreciation and applause of the gathering and blessings of Bhagavan who showered special blessings on the conductor of the choir and also materialised a gold chain with a pendant for him at the end of this excellent performance. The morning cultural programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.30 a.m. After this, Narayana Seva was performed, wherein food and clothes blessed by Bhagavan were distributed to a large number of needy people.

The afternoon programme on 14th May 2006 commenced with Bhajans which were again led by overseas Sai devotees. This was followed by a brilliant solo percussion presentation. Thereafter, Bal Vikas students of Medan (Indonesia) presented a very beautiful dance to the tune of the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*" After these two cultural items, Bhajans started again. Buddha Purnima celebrations at Brindavan came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.15 p.m.

### **Soul-stirring Devotional Music**

Music lovers had a rare treat of devotional music when two renowned musicians made soul-stirring instrumental and vocal musical presentations in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Well-known Hindustani classical singer Ms. Parveen Sultana enthralled the audience in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall by singing Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs on the afternoons of 9th, 11th and 15th May 2006. Her superb rendition of devotional songs was a feast for the soul. Bhagavan sat through the entire duration of all the three presentations and showered His blessings on the artiste. Instrumental support to all these presentations was provided by the Institute students.

The Brindavan Bhajan Group, Bangalore presented their programme of devotional vocal music in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall on the afternoon of 25th May 2006. Commencing the programme with a beautiful composition in praise of Lord Ganesh in Hindi, "*Gaiye Ganapati Jagavandana*", the singers enthralled the audience for nearly 45 minutes by magnificently rendered devotional songs in Hindi, Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu set to scintillating music. The programme which began at 4.35 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall came to a close at 5.15 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation and blessed the Bhajan Group members at the end of the programme.

Another soulful musical presentation was made by renowned Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma on the afternoon of 29th May 2006. The artiste first enthralled the gathering by two most captivating classical presentations and then played one Bhajan, earning the appreciation of the huge assembly of devotees in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall who expressed their joy with loud applause after every presentation. The programme which began after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall at 4.25 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 4.55 p.m. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the artiste for his excellent presentation.

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**



## **MEXICO**

The World Water Forum is an international event to promulgate the awareness of water supply and conservation all over the world. It is the main international event on water and is founded on the principles of collaboration, partnership and innovation. The 4th World Water Forum was held at the Banamex Centre in Mexico City on 16th-21st March 2006 and attended by over 14,000 delegates. At the invitation of the organisers of the World Water Forum in Mexico, the massive water projects implemented by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust in Anantapur and elsewhere in India were presented to the delegates attending the Forum.

While jointly presenting the Anantapur Water Project, Professor Anantha Raman of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Sri A. Ramakrishna, formerly of Larsen and Toubro, said that this unique project which provided access to safe drinking water to one million poor in the arid Anantapur district within a span of 18 months was a miracle of Bhagavan Baba's love which showed that the people need not wait for government assistance if there was sufficient drive and compassion in society.

The project was viewed as a practical model of how the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the world's leaders could be achieved to provide safe water to the poor in every part of the world. The Anantapur project was independently evaluated jointly by UN-HABITAT and the Asian Development Bank and is being disseminated worldwide as a Best Practice.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has followed up the Anantapur project with similar massive water supply projects in Medak and Mahabubnagar districts in Telangana region. A similar project is now nearing completion in poor tribal areas of East and West Godavari districts. These projects have inspired the Sathya Sai Overseas Organisations to implement water supply projects in El Salvador and more recently in Uganda, East Africa. A Minister from the Government of Uganda recently visited Prasanthi Nilayam to pay tribute to Bhagavan Baba for providing safe drinking water to arid villages in Uganda.

## **U. S. A.**

On 13th April 2006, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, visited the Arcadia Centre in Southern California. About 150 people gathered to welcome and hear his spiritually uplifting talk. Sri Giri said that it was important to lead lives that abide by four significant words from Bhagavan: Love All, Serve All; Help Ever, Hurt Never. In rendering service and charity, we must follow the example set by Bhagavan Himself: give with faith and simplicity rather than pomp and show, give liberally that which is valuable and make sure that the gift is given with due respect and love. In conclusion, he said: Living with God is education, living for God is devotion, living in God is spirituality. There was a question and answer session and then the evening concluded with Arati.

On Sunday, 16th April 2006, the Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) and Sathya Sai Education and Human Values (SSEHV) teachers of the Southern California Region (Region 8) attended a special talk by Sri Giri on the purpose of education. During the meeting, Sri Giri emphasised the importance of teachers being fundamentally responsible for the

education of the children they were entrusted with. Sri Giri said: There are three types of teachers - the ones who *complain*, the ones who *explain*, and the ones who *inspire*. The teachers who inspire are those that Swami holds in the highest regard. Sri Giri explicated the motto of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning whereby the institute, he said, was not meant for conferring degrees in a conventional form, but its true purpose was to guide students in acquiring self-knowledge, self-awareness, self-sacrifice, and, as a culmination of all knowledge and acts, self-realisation.

### **SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

The independent republics of Serbia and Montenegro are located in the Balkan Peninsula bordering the Adriatic Sea. A public meeting was held in its capital city Belgrade on 12th March 2006 at the prominent Dom Omladine cultural centre. About 200 people attended the event including the Indian Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, Smt. Lavanya Prasad. In addition to a photographic exhibition of Bhagavan's public service projects, the documentary "His Work" was shown. The keynote speaker was Dr. Upadhyay from London who highlighted Bhagavan's humanitarian work in healthcare, education, community service, water projects and spirituality. This was followed by an inspiring talk by the well-known Serbian poet Vesna Krmpotić on the glory and divinity of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

### **INDONESIA**

About 20 kilometres from Medan, the capital of North Sumatra, is a village called Tanjung Rejo. The average income of the people of this village is about \$1.1 or Rs. 50 per day. Due to the economic constraints faced by the people of this village together with the large distance separating the village from the nearest city, medical care has been neglected. The devotees of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia conducted a medical camp in this village on 19th March 2006. Four physicians, eight pharmacists and about 30 Sai volunteers saw 164 patients. Consultations were provided for arthritis, dermatology, diabetes and personal hygiene. Free medications were dispensed by the pharmacists. In addition, food packages each consisting of five kilograms of rice, five packets of noodles, one bar of soap and one set of clothing, were distributed to 477 families in the village. The entire village was grateful for this loving concern and Seva by the Sathya Sai Organisation.

### **BELARUS**

The Republic of Belarus was part of the former Soviet Union. It is now independent and its capital is Minsk. A public meeting was held on 7th April 2006 in Minsk. About 28 people attended the meeting including some who travelled over 300 kilometres to hear about Bhagavan. The meeting began with screening of the film "Pure Love". This was followed by talks by three speakers, each of whom described Bhagavan's global humanitarian work. The first speaker was Natalia Tsedrik, National Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation in Belarus. She spoke on the significance of chanting Om and of Sathya Sai Baba's global impact on education through Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. The second speaker was Tatyana Rozhkova and she described Bhagavan Baba's global healthcare mission. She spoke about Swami's healthcare teachings and philosophy as well as His acts of healthcare service undertaken in several countries. After her presentation, the film "His Work" was screened. The third speaker, Ivan Dovbnya, spoke about the Sathya Sai Organisation and its activities in Belarus, Russia and many of the



former Soviet Union countries. The meeting concluded with a video of Russian devotees singing at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th November 2005 on the occasion of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations.

### **RUSSIA**

Lodeinoye Pole is a beautiful shipyard town which was founded by Peter the Great and is located in the Leningrad region of Russia. Sai devotees from this city held a Seva camp on 15th and 16th April 2006. The camp consisted of four activities. The first was a medical camp where 115 patients were seen for common ailments and preventive care. The second was a building maintenance camp in which Sai devotees cleaned public buildings, painted walls and doors, replaced plumbing and repaired roofs. The third was a transportation service. The fourth was general Seva in which devotees delivered 30 boxes containing several packages of food for veterans and orphans as designated by the city administrators. Overall, the help was timely and much needed. The city administrators and the director of a renovated boarding school expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Sathya Sai Organisation.

### **U. A. E.**

A medical camp was held at the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi on 28th April 2006. At the camp, five physicians, two pharmacists and 30 volunteers saw 176 patients for health screening including diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and rendered health education. Patients presented with the common cold, fevers, gastroenteritis, musculoskeletal, neurological, dermatological and dental problems. Free medications were dispensed at the pharmacy and patients were provided with free transportation to and from the camp. During a speech to welcome the Indian Minister for Overseas Affairs, the Indian Ambassador to U.A.E. commended the service activities of the Sathya Sai Organisation in Abu Dhabi.

**– Prasanthi Council**

### **BHARAT**

**Jammu and Kashmir:** A free veterinary camp at Zoohama, tehsil Chadoora of district Budgam was organised on 4th March 2006. More than 200 animals of different categories were provided treatment. The facility was provided at the doorstep of the farmers. The villagers of the area expressed the need of organising many more camps in the near future and thanked the Sai Organisation for organising such types of camps in militancy infested areas, as no such facility had been provided to them by any other organisation till date.

**Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh:** Summer Course on Indian Culture and Spirituality has been regularly held at Indore at the premises of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar since the year 1999. This year, this course was held from 2nd to 9th May 2006 in which 117 boys and 128 girls accompanied by 19 teachers attended.

The day started at 5.20 a.m. and all the students participated daily in Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Jyoti Dhyana followed by Yoga classes which were separately held for boys and girls. The classes were held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Periods were earmarked for devotional and national songs, life and mission of Bhagavan Baba, Bhagavadgita, group activities and life and teachings of Avatars, saints and sages. One period was also daily

earmarked as story time from our ancient scriptures and values. Love prevailed the whole atmosphere and Bhagavan's presence was felt throughout the duration of the camp.

**Rajasthan:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi Sangria is running a homoeo dispensary providing free medicare to 60-70 people daily. In addition to this, the Samithi organised a blood donation camp on 12th February 2006, wherein 67 people donated blood. Tapovan Blood Bank provided their services in this task. A medical camp on heart problems was also organised on 19th March 2006 at Sangria. A team of doctors from Apollo Hospital provided complete medicare on blood pressure, ECG, sugar monitoring to 251 patients. On 23rd April 2006, a dental care camp was held at Sangria in which all dental medicare was rendered to 345 patients.

**Tamil Nadu:** The Mahila Vocational Training Centre started by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu in Chennai Metro in March 2001 has so far imparted vocational training in tailoring and other vocations to more than 80 women who have become economically self-reliant. Sai Organisation not only gives free training but also provides free sewing machines to those women who are not able to find suitable placement for their self-reliance.

Besides, these women sing Bhajans, do Veda chanting and also take part in Prasanthi Seva. Their children are admitted to Bal Vikas classes conducted by the Sai Organisation. The value-based training they receive at Mahila Vocational Training Centre not only makes them better mothers and good housewives but also better citizens.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** A two-day National Conference of Indian Association of Teacher Educators (IATE) was organised in collaboration with University of Allahabad on 10th-11th February 2006 on "Professionalism in Teacher Education". Around 300 delegates from Bharat and neighbouring countries participated in the Conference. One of the seven sub-themes of the Conference was "Values in Teacher Education". A plenary session on Sri Sathya Sai Educare was devoted to presentation by educationists on ethical dimensions of education and teacher development. The session began with inauguration of an exhibition on Value Education based on Sri Sathya Sai Educare. The session was addressed by eminent experts. The note on Sri Sathya Sai Educare prepared by State President of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, U.P. and Uttaranchal was circulated to the delegates. It highlighted that Human Values-oriented Education was becoming more and more relevant in the present-day scenario. A stall having 200 titles of Sai literature was put up at the Conference site.

## **BACK COVER MATTER**

### **Loftiness of the Impulse to Renounce**

**There are three lines along which  
endeavour has to be directed: (i)  
spiritual exercises and discipline, (ii)  
cultivation of detachment, (iii)**

development of confidence in one's Self. Without these three, life is a wearisome and wasteful journey. Give up, renounce – that is the virtue you need for spiritual progress. It is not the value of the thing given up that counts, it is the loftiness of the impulse behind the act.

- Baba

**JULY 2006**

**DIVINE DISCOURSE: KARNATAKA YOUTH CAMP**

## **THE YOUTH SHOULD FOLLOW THE PATH OF SATHYA AND DHARMA**

*All names and forms are the manifestations of the Supreme Being who is the embodiment of peace and auspiciousness. He is Existence, Knowledge, Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).*

(Sanskrit Verse)

THERE are four entities: Vyashti, Samashti, Srishti and Parameshti (individual, society, creation and Creator). Srishti emerges from Parameshti. Samashti is a part of Srishti and Vyashti, a part of Samashti.

### **The Basis of Creation**

Being its part, the individual should serve society. In fact, service to society is the most important duty of man. It can endow him with divine power. Service to society is, in reality, service to Divinity. For whose sake is the existence of man? It is for the sake of society. Similarly, society has its existence for the sake of creation. This is the basis of the entire creation. The creation is the manifestation of God. Man has a unique position in it. But what is the use if man behaves like animals and birds? Divinity is immanent in

every being. The same truth was proclaimed by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). Since every being is a part of the Divine, all should be respected, loved and adored. You should not hate anybody and should not create distance between one another. Just as all the parts of the body form one organism, similarly, all beings are like various limbs of God. When there is injury in the leg, it is the eye that sheds tears. The same type of intimate relationship exists between God and all the beings as exists between different limbs of the body. You may ask why man faces troubles and difficulties when he enjoys intimate relationship with God. God is essentially the embodiment of immortality and bliss. He does not cause difficulties and problems for anyone. Some people think that God is the cause of their problems and difficulties, but this is a big mistake. All your troubles are the result of your own actions; they are not given by God.

*Everyone has to face the consequences of his actions, whoever he may be.*

*No one can know what lies ahead for him in future.*

*But this much is sure that everybody has to reap the consequences of his actions.*

(Telugu Song)

Our joys and sorrows are the reflection of our own actions; they are not caused by others. To blame others for our sorrows is a big mistake. Everything in this world is reaction, reflection and resound. Every man is his own witness.

### **Acquire Education that Gives Knowledge of the Self**

It is only the youth who are capable of protecting this world. It is the youth and youth alone who can set this world right. No nation can stand without youth. Sometimes, the elders underestimate the capabilities of the youth, thinking that they are inexperienced and young. But the youth are endowed with immense power. If they take a firm resolve, they are capable of achieving anything. If they realise their power, they can emancipate the nation. This does not need any education. What is education? Education means Vidya which connotes the knowledge of the Self. This is the foundation of all education. Today students are acquiring only bookish knowledge. Does a man become educated just by acquiring a college degree? Can a person who lacks wisdom and does not perform righteous actions be called educated? Education which does not confer wisdom is no

education at all; it is only worldly and bookish knowledge. Modern youth are hankering after this type of education. They go to foreign countries like Germany, Japan and America to pursue this type of education. The education that is not there in Bharat is not available anywhere else (*loud applause*). *Yanna Bharate, Thanna Bharata* (what is not there in Bharat cannot be found anywhere else). Some people have a mistaken notion that those who are educated abroad are great. In fact, many of them come back after acquiring evil qualities, evil thoughts and evil habits.

In Bharat, the students acquire sacred education; it begins with the thoughts of God. Even an illiterate driver in Bharat salutes the steering wheel before starting the vehicle. Similarly, a musician offers salutations to the musical instrument before playing on it. In fact, all type of learning in Bharat begins with the name of God and prayer to Him and every activity is done as an offering to God without any artificiality and ostentation. People educated abroad come back with big degrees. What is that degree? It is only a piece of paper. They do not understand the essence of education. The students of Bharat have a pure and sacred heart. I feel blissful when I see Indian students. One can see the goodness of education reflected on their faces. The Bharatiyas are not inferior in any way; they are endowed with immense sacredness. Every individual in Bharat is imbued with divine feelings. Forgetting this type of sacred education, people these days are running after worldly and materialistic education. Today there is an influx of gadgets like calculators and computers. They are mere Yantras (machines). These Yantras do not stand any comparison with Mantra (incantation). The real Mantra is the name of God which gives immense bliss. The Bharatiyas are not able to understand this truth because of their delusion. But their heart is very sacred.

### **Bharat is the Land of Sacrifice**

People today are ruining themselves by craving for worldly and materialistic possessions. Even those responsible for conducting the affairs of the government are treading the evil path. They want only worldly type of education to be promoted in our country. They talk about science and technology. What is this technology? It is only trick knowledge. They say it is technology, but what they do is 'tricknology'. Many people in Bharat are indulging in dirty business; they are cheating others and doing injustice to them. No Bharatiya should take to this type of business. Everyone should have divine feelings in

his heart. All actions should be done to please God. When you start all your activities with prayer to God, you are sure to be rewarded with bliss. Today if you invite a music artiste to sing devotional songs, he will ask, “How much will you pay?” In this manner, all our activity has become business-oriented. Even food and drink have become a big business. The sacred land of Bharat is Annapurna Kshetra (land of plenty). The tradition of Bharat is to offer food free to every hungry person and water to every thirsty person. This sacred tradition seems to have disappeared these days. By imitating the culture of the West, the Bharatiyas today are casting a blot on the fair name of Bharat. It is the land of great culture. There is hardly any other country which can stand comparison with her so far as the sacredness of the culture is concerned. Having been born in this sacred land of Bharat, we should live like true Bharatiyas. The land of Bharat which is known for Thyaga (sacrifice) is being turned into a land of Bhoga (pleasure) in mad imitation of western culture. That is why Bharat is facing many problems these days. What is needed in this country is not Bhoga but Thyaga.

Imagine the great sacrifice of Sakkubai who renounced everything for the sake of God. *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). Money is the root cause of many evils. *Money makes many wrongs*. The first priority of the moneyed people today is to send their children abroad for education. Even elders are encouraging the youth to go to foreign countries for the sake of earning money. Too much money leads man to the path of evil. *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows*. So, we have to develop morality. The very foundation of Bharat is based on Sathya and Dharma. This is what we have to propagate. The Bharatiyas should consider adherence to truth as the greatest Dharma. Sathya and Dharma are most important in the life of man. The youth should strictly adhere to them. What is Sathya? It is the harmony of thought, word and deed. Where these three are in harmony, Sathya is present there. People speak something on the platform, they have something else in their mind, and their actions are entirely different from what they speak and think. This is the worst sin.

**Service to Society is the Sign of Nobility**

*Embodiments of Love!*

Your very form is love. It is love that protects the whole world. The five elements that constitute the universe are based on love. Only when love combines with the five elements does the universe come into existence. But love is not to be seen anywhere these days. Today there is lack of love even between mother and children. What happened to that love? We are bartering it for money. When money is lost, nothing is lost. Instead of putting our faith in money, we should have more faith in love and should develop love to love relationship with others. When you have this type of relationship based on love, love will develop more and more. Only then will we be able to love everybody.

We should not observe such differences as so and so is mine and so and so is someone else. We should develop the feeling that I belong to all and all belong to me. All are the children of the same mother. Being the children of the same mother, all should live like brothers and sisters. There may be some differences, but they are temporary. They will come and go like passing clouds. The only thing that is permanent and eternal is love. There is nothing great in acquiring education and amassing wealth. There have been many millionaires in this world, but what have they taken with them at the time of leaving this world? The great world conqueror Alexander did not carry anything with him when he left the world.

*Even King Harischandra, who strictly followed the path of truth, had to leave this world ultimately leaving behind his vast kingdom and riches. Emperor Nala, who reigned over a great empire, could not take with him anything when he passed away. Did King Mandhata, who adorned the Krita Yuga, carry any wealth with him when he left the earth? Is Lord Rama, who built the bridge across the ocean, present on the earth today?*

(Telugu Poem)

You may earn any amount of money, but as long as you are alive you should give joy to others by undertaking acts of charity. Those who have money should look after the poor and sick people. Utilise all your earnings in a proper manner. Consider social service as service to yourself. Those who undertake social service are noble people. On the contrary, those who do not take to the path of service are wicked. When somebody salutes you, you also salute him. Do not consider that since somebody is your enemy you

should not salute him. All are friends. Do not bear hatred or enmity towards anyone. Enmity is a wicked quality. Friendship is very important. You and I should become one. That is true Maitri (friendship). All should become united. If you really want to see God, first see Him in everyone. The youth should greet and treat each other with love like brothers and sisters. But these days this type of relationship is not seen between people. They greet each other, saying “hello, hello”, but their heart is hollow without any feelings. Love everybody and develop faith in God. One without Viswasa (faith) is actually without Swasa (breath). Faith in God is our life-breath. If you want to develop faith in God, develop love. If you do not have love, you cannot be called a human being.

### **Humanness Blossoms in a Pure Heart**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Develop love. When we come into this world, it is only love that comes with us. From love comes truth. When love and truth come together, humanness finds its sustenance. The mansion of human life can be built with self-confidence as the foundation, self-satisfaction as pillars and self-sacrifice as roof. Only then can you have self-realisation in life. If you want to have self-satisfaction, you should first have self-confidence. Without self-satisfaction, there can be no happiness in life. How can one who does not have confidence in himself have confidence in others? People doubt anything and everything. Doubt endangers life. A person with doubts will not achieve anything in life. He will not have faith even in his wife and children. Therefore, first and foremost develop faith. We think we are great and highly educated. But what is the use of this education? Even animals like goat and monkeys can learn many things. A monkey can be trained to ride a bicycle. Man is much superior to animals. His conduct should be such that manifests his superiority. It is said, *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Man should therefore not behave like birds, animals and insects. People distribute sweets when they beget children. What is so great about it? Even a pig can give birth to ten offspring. Give up all wicked qualities and lead an ideal and blissful life. Only then will humanness find fulfilment.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*



Face all difficulties with forbearance. Accept all trials and tribulations with love. Accept both pleasure and pain with love. Fill your heart with love and not with the poison of evil qualities. Even poison becomes Prasadam (sacred food) if it is offered to God. When Mira was given a cup of milk mixed with poison, she offered it to Krishna. Krishna accepted the poison and gave her the milk as Prasadam.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama, Rama, Ram ...*” and continued His Discourse.) Rama, Rama, Rama, in fact, connotes Prema, Prema, Prema. Rama and Prema are one and the same. People adore many deities like Rama, Krishna, Sai, but the divine principle in all of them is the same. Atma has neither a form nor a name. Atma is also referred to as Brahma. *Brahma Sathyam Jagan-mithya* (Brahman alone is real, the world is unreal). God has no attributes. He does not punish or harm anybody. He is present in your heart in the form of pure and unsullied love. Develop love more and more. That will protect you always. There is no other greater protection than this. There is no weapon more powerful than love. Everything is love. The very word love is suffused with sweetness. Treat each other with love, converse with each other with love, lead a life full of love and enjoy bliss.

(Bhagavan referred to the drama “Ekalavya” which was to be enacted that evening and called upon the youth to follow the path of truth, obey the command of their preceptors and adhere always to righteousness like Ekalavya. With this advice to the youth, Bhagavan concluded His Discourse.)

- **From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 27th May 2006 on the occasion of the youth camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka.**

**Ati Rudra Maha Yajna**  
will be performed for the peace  
and prosperity of humanity in  
Sai Kulwant Hall  
in the divine presence of

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba  
for twelve days from  
9th to 20th August 2006

*All are cordially  
invited to  
participate and seek the  
blessings of Bhagavan*

**DIVINE DISCOURSE: TAMIL NEW YEAR AND VISHU**  
**HAPPINESS IS HOLINESS**

LORD KRISHNA made this divine declaration: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). Hence, do not feel that you are different from God. God resides in you. In fact, you are God.

**Nothing is Permanent in this World**

You think, you are a human being because you are endowed with human body, but the Atma that indwells all manifests your divinity. There are thousands of bulbs that have been put up for decoration. Their colour and wattage may differ, but the electric current in all of them is one and the same. Like the current that makes all the bulbs shine, the Atma present in all human beings makes them see, hear and work. But today man is caught in worldly affairs and is ignoring spirituality. If you have spiritual vision, you will know that it is the same God who is present everywhere. Everything from earth to sky is nothing but God. Even this flower, this tumbler, this microphone and the tablecloth that you see here are all aspects of divinity. Divinity pervades each and everything in this universe. But you see differences due to your faulty vision.

Change is the nature of the five elements, and not of God. There are only five elements in this universe; there is no sixth element. Our human form is a combination of the five elements and is sustained by them. Man has relationship with the five elements so long as the body lasts. Once the body perishes, he has nothing to do with even one of them. These elements are present in man in the form of his senses of sound, sight, touch, taste and smell. Our senses are responsible for good and bad, merit and sin. Good and bad are not given by God; they are the consequences of man's own actions. Sometimes you think that God has given you suffering and sometimes you feel God is responsible for your happiness, but God neither gives happiness nor suffering. This is all man's illusion. Man suffers due to his own evil qualities like jealousy, hatred, anger and pomposity. Where does anger come from? It comes from within us because of our wrong food and evil thoughts. Desire arises because of your covetous nature. Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, attachment, pride and jealousy) all arise from us.

You think God has a form. But God is formless. God is positive and man is negative. Negative comes and goes, but positive is permanent. Repose your faith in the positive and not in the negative. Everything in this world comes and goes like passing clouds. A boy gets married to a girl. But before marriage, where was the boy and where was the girl? Their relationship developed only after marriage. But even that is not permanent. There is nothing in human life that is permanent. Everything is temporary; it comes and goes. If man wants to become eternal, he has to develop Atma Viswasa (faith in the Self). You may come and go, but I am with you forever. Divinity is changeless. Instead of aspiring for the changeless, man is running after all that is fleeting and temporary. All that we desire in this world is subject to change. Bodies are subject to change. You may see a body today and may not see it tomorrow. There is nothing in this world that is permanent. There is only one entity that is permanent about whom it is said, *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthathi* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). There is only One that is present always, but during our short life-span we develop many illusions.

**Pray to God Desirelessly**

We celebrate New Year and feel very happy. In fact it is not new; it is just a change of time. Today is the beginning of Chaitra (a month in Indian calendar). Next month is Vaishakha. In this way, many Chaitras and Vaishakhas have come and gone, but nothing is permanent. Why should we bother about all that is impermanent and passing? A fruit is at first unripe and after some time it becomes fully ripe and ultimately it decays. Similarly, human body is subject to change; it has childhood, youth, old age and ultimately death. So, there is nothing in this world that is permanent. Whatever you see in this world is just temporary and passing. There is only one thing that is permanent and you have to pray for that. But whom are you praying for? You are praying for yourself, not for God. In fact, you are praying to yourself because God is in you. Because of your identification with the body, you think you are a devotee and God is separate from you. There is no difference between the devotee and God. Whatever you see, it is God; wherever you go, God is there; whatever you do, it is for God. God is present even in a particle of dust. When the wind blows, the dust goes up. When there is no wind, the dust comes down. In the same way, when man has desires, he is engulfed in delusion. When he is without desires, his delusion is also subdued. Sometimes, man is peaceful and at another time he is agitated. These states of man are the result of his food, his habits and worldly relationships; they are not caused by God. God has nothing to do with that. God is eternally present and the five elements are also present forever. Even after man dies, the five elements continue to have their existence. The consciousness present in all the five elements in man is responsible for all his body functions.

When a man is newly married, he loves his wife very much. His love is so intense in the beginning that if she is about to put her foot on a thorn, he pulls her away with great concern, saying, "There is a thorn, there is a thorn." After some time, when the same situation arises, he merely cautions her, "Be careful, there is a thorn." When more time has elapsed, he will resort to scolding, "Don't you have eyes? Can't you see the thorn?" The love that is there in the beginning gives way to anger with the passage of time. Worldly love is subject to change. Even the love between husband and wife and mother and child undergoes changes with the passage of time. Everything is temporary in this world. It is impermanent and it comes and goes. We are happy when we gain something;

we are grieved when we lose anything. Loss and gain are the cause of our happiness and sorrow. But profit and loss are only relative terms.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

There are no permanent relationships in this world. So long as the body lasts, the relationships exist. When the body is lost, the relationships are also lost. There is one thing that is permanent in this universe and that is what you have to aspire for. Human life is given to man to know himself and to realise God. People worship God and pray to Him. When their desires are fulfilled, they are very happy. If their desires are not fulfilled, they change even the photo of the deity in their altar. If we worship God only to fulfil our desires, then it is not true worship. Our love and devotion for God should be changeless. It should not change under any circumstances. Love is the very form of God. *Love is God. Live in love.* Love is present in all. Even the person whom we think as wicked has love for his wife and children. If you have love in your heart, you will find love everywhere. If you love a dog or a cat, they will also reciprocate your love. You will not have fear of even wild animals if you do not harm them. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as is the feeling, so is the result). Everything depends on our feelings.

### **Desires are the Cause of Man's Suffering**

All of us should consider our body as only an instrument to discharge our duties. Never think that this body is permanent and you have to accumulate wealth to maintain it. It is merely a waste of time and effort when you try to accumulate worldly possessions. Everything else is temporary except love and truth. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). There are many types of duties that we have to perform with the help of the body. But our foremost duty is to develop love. Where there is love, there is bliss. True relationship exists only when there is love. Where there is no love, bliss cannot exist there, neither can there be true relationship. God is the embodiment of bliss. *Nityanandam, Parama Sukhadam, Kevalam Jnanamurtim, Dwandwateetam, Gagana Sadrisham, Tattwamasyadi Lakshyam, Ekam, Nityam, Vimalam, Achalam, Sarvadhee Sakshibhutam, Bhavateetam, Trigunarahitam* (God is the embodiment of eternal bliss, He is wisdom absolute, beyond the pair of opposites, expansive and pervasive like the sky, the goal indicated by the Mahavakya *Tattwamasi*,

One without a second, eternal, pure, unchanging, witness of all functions of the intellect, beyond all mental conditions and the three attributes of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas.) Man should develop the divine quality of love and not the worldly relationships.

Suppose a person has delicious dishes and fruits before him which he loves to eat, he will get happiness when he consumes them. If at that very moment he gets the sad news of the tragic death of his son in an accident in the bazaar, he will run to see his son and throw away all the dishes, because his love for his son is more than his love for food. When the food is before him, he thinks that his entire happiness lies in consuming it. Where has the love for food gone now? In a similar way, man develops love for many things in this world. In fact, there is nothing in this world which you should desire for. Desires are the cause of all the suffering of man. *Less luggage more comfort*. When there is luggage, you cannot escape from trouble. Here luggage refers to worldly relationships and desires. Only when you get rid of worldly bondage can you be happy. There is nothing in this world that you should desire for. If any worldly desire crops up in your mind, give it up at once. Giving up of desires is true renunciation. *Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure*. You can have real happiness only when you reduce your luggage. There are so many millionaires in this world. But, are they able to live forever? They come and go like passing clouds. You find clouds only in the sky. Without sky, there can be no clouds. So long as you have body consciousness, you will have the clouds of desires.

### **Everybody has to Leave the World Empty-handed**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

You should have body consciousness only to discharge your duties. You have to do your duty. Duty is God. You should not develop undue worldly relations. But, you are developing more and more desires and more and more greed. You have to reduce the luggage of your desires. You may accumulate any amount of luggage, but it is not going to be permanent. Alexander, the great emperor, conquered different parts of the world and came to India with a desire to conquer this country. On his return journey, he suffered a grave illness. Sensing that his end had approached, he called all his ministers and generals and told them that he was not going to live any more. He instructed them to take his body to his country after his death. He further told them to expose his hands out of the bier with his palms upwards and carry the funeral procession in all the streets of

the city. This was to tell the people of the world that in spite of his great conquests in the world and a great name and fame, Alexander left the world empty-handed. This is true of all of us. Whatever we may accumulate, we have to go empty-handed only. In the ultimate analysis, all the worldly possessions are useless. Then why should we worry about all that is useless? Do your duty making best use of the present; do not unnecessarily worry about what is to come in future.

Many things happen in this world; God is the witness of all that happens. God is always blissful; He has no suffering, no difficulty, no worry. God is not the cause of the difficulties and sufferings of anybody. He has no desires. You may think that God has desires, but in reality He has none. He is Gunateeta (beyond attributes), Trigunarahita (bereft of the three qualities of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas). You become the victim of delusion as you are bound by these three qualities. If someone dies, people lament over his death for a few days and then they forget. In this manner, nothing is permanent in this world. However, we have to do what we are supposed to do. You wear a shawl when it is cold. As soon as the cold is gone, you remove the shawl. Likewise, you don the vesture of human body and nourish it for performing your worldly duties. Ultimately, you have to give up this body.

### **Do all Actions to Please God**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

You do all kinds of worship, penance and Yajnas, but what is the use of all this? They cannot protect and sustain you if you are bereft of the divine quality of love. It will be just a waste of time and energy. What you have to nourish and develop is love. If you have love, you can conquer anything. Except love, there is nothing that can nourish and sustain you. Develop self-confidence. When you have self-confidence, you will attain self-satisfaction which will lead you to self-sacrifice and ultimately to self-realisation. What is the meaning of self-realisation? It means to realise one's Self. You keep asking everybody, "Who are you?" But you do not ask yourself, "Who am I?" Am I the body, am I the mind, am I the intellect, am I the Chitta, am I the senses? When you say, 'my body', you are different from the body. Body is like a water bubble, mind is like a mad monkey. Do not follow the body, do not follow the mind. Do not think that the body is permanent. But so long as you have the body and mind, you have to use them to perform

your duties. If your mind is not sound and steady, none of your endeavours will fructify. Hence, first and foremost control the mind. Who is man? One who is endowed with mind is man. Do not allow your mind to become monkey mind. Understand that you belong to mankind. So, you have to conduct yourself with kindness and compassion.

You are running after all that is false and ephemeral and giving up all that is true and eternal. In Kali Age, everything is becoming business. Wherever people go, whatever they do, they do it with a business motive. Even trivial matters have become business activity. How long can you do this business? It is all useless. Man should learn to give; he should not try to grab all that comes his way. Body is given to man to do good to others. *Paropakara Punyaya, Papaya Parapeedanam* (one attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them). Do not always accept the service of others; rather, try to serve others to the extent possible. When you serve others, think that you are serving God. Do all actions to please God. All your actions will become meaningful only when you do them with the motive of pleasing God. Never do anything with a selfish motive. Today you are here. Tomorrow you may be somewhere else. Nothing is permanent. Only love is permanent in this world. Fill your life with love. You can love others only when you have love within you. Your innate love is your divinity. If you have love in your heart, nobody will hate you. Others will hate you only when you have selfish desires. Never hate anybody, never feel jealous of anybody and never get angry with anyone.

*Embodiments of Love!*

You have come all the way from distant places because of your love for Swami. Preserve this love forever and live in the presence of God. Never forget this love which is in you, with you, below you, above you, around you. Do not think that God is separate from you. He is the witness of everything. People go to temples with trays full of flowers and fruits.

*Is it possible to limit the One to a temple who pervades the entire cosmos? How can one offer food to the One who has the entire cosmos in His belly? How can one give a bath to the One who is present in all rivers?*

(Telugu Poem)

**Worry is a Mentally Created Fear**



People offer food to God and afterwards consume it themselves! God does not want anything. God has no desires at all. Sometimes, God may act in a way which makes you think that He has desires. But God has no desires at all. He has no bondage either. Whatever He does is for your sake. Whatever He says, does and thinks is for your sake. Pray for the welfare of all. *Loka Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the people of the world be happy!). Do not wish any harm even to your enemy. *Love Ever, Hurt Never*. Do not do anything that is contradictory to the principle of love. *Love is God. Live is Love*. Consider love as God. Salute whomever you come across, even if he be your enemy. Love even your enemy. Whomsoever you salute, it will reach God, for God is in all. With these sacred feelings, do not have hatred towards anyone.

All that has to happen will happen. Do not worry about it. Past is past, forget the past. Future is uncertain, do not brood over it. Present is important, live in the present and be happy. Do not worry about past and future. Where is the past? Many people have passed away. Has any of them come back? None. Similarly, we do not know anything about future. Why should we worry about it? You should try to seek happiness in the present. When you have such an attitude, you will never worry about anything in life. What is the shape of worry? It is a mentally created fear. We should never worry. A true devotee will not have any worries. You cannot call yourself a true devotee if you are beset with worries. Hurry, worry, curry are the cause of heart diseases. One should therefore avoid hurry, worry, curry.

All of you are the embodiments of love and divinity. You are Atmaswarupa (embodiment of the Atma). For the sake of identity, you have a name, but in reality, all of you are the embodiments of the Atma. Only the Atma is eternal.

Today marks the beginning of New Year. People of Kerala celebrate it in a traditional way by having the holy vision of Vishukkani in the morning. They have delicious dishes and all merriment. It is a festive occasion for the farmers who bring home the harvested grain. It is, in fact, a holy day for them as they reap the fruit of their hard labour after toiling hard from morning to evening in their fields all the year round. The farmers lead a very hard life. This is the time of their rejoicing as the harvested grain ensures them freedom from all worries and makes them happy and blissful. Happiness is true holiness. True bliss lies in cultivating the principle of love and leading a life of contentment. We

should always be contented. When there is no contentment, worries raise their head. All troubles are created by worrying.

### **Live always in Bliss**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

The day you are happy is the holy day. Love is divine. Suffuse your love with the principle of divinity. Keep your heart filled with love forever. Then every day will become a New Year for you. What is New Year? The celebration of New Year does not lie in eating Payasam (sweet rice pudding) and other delicious dishes. The day you are filled with bliss is the New Year. Always live in bliss. If difficulties confront you, drive them away. In fact, suffering and troubles have no real existence. Then why are you worrying? Develop the attitude of detachment. Then you will have no suffering and no worry. Remind yourself, “I am a human being. These difficulties and suffering do not belong to me.” If you develop real body detachment, you will not be affected by any affliction. Physical ailments like stomachache, headache or body pain are natural to the body. Why should you worry about that which is natural? You suffer because you develop too much attachment to the body. However, you have to take care of the body to the extent that you are not dependent on others. You should realise your true nature. Regulate your diet and habits. Since you have too many desires, you have all the problems. If you eat too much, you will have to suffer from indigestion. Hence, control your craving for food. Eat moderately and maintain good health. That is what I advise the children always.

*Get up early in the morning at the crowing of the cock,*

*Have a bath after your morning ablutions,*

*Wear a proper dress.*

*Eat properly and moderately.*

*Go to school and study diligently.*

*Earn a good name. (Telugu Poem)*

Develop good health, cultivate good habits, have good conduct and earn a good name. If you have all these, you will not need anything else in life. Do not run after medicines and doctors for your small problems. If a medicine cures one disease, it will create another.

Many doctors have made the medical profession also a business. What are you going to achieve if you lead a life full of worries? Nothing at all! Some doctors may exaggerate even your minor ailments as cancer and ulcer. In such cases, even if you do not have such a disease, worry caused to you by the imaginary disease may lead to it. The more you worry about it, the more would be your suffering. Therefore, do not worry about your small physical problems. If you lead a life of moderation and maintain a healthy lifestyle, you don't need to be at the mercy of doctors.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Stop the habit of worrying. Even an intelligent student will not be able to write his examination well, if he becomes nervous in the examination hall due to his doubts, though he may know the answers to the questions. Doubts are the cause of your worry. You have to face all difficulties because of your habit of worrying. You should work hard without worrying for anything. When you lead such a straightforward life, you will not have to run after anybody and beg favours from others. Experience the bliss that is within your heart without making a show of it to others. Have belief in that which ought to be believed. Have love for that which ought to be loved. You have to love only one thing and that is God. Once you have love for God, you will have everything in life. On the one side is the world and on the other, God. You cannot have both simultaneously. It is like riding on two horses which is sure to prove dangerous. Focus your mind only on God and have total faith in Him. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). You should always think of God, both in pleasure and pain. If you aspire to have happiness and bliss, you should desire only for God. Do not worry too much about your difficulties. If you have love for God, all your difficulties will vanish in a trice. All difficulties are temporary like passing clouds.

Swami loves His students very much. Once it so happened that a student was trying to tie buntings on a door while standing on an iron stool. As he saw Me coming, he felt nervous and fell from the stool. Both the stool and the boy fell on Me and My hip bone was fractured. Doctors advised rest for three to six months. But I told them that I did not need rest even for three minutes. What is this body for? It is for helping others. The body needs balance. There would be difficulty in walking when the balance is lost. But I do not care even for balance. It is temporary and will become all right on its own. I am able to

walk with the support of boys. We should not worry about small problems. Do your duty. Then everything will become all right. Develop love.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Do not forget the principle of love. Love God. It is nothing great if you help someone who has helped you. Greatness lies in helping those who have done harm to you.

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

– **From Bhagavan’s Tamil New Year and Vishu Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 14th April 2006.**

## **SHOWERS OF DIVINE BENEDICTIONS**

### **Warm Welcome to Bhagavan on Return to Prasanthi Nilayam**

BHAGAVAN was accorded A rousing and warm welcome on His return to Prasanthi Nilayam on 8th June 2006 from Brindavan (Whitefield) where He sojourned for nearly one and a half months after His arrival there from Kodaikanal on 23rd April 2006. Earlier, Bhagavan went to Kodaikanal from Prasanthi Nilayam on the morning of 9th April 2006. Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with banners, welcome arches and Rangoli on the roads on the day of Bhagavan’s arrival. As Bhagavan’s car entered the Gopuram Gate of Sai Kulwant Hall, the students offered traditional welcome to Him with Poornakumbham amidst chanting of Vedic hymns. While a group of students sang a beautiful welcome song on public address system, Bhagavan was led to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession comprising Veda chanting, Bhajan singing and Bhangra dancing groups of students. A huge gathering of devotees, students and Ashram staff present in the Hall offered reverential salutations to Him. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the gathering, Bhagavan left for His abode after receiving Arati in the Hall.

### **Felicitation of Senior Faculty Members of the Institute**

In a scintillating function held in Sai Kulwant Hall, the Revered Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba felicitated four senior faculty members of the Institute for their exceptional devotion, dedication and meritorious service to the Institute. They were: Prof. U.S. Rao, Prof. V.E. Ramamoorthy,

Prof. M. Nanjundaiah and Prof. Vishwanath Pandit. Sai Kulwant Hall on this occasion was beautifully decorated with colourful buntings, flowers and festoons.

Bhagavan came to the Hall at 7.55 a.m. amidst recitation of sacred Vedic hymns and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram rendered by the Institute students. After the arrival of Bhagavan on the dais, all the four fortunate faculty members were invited to sit on the dais along with their spouses and were welcomed with garlands. In his speech on this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, offered them a hearty welcome and congratulated them for having been chosen by the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Baba, to receive His rare grace for their long, meritorious and excellent service to the Institute. Sri Gokak then introduced them formally and praised them for their professional competence and academic excellence and for transforming the lives of the students of the Institute by inspiring them to imbibe the teachings of Bhagavan in their lives. Soon after this, Institute orchestra rendered joyous tunes to enhance the happiness of the occasion. This was followed by group devotional songs by the students of the Institute. The eagerly awaited moment arrived when Bhagavan honoured the four faculty members with a shawl each and showered His blessings on them and their spouses amidst a thunderous applause of the huge gathering in the Hall. He also gave them various gifts including a gold bracelet with His Divine Hands.

First to speak among the recipients of this rare honour was Prof. U.S. Rao, Dean, School of Business Management, Accounting and Finance and Principal, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute. Prof. Rao expressed his deep gratitude to Bhagavan for this great reward and all that He had done for him and his family. Praising the students for their deep devotion for Bhagavan, the learned speaker said that Bhagavan had infused in them high ideals, good character and sacred values. The next speaker was Prof. V.E. Ramamoorthy, Professor in the School of Business Management, Accounting and Finance of the Institute. Recalling the year 1993 as the memorable year in his life when he came to Bhagavan, Prof. Ramamoorthy stated that the time spent by him in the Institute in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan was the golden period of his life. Bhagavan had filled his life with love, peace and bliss, he added. In conclusion, he advised the students to put into practice the invaluable teachings of Bhagavan in their life. The third speaker, Prof. M. Nanjundaiah, Controller of Examinations of the Institute, remarked that Bhagavan had lovingly guided him in his work like a doting mother and had taken care of him and his family in every way. He added that he had experienced Bhagavan's presence every minute of his life. The fourth speaker, Prof. Vishwanath Pandit, Professor and Head of the Department of Economics of the Institute expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for giving him an opportunity to serve in this unique Institute and

keeping him close to His Lotus Feet. He added that he expected nothing more than this in life. Addition of this great honour, he remarked, was an act of infinite grace of Bhagavan.

After the speeches of these four stalwarts of the Institute, Dr. Deepak Anand, a faculty member of the School of Business Management, Accounting and Finance of the Institute paid glowing tributes to these luminaries who had set an example not only as ideal teachers but also as men of exceptional human qualities. Speaking about Prof. U.S. Rao, Dr. Anand said that he is not only a teacher par excellence with unmatched professional competence but is also an embodiment of humility. Dr. Anand admired Prof. V.E. Ramamoorthy as a rare genius who combines in him the professional ability in the areas of corporate and international finance with calm surrender to Bhagavan, and added that his example is worthy of emulation by one and all. Describing Prof. M. Nanjundaiah as a living legend, Dr. Anand observed that Prof. Nanjundaiah has adhered to Sai ideals for the last 40 years and has led an exemplary life in close proximity with Bhagavan while holding responsible positions in the Institute with aplomb. Dr. Anand concluded his speech with his feelings of admiration for Prof. Vishwanath Pandit who was his research guide. Professor Pandit, he said, is one of the topmost economists of the country who has dedicated his life to Bhagavan and who is a living example of simple living and high thinking.

In the end, Bhagavan showered His benedictions on the students and teachers in the following words:

Embodiments of Love! The senior professors have been teaching the students with great diligence and love. The students have therefore made great progress. The students should have good conduct; they should cultivate good qualities and earn a good name. This is what I expect from them. On being questioned by his father, young Prahlada replied:

*Father! The teachers have taught me many things, I have understood the four objectives of life – Dharma (righteousness), Artha (wealth), Kama (desire) and Moksha (liberation). I have studied many things; in fact, I have understood the very essence of education. (Telugu Poem)*

Education without love is of little worth. It is not possible to build a mansion without a strong foundation. It is the spiritual education which ensures a strong foundation for the mansion of life. At the same time, one should also acquire secular education which is required to eke out a livelihood in this world. One cannot live in society without acquiring secular education. One should therefore acquire the knowledge of various branches and fields of secular education also.

Students! You may acquire any type of education, but development of character is most important. *The end of education is character.* Bearing this truth always in your

mind, acquire education to any extent. First of all, be ideal yourself. Only then can you set an ideal to others. You will have the right to teach and correct others only after correcting yourself. Cherish the noble teachings imparted to you by your professors, put them into practice and find fulfilment in life.

This grand function came to a close at 9.40 a.m. with singing of National Anthem by all.

## **Foundation Day Function**

# **SRI SATHYA SAI DEENAJANODDHARANA PATHAKAM**

A FUNCTION to celebrate the foundation day of Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanoddharana Pathakam was held on 20th June 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall, showcasing the enormous progress made by the children under the guidance of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during the last four years. It showed that the children were not only well clad, well fed and well looked after, they had also made appreciable progress in the fields of education, culture and spirituality.

The programme started on the afternoon of 20th June 2006 with chanting of Vedic hymns by a group of these children after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. Thereafter, a 10th class student Suresh made a very impressive speech in English expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for the all-round development of the children and for giving them a new life. The confidence with which he spoke conveyed that destitute children could be groomed to become well-educated citizens if they were provided the right environment for their growth. After this speech, the children presented an excellent cultural programme on the teachings of Bhagavan and the cultural and spiritual heritage of Bharat. The delivery of the dialogues, the acting of the children, the rendering of songs and dances left no doubt in the minds of the viewers that these children were in no way behind the children of any prestigious educational institution. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the children and posed for group photos with them. This very enjoyable and impressive programme came to a close at 4.50 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## INDONESIA

On 27th May 2006, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake shook the area around Indonesia's ancient royal city of Yogyakarta on the island of Java. The earthquake destroyed 40,000 houses, left 60,000 people homeless and about 6,000 people were killed. The tectonic quake was centred in the Indian Ocean about 38 km to the south of Yogyakarta at a depth of 33 km under the ocean. The members of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia sprang into action to provide immediate relief to the earthquake victims. 22 Sai volunteers formed four teams and reached Yogyakarta the next day along with the much needed medicines.

On 28th May, medicines were distributed to two hospitals, namely, Dr. Sarjito hospital in Yogyakarta and Cakra Husada hospital in Klaten. Food and other items were distributed in nearby Klaten and Bantul areas. On 29th May, a stationary medical team provided medical service in the most stricken area of Bantul while a mobile medical team provided door-to-door medical aid. In Yogyakarta, a mobile food distribution team gave out ready-to-eat food. Meanwhile, one truck from Bali and two trucks from Jakarta with food and clothing reached the relief camps. 12 boxes of medicines, 40 plastic tents, 500 blankets, 360 sarongs, 240 pieces of clothing, 140 shirts, 15 packs of soap, 1,500 mosquito repellents, 40 boxes of instant noodles, 20 boxes of biscuits, 12 kerosene pressured lanterns, 10 boxes of baby's food and 300 towels came from Surabaya and were immediately despatched to the disaster areas.

On 30th May, ten youths from Bali coordinated the work of a food distribution and medical camp in Imogiri. A separate Sai team from Semarang started a public kitchen in Klaten and Prambanan. On 31st May and 1st June, more relief items arrived from Sai Centre in Jakarta and a public kitchen in Klaten was started. Totally, 5,660 kg of rice, 212 boxes of milk, 565 blankets, 47 boxes of toothpaste, 14 boxes of toothbrushes, 95 boxes of drinking water, 320 boxes of instant noodles, 13 boxes of baby food, 908 sarongs, 427 mats, 5000 pieces of clothing were distributed in Yogyakarta. At the end of the day, the strength of the Sai volunteers increased to 42. The Sai Study Group of Medan, Indonesia also joined in the relief work and helped the victims.

The relief aid by the selfless Sai volunteers is continuing in the month of June. True to the words "Love All, Serve All" of our Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the members of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia have risen to the occasion and performed a loving selfless service to the earthquake victims.

## CANADA



Sathya Sai devotees in Toronto conducted 4th Annual Walk for Values on 28th May 2006, in which over 3,000 participants walked the 4 km route. They carried banners, proclaiming Sathya Sai Human Values. At the formal proceedings of the Provincial Parliament, the event was praised by one of its members, Sri Balkissoon. Good wishes and appreciation were also conveyed by the Premiere of the Province of Ontario. Edmonton conducted its 4th Annual Walk for Values on 27th May 2006 which was inaugurated by Mayor Stephen Mandel. About 200 participants walked the 4.5 km long route. The event was covered by local media. Similar walks were held in Kingston with 66 participants and the national capital Ottawa with 43 participants.

### **J A P A N**

A public meeting was held in Tokyo in the La Bell Aurum Hall on 12th March 2006. About 400 people including five national assembly members attended the meeting. The meeting began with lighting a lamp and then a welcome address by the Ambassador of India to Japan. This was followed by Veda chanting by Japanese members of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Japan. The movie "His Work" was then screened. There were seven speakers. The first speaker was Smt. Setsuko Shibata, representative of Choosei School. She recalled her experiences of Divinity with Swami. The second speaker, Sri Ryuko Hira, Director of Japanese Institute of Sathya Sai Education, spoke of the divine inspiration and similarities between Bhagavan Baba and Buddha. The third speaker was Sri Genzo Makino, Deputy Chairman of Sathya Sai Organisation, Japan who presented messages from Swami. There was a brief interlude with Japanese Bhajans. The next two speakers were Sri Tomohisa Aota, the national youth coordinator who spoke on Swami's expectations of youth, and a stimulating speech by Sri Anantha Prakash, a former student of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on "What I learned from Sri Sathya Sai Baba." This was followed by a speech by Sri Sanzo Hosaka, Member of House of Councilors, who spoke of Bhagavan's tireless work of selfless service. The meeting concluded with speech on Sathya Sai Educare by Masahiro Fukai, Member of the Municipal Council. There was also an exhibition on 'His Teachings' and 'His Manifestations.' Overall, the meeting was very well received by the audience and some were even moved to tears by the descriptions of Sai activities.

### **B O S N I A A N D H E R Z E G O V I N A**

Three separate medical and veterinary camps were held in three cities: the first was in Kozarac on 18th February 2006 where over 200 patients were seen and 451 boxes of free medicines were distributed. The second was in Modrički Lug on 18th March 2006 in which 97 patients were seen, and the third medical camp was held in Bosanski Samac on 16th April 2006 in which 271 patients were seen. Screening, treatment and preventive healthcare were provided by specialists in internal medicine, psychiatry, neurology, gynaecology, ophthalmology, paediatrics, dentistry and physical therapy at these camps.

In addition, 466 school stationery packages, 38 lunch bags, washing detergent boxes, 18 boxes of clothes and shoes and food for 10 families were distributed in Kozarac. In Modrički Lug the medical camp was complemented by service where 70 packages of school stationery, 19 boxes of washing powder and 3 boxes of clothes were distributed to the needy.

The camp in Kozarac was attended by the President of Assembly of Municipality of Prijedor. In Bosanski Samac, the local newspaper and television interviewed the organisers of the camp. The villagers were very happy not only for the free medical care but also appreciated the warmth and compassion shown to them and wanted more such camps in the future.

### **R U S S I A A N D H U N G A R Y**

The European Sathya Sai Educare Institute (ESSEI) has been training Sathya Sai Education teachers in European countries for the last 13 years. In Russia alone, about 600 Sai devotees have been trained till date. From 5th-8th May 2006, the annual conference of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Zone 8 was held in St. Petersburg. Preceding the event, about 300 Russian teachers were trained by the ESSEI from 29th April – 4th May 2006. Of these, about 200 are able to train others and are set to conduct seminars in all eight regions of Russia. They use a training textbook and instructor's manual published by the ESSEI on Bhagavan Baba's teachings and human values translated into Russian. All participants receive certificates of graduation from the Director of the ESSE Institute, Dr. Thorbjørn Meyer, and the Central Coordinator for the Russian speaking countries, Sri Valery Olegovich Voschinin. The ESSEI also conducted a seminar in Budapest, Hungary from 26th-28th May 2006. This was an introductory seminar attended by 185 Hungarians interested in Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Education in Human Values. Such seminars will continue in February and April 2007.

### **V E N E Z U E L A A N D P A N A M A**

In Caracas, Venezuela, an ophthalmologic medical camp was held on 21st May 2006 in which nineteen senior citizens had cataract surgery, and ocular lens implants were inserted. The operations were carried out in a private eye hospital which had cooperated with the Sathya Sai Organisation previously. Sai doctors did all the operations, while devotees served delicious vegetarian meals to the patients and drove them to their homes. Many families were moved to tears because of the loving treatment they received completely free of charge. In Panama, the President and Vice President of the country have noticed the cataract operations done by the Sathya Sai Organisation. Together with the Minister of Public Health, they have offered the Sathya Sai Organisation space in the Santo Tomas hospital in Panama City to set up a Sathya Sai Eye Clinic for cataract operations. At present, many patients are sent to Cuba for surgery since the number of patients exceeds the current capacity to handle these cases. The Minister of

Public Health offered to sign a long-term contract with the Sathya Sai Organisation to provide ophthalmologic services.

### **S W I T Z E R L A N D**

About 150 people attended Easwaramma Day celebrations in Geneva on 6th May 2006. Sixteen children planned and executed a stellar programme consisting of a Dandia Raas dance, a drama on Sarva Dharma, a Qawali, and concluded it by Om Tat Sat prayer and Arati. During stage transitions, the children organised a quiz for the audience on Life and Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and distributed prizes. The organisational skills and public speaking experience from the celebrations were invaluable to the children.

### **S E R B I A A N D M O N T E N E G R O**

A grand Sai retreat of the former Yugoslavian countries was held from 28th April – 1st May 2006 in spa Vrujci, Serbia and Montenegro. About 200 Sai devotees attended the retreat. The opening talk was given by Alida Parkes, central coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Regions 61 and 62, Zone 6. She spoke of the importance of the Sathya Sai Organisation and how it was a vehicle for spiritual growth. The remainder of the retreat was filled with activities based on Swami's teachings including skits, Bhajans and inspiring brief talks. The participants felt the presence, warmth and grace of Swami.

### **U. S. A.**

A free medical camp for sheltered women was conducted on 8th April 2006 at Fort Wayne, a charming town located in the State of Indiana. During the camp, physicians saw 33 female patients for preventive healthcare and health education. Health education was provided on individual basis. This made the advice valuable as it addressed individual concerns. Health education was regarding hepatitis, AIDS, diabetes, breast cancer, osteoporosis, menopause, nutrition, smoking and alcohol. Screening was provided for asthma, dental health, osteoporosis, hypertension, mental health and vision. A total of 31 abnormalities were identified during the screening and these patients were appropriately referred for follow up. The camp was much appreciated by the Health Commissioner who expressed a desire to visit India to see Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

**– Prasanthi Council**

### **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** A summer retreat for 54 Deenajanoddharana Pathakam (project for destitute children) children from six districts of Andhra Pradesh, viz., Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, Khammam, Mahboobnagar and Medak was organised at Visakhapatnam from 8th May to 22nd May 2006. On arriving at Visakhapatnam, the children were lodged in comfortable rooms in Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar. Commencing the day's schedule at 6.00 a.m. with Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan, they were provided learning opportunities in hobbies like music and drawing and games like

throwball, kho-kho, ring tennis and volleyball. Senior Bal Vikas Gurus conducted Bal Vikas classes daily. Besides, they were shown devotional movies and activities of Prasanthi Nilayam on LCD Projector, and many cultural items were arranged for their entertainment and learning. They were taken to various places of tourist interest like Kailasgiri, Vuda Park, R.K. Beach and Simhachalam. They were also engaged in service activities undertaken by the Sai Organisation in various villages to make them realise the value of selfless service. At the conclusion of the summer retreat, each child was given many gift items.

Prakasam district distributed footwear to 70 needy persons and carried out Narayana Seva for 200 people at Kandukur town on 23rd April 2006. The district also distributed footwear to 72 poor students at Addanki town. It started a water distribution centre and carried out Narayana Seva for 108 persons at Markapur town. This district contributed subscriptions to Sanathana Sarathi magazine for 24 government libraries in the district for one year.

Visakhapatnam district helped fire victims in Gollalapalem village by arranging lunch for all affected people and gave 10 kg rice to each of the 43 families and distributed blankets to 12 old people. This district carried out sanitation work, distributed drinking water to thousands of pilgrims, maintained a footwear keeping centre and helped smooth distribution of Prasadam at famous Simhachalam pilgrim centre on 30th April 2006.

Saroornagar Samithi of Hyderabad district conducted a meeting in connection with Easwaramma Day celebrations on 6th May 2006 to enlighten the public on the necessary care for pregnant women, in which 90 pregnant women took part. They were examined by expert doctors and were provided with necessary vitamins and protein food. Cultural programmes by Bal Vikas children were also arranged on this occasion.

Nizamabad district arranged summer water distribution centres at Nizamabad, Kama Reddy, Bodhan and Mortad towns, and adopted three old poor couples to provide necessary food provisions. It carried out free marriages of 48 couples including three Muslim couples at Nizamabad on 14th May 2006 in a very grand way. The couples were given gold Mangal Sutas, two pairs of clothes, kitchenware, a suitcase, bedsheets, mats, etc. Sumptuous lunch for 600 people was arranged on this occasion.

Ranga Reddy district gave school uniforms to 29 girls and 31 boys after conducting free tutorial classes for selected students from slum areas near Alwal on 21st May 2006. The district also distributed 1,000 notebooks and 20 slates.

Vizianagaram district got 190 cataract patients examined in Saluru village and took up the follow-up work, arranged parents meeting in connection with Bal Vikas year activities in Baba Metta village on 2nd May 2006. This district built Sri Sathya Sai Bus Shelter at Kottam road junction which was inaugurated on 10th May 2006.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** The newly-constructed and spacious Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Nilayam, Guwahati was the venue of two-day State Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation – Assam, Manipur and N.E. States on the 30th April and 1st May 2006. 164 representatives from Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland besides the host State of Assam deliberated on the future 5-year action plan and programmes of the Organisation. The State President presided over the Conference attended by all the main functionaries and asked the State Coordinators and District Presidents to outline their plans for achieving the objectives of the Sai Mission. For the first time, the meet was practically thrown open to all serious devotees in order to achieve wider participation. A number of past students of Bhagavan's educational institutions from North-eastern States and a few presently studying at Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan Campuses were introduced to the gathering. A few of them shared their intimate experiences with Bhagavan to the great delight of the devotees. An inspiring aura of optimism hung in the air as speaker after speaker enthusiastically expressed his resolution to move forward on his/her chosen path. The two-day meet finalised the action plan and concluded with the State President calling upon the Sai devotees to improve the quality of life of the common people.

To create greater awareness of the Divine Mission of Bhagavan, a big Sadhana Camp attended by the local people besides the Sai devotees was held on 22nd April 2006 at Guwahati under the aegis of Sri Sathya Sai Samithi of Guwahati. This marked the beginning of the first step of the 5-year action plan of the Organisation. Various facets of Bhagavan's Divine Mission were discussed, and it was stressed that more and more people should be involved in Sai activities, specially from rural areas. Besides other speakers, some former students of Bhagavan's institutions also addressed the gathering. The Sadhana Camp came to a close with a brief talk on Bhagavan's Mission specially for students by the State President and offering Arati to Bhagavan by a Primary School student of Bhagavan's Institute.

**Gujarat:** A Disaster Management Training Camp was organised at Baroda for 2 days on 8th and 9th April 2006 in which 100 youth were provided training. Necessary disaster management equipment kits have been distributed at zonal level for quick action in case of any disaster.

A State-level Seva Sadhana workshop was conducted on 14th and 15th April 2006 at Navsari, in which approximately 1,500 devotees took part. The subjects of the workshop included blood donation, Bhajans, study circle, Veda chanting, Sri Sathya Sai Avatar Darshan, Sathya Sai parenting, etc.

A programme of mass marriages of 41 couples (35 Hindu and 6 Muslims) was organised at Dhamdhuma (an interior village) by the Sai Organisation of Gujarat. The marriage ceremony was conducted as per the Hindu and Muslim traditions and rituals. All the 41

newly married couples were provided gifts of utensils, clothes, ornaments and other necessary household items. The function received wide media coverage.

**Haryana and Chandigarh:** To spread the message of Bhagavan on Unity, Purity and Divinity, workshops based on World Conference held at Prasanthi Nilayam in November 2005, were held in all districts of State at various places wherein 1,210 active workers participated and benefited.

Multifaceted medical camps were held in the various districts of the State. In Chandigarh, 1,020 patients, in Karnal 250 patients, in Hissar 250 patients and in Panchkula 100 patients were examined. Free medicines were provided to all the 1620 patients.

The State conducted two veterinary camps in Hissar district in which 12 doctors provided free tests with free medicines for 466 animals.

Cleanliness drive was undertaken in the State at various places in which hospitals, homes, temples and Gurdwaras were visited; their premises and public toilets were cleaned.

**Karnataka:** Indiranagar (Bangalore) Samithi of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka organised an excellent programme at Brindavan on 31st May 2006. The programme commenced with Bhajans led by the ladies and gents devotees of this Samithi after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 7.35 a.m. This was followed by Veda chanting by the devotees of this Sai Samithi. Thereafter, Sri S.N.S. Murthy, Convener of the Samithi expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for His permission to organise this function in His Divine Presence and prayed to Him to unveil the portrait of Mother Easwaramma to mark the declaration of the first floor of Sai Darshan (headquarters of the Samithi) as Easwaramma Hall where this portrait was proposed to be installed. Bhagavan graciously unveiled the portrait placed on the dais amidst beautiful floral and other decorations. Simultaneously, the ladies Bhajan singers of Sai Darshan sang a beautiful Bhajan, "*Amba Vandanam Easwaramma Vandanam*" in praise of the Divine Mother. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.20 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in the end.

Bal Vikas children of Indiranagar Sai Samithi presented a drama portraying the women characters of the Ramayana in the evening in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. The drama began after the arrival of Bhagavan in Kalyana Mandapam at 4.40 p.m. Starting with the episode of Manthara poisoning the ears of Kaikeyi to prevent Rama's coronation as heir to the kingdom of Ayodhya, the drama ended with the episode of Rama's return to Ayodhya from exile and His coronation as the king of Ayodhya. The women characters portrayed through various episodes enacted by the children included Manthara, Kaikeyi, Sita, Sumitra, Kausalya, Urmila, Sabari, Tara and Mandodari. The drama concluded at 5.50 p.m. with Arati and distribution of Prasadam.

A three-day exhibition intended to convey Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message of Educare was held in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam between Wednesday, the 24th and Friday, the 26th of May at Brindavan. The exhibition attracted considerable attention from a large number of visitors. Bhagavan graced the occasion by His visit to the exhibition on the morning of 24th May to signify the inauguration of the event. He went round the exhibition and evinced keen interest in the posters and exhibits displayed. The exhibition contained a display of around 80 computer-generated posters and other exhibits to underline the message of Educare. The Kalyana Mandapam was tastefully decorated in anticipation of Bhagavan's visit.

**Kerala:** As in the previous years, the Organisation arranged summer camps for selected Bal Vikas children. These were activity-based three-day camps arranged in all the 14 districts of Kerala. The total number of children who participated in these camps was 1,028.

Another important activity was "Mahila Sangamams" which were conducted in all the districts of the State on 23rd April 2006. 1,964 ladies participated in this full-day programme.

Technology groups have been organised in almost all the districts of the State. They are concentrating on agricultural sector, health education and rain water harvesting. Provision for pure drinking water is another aspect of the work.

Sai parental sessions and teachers training camps are arranged regularly. In one district alone, the educational institutions covered under Sri Sathya Sai Educare programme is 60. A group of teachers is now working on details of integrated teaching and teaching techniques.

**Rajasthan:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Kota has adopted village Kolipura inhabited by 45 very poor Bhil (a forest tribe) families. These families are being provided with complete food provisions along with clothes, shoes, dresses and books for school-going children. Four hand pumps have been repaired. Their huts have been provided with covering sheets to protect them from rain and heat. There are plans to connect this village with Kota by a 40-km-long road. Arrangements are also being made to provide electrical connections and to improve their means of livelihood.

Festival of Joy was organised in Sanjharia, a village 30 km from Jaipur. In this village, Sai Horizon Public School having 550 students is taken care of by the devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Jaipur. Regular spiritual education is imparted in this school. 40 children of this school had attended the Festival of Joy held at Prasanthi Nilayam in October 2005. Inspired by this programme, a 4-hour-long programme of Veda recitation, Bhajans, songs, cultural programmes and speeches was organised. 101 children presented the programme. 300 students, 200 parents, village people and prominent guests attended.

**Tamil Nadu:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu has made considerable progress in the area of Disaster Management Training. To put it briefly:

- ☐ All the 24 districts have been covered.
- ☐ Basic equipment has been provided to 15 districts.
- ☐ In all, 770 volunteers have been imparted training.
- ☐ The district teams of Virudhunagar, Tanjore, Salem and Erode are fully operational.
- ☐ This training came in handy during tsunami operations and the teams did a marvellous job.
- ☐ Emphasis is on innovative ideas of rescue, using locally available materials.
- ☐ In Tirunelveli district, four of our trained youth acted promptly in the middle of the night and put out a fire, thereby saving 200 families and earned the appreciation of the village leaders.

Taking this programme further on to the youth in colleges as Disaster Awareness, a new dimension has been added to it. So far, 665 college students have been imparted training. Separate training sessions were held for girls students by ladies trainers. The level of self-confidence in the youth has considerably increased.

Through this programme, the Organisation is able to reach out to more and more young people of all regions and religions and with Bhagavan's grace, it can bring in tremendous transformation in them.

## **NOTICE**

The donors are requested to mention their name and complete address while sending donation cheques/drafts to enable us to accept the same. These details can be furnished in the covering letter or on the reverse of the cheque/draft. In the absence of the name and complete address of the donor, we will not be able to accept the donation.

We also cannot accept donations from unregistered organisations.

*Secretary*  
**Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust**



## **CHINNA KATHA**

# **What is the Greatest Dharma?**

KASI is a sacred centre of pilgrimage. Lakhs of devotees visit this holy place of Lord Siva with great faith and devotion. It is their belief that by their pilgrimage to Kasi, they will earn the merit to reach Kailas and attain freedom from the cycle of birth and death. Once on a Sivarathri day, seeing the multitudes going for the Darshan of Lord Visweswara at Kasi, Parvati asked Siva, “Lord, do all those who visit Kasi earn the merit of coming to Kailas? Will all these people come to Kailas?” Lord Siva replied, “It is not possible for all the pilgrims of Kasi to come to Kailas. I will show you here and now what type of people from amongst them can come to Kailas. Just see.”

Siva and Parvati assumed the forms of an old couple, Parvati as an old woman of eighty years and Siva as an old man of ninety. Both of them came to the main entrance of the temple of Lord Visweswara. Parvati sat there keeping her husband’s head in her lap. She begged all the devotees who were entering the temple, “Oh devotees, will anyone of you be kind enough to pour some Ganga water in my husband’s mouth to quench his thirst? He is in such a dire state that he may die any moment. I cannot leave him alone and go to fetch water. Kindly help me.”

After taking bath in the Ganga, the devotees in their wet clothes were carrying Ganga water in small vessels into the temple. On hearing the old woman’s lament, some of them remarked, “Oh, what a nuisance! We have come for the Darshan of Lord Visweswara, but this Daridra Devata (goddess of poverty) is coming in our way.” “Wait, we will have Lord Visweswara’s Darshan first and then we will pour water into your husband’s mouth”, some went away saying this. In this manner, none paid any attention to her request.

As there was a big crowd of people near the main entrance of the temple, a thief came there with the intention of picking the pockets of people and snatching the necklaces of women from their necks. On hearing the old woman’s lament, he asked her, “Mother, who you are? What makes you come here?” The old woman replied, “We came here to

have the Darshan of Lord Visweswara. But my husband has fainted due to intense thirst. I am begging everyone to pour some water into his mouth. But nobody has shown any compassion towards us.”

As the thief was ready to pour water from the dried bottle gourd he was carrying, the woman said, “Son, wait a bit. My husband may die any moment. Kindly speak about any meritorious deed that you have performed before pouring water into his mouth. This is my desire.” Then she cautioned him that he should not speak untruth. The thief did not know what to do. But he spoke thus, “Mother, I am a thief by profession and have committed only sinful deeds so far. I have not done a single good deed. This act of pouring water into this old man’s mouth is the only good deed I can claim to have performed.” With these words, he poured water into the mouth of the old man.

That very moment, Lord Siva and Parvati appeared before him in their real form and said to him, “Son, human life is meant for the service of others, not for leading a life of selfishness. Though you have done many sinful deeds in the past, today you have done a noble act of service with the feeling of serving others. You have spoken the truth. From now onwards lead a sacred life. There is no greater Dharma than adherence to truth, and no worship greater than serving others.” Blessing him thus, they disappeared.

The harder the circumstances, the more trying the environment, the stronger are the men who come out of those circumstances. So, welcome all these outside troubles and anxieties.

– Baba

## **One Divine Family**

The realisation that the whole of mankind is one divine family is the means to understand the basis of society. It is because society is a

manifestation of the divine purpose that individuals are enjoined to realise the Divine through living in society and not by getting away from it. The link between social life and spiritual life is not a casual connection. Social life is the very basis of spiritual life. Between the cosmos and man, there is a divine link.

– Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

### Back Cover Matter

#### *God is Your Guru*

Have the Name of God on your tongue, in your breath, ever. That will invoke His form, as the inner core of every thing, thought or turn of events. That will provide you with His company, and contact with His unfailing energy and bliss. That is the Satsanga (good association) which gives you maximum benefit. Converse with God who is in you; derive courage and consolation from Him. He is the Guru most interested in your progress.

- Baba

**AUGUST 2006**

**DIVINE DISCOURSE:  
KERALA YOUTH CAMP**

## **SELFLESS SERVICE TO SOCIETY IS TRUE SADHANA**

*All names and forms are the manifestations of the Supreme Being who is the embodiment of peace and auspiciousness. He is Existence, Knowledge, Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).*

*(Sanskrit Verse)*

*Embodiments of Love!*

IT makes Me immensely happy to see that you have been experiencing bliss during the last three days. Three days have passed like three minutes (*loud applause*). Your hearts are full of devotion, bliss and steadfast faith.

### **Associate yourself only with Good Company**

Vyakti (individual) is a part of Samashti (society). Samashti is an aspect of Srishti (creation) which has emerged from Parameshti (God). It is therefore the duty of every individual to undertake sacred and selfless service of society. True society is constituted by such individuals. All actions of man should be devoted to the service of society. All are the members of the same society. Though the individuals are different, they are endowed with the same heart. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings).

This is a blank paper. If you pack vegetables in it, it will acquire the smell of vegetables. If you pack fruits like plantain in it, it will acquire the smell of plantain. If you pack dry fish in it, it will emit the smell of dry fish. The paper has no smell of its own; it absorbs the smell of the substance that you pack in it. Man by nature is pure and sacred. But he acquires evil qualities by associating himself with bad company. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* If you tell what type of people you are associated with, I can tell you the type of person you are. It is therefore necessary that you associate yourself with good people in all your activities. It is the company that makes you good or bad. Therefore, keep away from bad company. Join the company of those who have a pure heart and sacred feelings. Man is a part of society. The evils that are present in society are the result of evils of individuals who constitute it. Similarly, the evils of society affect the individual. The entire creation is divine. All are essentially sacred. One's behaviour may, however, undergo change due to the impact of the environment.

### **Differences in Society are Created by Man**

Man is endowed with Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths), Panchendriyas (five senses) and Panchabhutas (five elements). The five elements are present in man in the form of the

senses of Sabda (sound), Sparsha (touch), Rupa (form), Rasa (taste) and Gandha (smell). We will have the type of experience according to the type of path we follow. Therefore, we should associate with good people, earn a good name and lead a good life. Fill your heart with pure and divine feelings. These are the qualities that Buddha was endowed with. Buddha declared: *Dharmam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in righteousness), *Sathyam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in truth). All our endeavours should be based on Sathya and Dharma. Even if you come across bad people, see only good in them. The same God is the indweller of all beings. People attribute many names to God like Allah, Jesus, Rama, Krishna, etc., but God is one. Do not observe any difference between the different names of God. There are many sweets like Laddu, Jilebi, Mysore Pak, but they have the same essential ingredient of sugar in them. Names and forms may vary, but the Atma is the same in all. Rama and Krishna were not born with these names; they were given these names by their parents. God does not come down with any particular name. *Nirgunam, Niranjana, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (God is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). It is the people who attribute names and forms to God and develop differences on that basis extolling one form and condemning the other.

Do not be carried away by names and forms. Rely on the principle of the Atma which is formless. The Atma is the embodiment of bliss. *Nityanandam, Parama Sukhadam, Kevalam Jnanamurtim, Dwandwateetam, Gagana Sadrisham, Tattwamasyadi Lakshyam, Ekam, Nityam, Vimalam, Achalam, Sarvadhee Sakshibhutam, Bhavateetam, Trigunarahitam* (The Atma is the embodiment of eternal bliss, wisdom absolute, beyond the pair of opposites, expansive and pervasive like the sky, the goal indicated by the Mahavakya Tattwamasi, one without a second, eternal, pure, unchanging, witness of all functions of the intellect, beyond all mental conditions and the three attributes of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas.) Differences arise when we attribute different names to the Atma. These differences are created by you, not by God. God is the embodiment of love and truth. *Truth is God. Love is God. Live in Love.* Fill your heart with love and lead a life of love. Love everyone because God is present in all in the form of love. There is no one in this world without love. Love may appear to have many forms, but in reality it is only one.

### **Fill all your Actions with Love**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Whomsoever you see, consider him as the embodiment of Atmic principle. Do not be carried away by what others say. Whatever people may say about you, consider that it is good for you. When you develop your thinking like that, everything will become good for you. Even if someone criticises you, do not be afraid of it. Face it with courage. Fill your heart with courage. Walk on the path of truth and love with courage. Love is most sacred. It is the form of God. If you hate love, it is equivalent to hating God. There is no other name of God except love.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

In the last three days, the songs you sang and the activities you performed gave bliss to one and all (*loud applause*). You have waited for this opportunity for a long time and today your aspirations have found fulfilment. Your love and your Sadhana will never go

waste. Love remains as love and truth remains as truth. Whatever activity you undertake, fill it with love. When you give food to a beggar, do it with love. Do not entertain disgust, anger or hatred towards anyone. If you perform all your actions with love, that is true devotion. Some people do Japa, chanting Ram, Ram, Ram. As they turn the beads of the rosary, their mind also roams everywhere. That is no Japa. The name of Rama should fill your heart with delight. You will be able to visualise the divine form of Rama when you chant His name wholeheartedly with closed eyes. *Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram* (Chant the name of Rama with heart full of love). The name of God should be imprinted on your heart.

God is the embodiment of love and beyond all attributes. It is only your imagination that assigns attributes to God. Desire, anger, hatred, greed, jealousy and pride are your own creation; they have not come from God. God always blesses you with love. You look at an object and want to possess it. That is due to your covetousness. God has nothing to do with it. God is absolutely desireless. Some people even try to hoodwink God by superimposing their desires on Him. They accuse God by attributing to Him what is not there in Him. In spite of that, God always loves you. Attain the love of God through love. Similarly, attain truth through truth. When you lead your life in such a manner, that is true Sadhana. Going to a forest and sitting in solitude is not true Sadhana. Live in society and serve it selflessly, thinking that you are serving God. When you serve somebody in distress, consider that you are serving God Himself. There is no place where God is not there. Everything is pervaded by divinity. There is divinity in this cloth, microphone and, in fact, in everything in this world. From the worldly point of view, you may call this a cloth, but when you develop divine vision, you will see God in everything. The cloth is made of threads and threads come from cotton. Without cotton, there can be no threads and without threads there can be no cloth. Just as cotton is the fundamental basis of cloth, God is the fundamental basis of this world. There is no place in this world where God is not there. Wherever you look, He is there.

### **Recognise your True Identity**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

You are all embodiments of love; you are all embodiments of divinity. Do not go anywhere in search of God. When you close your eyes and enquire, you will see God in yourself. People undertake many kinds of spiritual practices. All these spiritual practices lead to the same goal. As all the rivers ultimately merge in the ocean, the prayers of all will reach God. Do not consider yourself merely a human being. You are the embodiment of love. When you ask someone his / her name, he / she may say Ramaiah or Lakshmamma. They are not born with these names; they are given these names by their parents. All other names keep changing. There is only one name that does not change and that is 'I'. When somebody asks you, "Who are you?", you should say with conviction, "I am I". You have no other name or form except this. You should develop this spirit of oneness. Do not identify yourself with the name given to your body. Your real name is 'I', 'I', 'I'. 'I' is the ultimate reality which remains with you for ever. So long as you have the body, people may call you by your name. When the body is gone, what happens to the name? In fact, you are not one person; you are three: the one you think you are, the one others think you are, the one you really are.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

You are all filled with love, devotion and truth. Therefore, you are all embodiments of God. Never forget love. Imprint it on your heart and assimilate it. Do not feel bad that Swami did not speak to you during the last three days. Swami was always ready to speak to you. But the organisers did not provide any opportunity for Swami to speak. Otherwise, I would have spoken to you on all these three days at length (*loud applause*). I am happy to receive the love of all of you. It is your good fortune that you are the recipients of My love. The bond of love is the only relationship between you and Swami. All are born in love, are sustained by love and live in love. Never forget love; imprint it on your heart.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram ...*” and continued the Discourse.)

It is out of love for you that I have given this Discourse and sang the Bhajan. Your love is reflected in Me and My love is reflected in you. I accept your love and shower My love on all of you. Love is most important for all. Love is the binding force between all of us. Without love there can be no relationship, not even between mother and child. The love that exists between you and Swami is greater than even the love that exists between a mother and her children. Swami wishes you a happy and blissful life.

– **From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan, Whitefield (Bangalore) on 21st May 2006 on the occasion of the Kerala Youth Camp.**

## **Guru Purnima at Prasanthi Nilayam**

### **TRIBUTES TO THE DIVINE TEACHER**

IN the holy festival of Guru Purnima, a mammoth gathering of devotees from India and various parts of the world thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to pay their homage to their Sadguru Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. On this happy and holy occasion, many Sai organisations from India and overseas countries offered their tributes to Him through music and cultural presentations in Sai Kulwant Hall.

#### **GURU PURNIMA FUNCTION**

On the morning of Guru Purnima, i.e., 11th July 2006, Bhagavan came to the richly decorated Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.15 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants and sweet Nadaswaram notes by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the huge concourse of devotees in the Hall on this auspicious occasion, Bhagavan came to the verandah of the Hall, where He cut the cake and lighted candles on it amidst a thunderous applause of the devotees.

As soon as Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the Institute students commenced the recitation of Guru Stotras (hymns in praise of Guru). These sacred chants filled the milieu with divine vibrations for nearly 20 minutes. At the conclusion of these chants, the benevolent act of distribution of hand-driven cycle rickshaws to 51 physically challenged persons was performed. This was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh. Among the beneficiaries were 41 needy men and 10 women selected from the various parts of Andhra Pradesh. As their names were announced, they came one by one before Bhagavan, offered their salutations to Him and received His blessings along with the

cycle rickshaw. Clothes and Vibhuti packets blessed by Bhagavan were also distributed to all of them. This programme concluded at 8.15 a.m. Soul-elevating Bhajans led by the Institute students started after this, providing the blissful experience of Bhajan singing for nearly half an hour to the mammoth gathering of devotees in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan. The morning programme came to a close with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 8.45 a.m.

## **CULTURAL AND MUSIC PROGRAMMES**

### **Guru Purnima Concert**

Sai Symphony Orchestra presented their Guru Purnima concert as part of Guru Purnima celebrations on the afternoon of 11th July 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. More than 60 musicians from 22 countries presented this scintillating music programme conducted by Sri Klaus Maurer of Switzerland. The programme, which commenced with the sweet tune of the Hindi devotional song, “Murali Krishna, Mukunda Krishna ...”, consisted of eight selected compositions of famous musicians, viz., Karl Maria von Weber, Franz Lehar, George Frideric Handel, Gioacchino Antonio Rossini, Charles Gounod, N. Rimsky Korsakov, Giuseppe Verdi and Edward Elgar. The instruments used were: violin, viola, cellos, bass, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, French horn, English horn, keyboard harp, timpani, cymbals, tambour and percussion. The presentation was a fine treat for the connoisseurs of music. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan went into the rows of the artistes and showered His blessings on them. The programme which commenced at 2.35 p.m. came to a close at 3.50 p.m.

### **Abhinayanjali: Dance Programme by the Institute Students**

Unity of the entire creation, power of the Divine Name, divine effulgence piercing the darkness of delusion were some of the themes expressed in the dance items presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on the afternoons of 6th July and 10th July 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba. Symbolising the dance of the creation to the tune of its Creator, the dances displayed the inalienable link between God and man. The perfection with which the students depicted these exalted themes in their movements, songs and music on both the days earned the appreciation of one and all and the blessings of Bhagavan.

### **Sacred Chants by Buddhist Monks**

The holy precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam were made holier when eighteen Tibetan Buddhist monks from a monastery near Mysore chanted five sacred Buddhist Mantras for peace and harmony of the world in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the afternoon of 9th July 2006 at Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme commenced in Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.00 p.m. with introductory comments on the inner significance of these sacred Mantras by two children, a 13-year-old boy Ong Sai Keet and an 18-year-old girl Fong Sook Ling from Malaysia. The chanting of these Mantras emitted powerful vibrations which created an elevating effect on the audience. In accordance with the Tibetan religious tradition, the chanting was concluded with dedications, and the merits generated by the chanting were dedicated to all the beings in all the worlds. Traditional offerings were made to Bhagavan before the beginning and at the conclusion of the sacred chants. These included five Katas (coloured silk cloth), a traditional Chinese offering to express reverence. The programme came to a close at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all at the end of this most elevating programme.



### **God Lives in India**

This musical concert was presented by Bailey Sisters of the USA and their troupe in Sai Kulwant Hall on 10th July 2006 in Bhagavan's Divine Presence. The wording of the devotional songs, their excellent rendering in mellifluous voice and sweetness of music created a lasting effect on the audience. In all, five beautiful songs were presented, each song earning the applause and appreciation of the huge gathering. The programme which began at 4.25 p.m. came to a close at 5.00 p.m.

### **Be a Star in God's Heaven: A Drama**

This excellent drama was presented by the Bal Vikas children of Jakarta, Indonesia on 12th July 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam. The drama commenced at 4.15 p.m. with a sweet song, offering salutations to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Another song accompanied by a rhythmic dance by children described the significance of Duty, Devotion, Discipline, Discrimination and Determination for man's redemption as taught by Bhagavan. This was followed by a magnificent enactment of the story of Dhruva who attained immortality by practising these five values steadfastly. The concluding song and dance was a prayer to the Lord: "Oh Lord! Make me a flower in Your garden, make me a star in Your heaven." It also expressed the resolve of the children to become little stars in Bhagavan's Divine Mission to spread light of love in the world. Superb acting of the children, beautiful songs, sweet music and perfect direction made this drama an outstanding presentation and a befitting tribute to the Sadguru of the world, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the children at the end of the drama. He also posed for photographs with them.

### **The Power of One: A Drama**

This drama was enacted by the students of the Sathya Sai School, Toronto, Canada on 13th July 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam. Dedicated as an offering of love, reverence and gratitude to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, it traced the history of the school and highlighted its impact on students, parents and society at large. Through appropriate dialogues and songs, the children also described how this school was unique as it integrated values, education and academic excellence within the mainstream Canadian School System. Bhagavan graced the occasion by His Divine Presence, and also posed for photographs with children at the end of the drama.

### **From I to We to He: A Drama**

On the inaugural day of the three-day International Conference on "Next Generation Information Technologies for Societal Advancement and Integration" conducted by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMACS) of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in the Institute Auditorium from 15th to 17th July 2006, the students of the Institute presented a drama entitled "From I to We to He" in Sai Kulwant Hall. Based on the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba that information must be transformed into knowledge and ultimately to wisdom, the drama underlined the need for ethics, morality and fair play, particularly in the modern corporate world, and highlighted the role of sacrifice, selfless service and spirituality in all endeavours of man.

Interspersed with thematic songs and a couple of skits, the drama underlined the need for man to understand the inalienable link between Vyashti, Samashti, Srishti and Parameshti

(individual, society, creation and the Creator) as taught by Bhagavan. The drama which began at 3.45 p.m. came to a close with a group song at 4.45 p.m.

### **Awakening the Inner Light**

The Sathya Sai Organisation of Japan presented this illuminating programme comprising a traditional Japanese dance, a short skit on the significance of Veda chanting, recitation of Vedic hymns and Bhajan singing in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the afternoon of 20th July 2006.

The programme began with a traditional Japanese dance which is performed as a prayer to ancestors for the health of the people and prosperity of society. It was beautifully presented by the Bal Vikas children of Japan. This was followed by a very educative skit on Veda chanting entitled “Vedas: the Breath of Truth”. Depicting how the chanting of Vedas started in Japan in the year 2004 by the grace of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the skit focused on the inner significance of Veda chanting and the universality of the Vedic wisdom. Bhagavan keenly watched this programme and also materialised a gold ring for one of the performers. Thereafter, the ladies devotees of Japan chanted the following hymns from the Vedas with accurate pronunciation and perfect rhythm: Ganapati Prarthana, Narayana Upanishad and Mantra Pushpam. The concluding programme was that of Bhajan singing. Gents and ladies devotees of Japan alternately led the Bhajans, singing the glory of God and expressing it in the beauty of the Japanese language.

### **Devotional Music Programmes**

A magnificent programme of devotional music was presented by the students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music on 18th July 2006. The programme commenced at 4.00 p.m. in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The first part of the programme was devoted to the devotional songs on the glory of Lord Rama and the Sankirtan of His Divine Name. This was followed by a couple of excellent classical musical presentations. The programme concluded with a soul-elevating solo presentation of instrumental music on sitar by one of the students of the Music College. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the students. He also materialised a gold chain for the student who presented sitar recital.

Soul-stirring devotional songs and Bhajans comprised the programme of devotional music presented by the Brindavan Bhajan Group of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka on 23rd July 2006. Commencing with a sweet composition in praise of Lord Ganesh, the singers presented the musical ensemble entitled “Geet Maalika” filling each heart with devotion and bliss. After singing ten beautiful songs, they rendered Bhajans. Soul-elevating solo songs followed this. The programme which began at 3.20 p.m. continued up to 5.00 p.m. Bhagavan blessed the singers in the end and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for one of the members of this group for his solo vocal presentation.

**DIVINE DISCOURSE:**

**2nd MAY 2006**

**DO NOT BURDEN YOURSELF**

# WITH LIMITLESS DESIRES

*Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema are the pillars of Sanathana Dharma. Without imbibing these values, the acquisition of all education, performance of all acts of charity and undertaking of all spiritual practices is of little worth. What else is to be conveyed to this assembly of noble souls? (Telugu Poem)*

*Embodiments of Love!*

WHAT is the meaning of Avatar (incarnation of God)? It connotes the combination of Divine Consciousness with human consciousness. Man is the combination of body, mind, intellect and consciousness. God, who is the embodiment of love, assumes human form to establish identity with man so as to bring about transformation in him through love. God descends on earth and involves Himself in the affairs of the world to teach and guide man and to put him on the right path. Here is a small example.

## **Do not Superimpose Human Qualities on Avatars**

Once the Gopikas approached Yashoda and complained to her, “Mother! Krishna came to our house and broke our pots of curd and milk.” Some other Gopikas came and complained to Yashoda that Krishna entered their house at midnight and tied the plaits of one Gopika with the other. When Yashoda chided Krishna for these mischievous acts, Krishna said to His mother, “Mother! You know that I was sleeping by your side all through the night. Then you only tell how I could go to their houses at midnight.” Yashoda realised that what Krishna said was true. Obviously, the Gopikas were telling lies, she thought. There is a difference between human consciousness and divine consciousness. If the divine pranks of child Krishna were to be analysed from the spiritual angle, the earthen pots represent the human body. Hence, breaking of the pots denotes denouncing Dehabhranti (delusion caused by body attachment). Not realising this deeper meaning behind the seemingly childish pranks of Krishna, the Gopikas complained against Him to Yashoda.

Later, the Gopikas realised the true nature of Krishna and prayed to Him, “Oh! Krishna! You are the embodiment of bliss, free from Trigunas (Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas) and duality and beyond the ken of human mind. It was our mistake to superimpose human qualities on You. Whatever complaints we made against You to Your mother were caused by our ignorance. Oh Swami! Kindly pardon us and take us into Your fold.” Krishna then pardoned all of them and explained to them the principle of oneness, saying, “You are not different from Me. You and I are one.” Thus, when we develop faith in the principle of oneness, our lives will be sanctified.

Man is endowed with the body and the mind, both of which breed Kama and Krodha (desire and anger). But God has neither desire nor anger. God does not have even an iota of worldly desires or aspirations. Whatever God does, whatever He sees and says is all for the good of the devotees, and not for Himself. When God incarnates on earth in human form, He behaves like a human being only. He may make somebody cry, make some other laugh and indulge in playful pranks with yet another. Seeing all these seemingly human acts, people are deluded to treat the Avatar as an ordinary human being. In fact, what could be the reason for God to descend on the earth with a human form? It is only to set an ideal for man and lead him on the path of righteousness.

**Unity and Equality are the Hallmarks of Human Society**

When someone asks your name, the usual reply would be: “My name is Ranganna or Somanna”, etc. But, these names are given to you by your parents. They are not your true names. In fact, when someone asks your name, you should reply, “I am I”. This is your true name. This ‘I’ is present in every individual. That is the Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self). Excepting this, all other names are only imaginary. This implies that God is immanent in every human being, nay, every living being. All are the embodiments of God. *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many). It is the One that has assumed all forms. *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). This should be the realisation of each individual. This realisation is the basis of the unity of Vyashti (individual), Samashti (society), Srishti (creation) and Parameshti (God). Without Srishti, there can be no Samashti, and without Samashti, there can be no Vyashti. But who is Vyashti? He is the embodiment of divinity which is present in all. Therefore, society, which is the conglomeration of individuals, is the collective form of divinity. Hence, all are equal in society. No distinction can be made as high or low. Whomever you ridicule, it amounts to ridiculing yourself. It is only your reflection that you see in him. It is only the resound that you hear. One has to realise this truth and develop the feeling of oneness. The names Rama and Krishna were given to the Avatars by their parents. When God incarnated in the past, He did not proclaim that He was Rama or Krishna. These names were given to the Avatars after their incarnation and not before. Names and forms are merely the marks of distinction of individuals in society.

You need not search for God anywhere. When someone asks you, “Where is God?”, you should say with confidence, “I am God.” People build temples and buildings with brick and mortar and install idols of God in them. In fact, God is firmly installed in the hearts of all human beings, nay, all living beings. It is only to explain this truth that Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita declared, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). It is possible to realise this truth by adhering to the five human values of Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Where are these human values? They are not outside. All of them are within you only. It is most unfortunate that you search them outside, while they are very much within you. As long as you search for the reflections outside, you will not be able to recognise the object within. Divinity is immanent in you. Hence, you should consider yourself divine and proclaim, “I am God”. Then, you will not have any fear or anxiety or delusion. So long as you do not realise your divinity within, you cannot get rid of body attachment.

There is no need to go on pilgrimages to search for God. God is present everywhere. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, God permeates the entire universe). Wherever you see, God is present there. There is no place where God is not present. There is no form which does not belong to Him. Man searches for God, thinking that He is at some distant place. But God is in front of you, behind you, beside you. All are the embodiments of God. However, you do not consider the people around you as embodiments of divinity. You look at their form and consider them as mere human beings. Forget the form. Be firmly established in the feeling that wherever you see it is God only. It is only He who provides everything for our sustenance. Hence, whatever work you undertake, consider it as God’s work and dedicate it to Him. If you perform your actions as an offering to God, they will turn out to

be pure and sacred. God is not somewhere in a distant corner. You are God. You are society. You are the world. You are the sky. You are the earth. You are the stars. You are everything. Hence, develop the feeling, "I am everything." You see duality in the world since you go by names and forms. If you see beyond names and forms, you will find unity everywhere.

All of you are the embodiments of the Atma. Being the embodiments of the Atma, why should you search for the Atma elsewhere? What is the meaning of Atma? The Atma denotes consciousness. Consciousness pervades everything. As long as there is consciousness in the body, it is nourished and protected. When consciousness leaves the body, it loses all its worth.

### **Develop Purity and Goodness**

Supposing a boy and a girl decide to marry. After the marriage, the girl refers to him as her husband. Similarly, the boy refers to her as his wife. But, for how long? Only for some specific period, i.e., as long as they live together. Later, if either of them dies, one will not have any relationship with the other. Who is the husband and who is the wife? All these relationships are imaginary and transitory. Similar is the relationship between the mother and the son. The son addresses her as mother for a number of years. But when she leaves her mortal coil, the son wails over the dead body of his mother, saying "Oh! Mother! You have left me!" In fact, where has his mother gone? The physical body which he referred to as mother all these years is very much in front of him. If the physical body were to be really his mother, he could have as well kept it in his house; is it not? But, will he do so? Not at all! He takes the body to the cremation ground and cremates it. Hence, all these bodily relationships are only illusory and not real. These are like passing clouds. Only the Atma is eternal. Whatever may happen to the physical body, the Atma does not undergo any change.

All are the embodiments of God. Since we are deluded to think that God is separate from us, we undertake various spiritual practices to attain God. We think that *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender) are the Sadhanas we are required to perform. But, what is Sadhana? Sadhana = Sa + Dhana. The letter 'Sa' in the word Sadhana implies Salokya (perception of the Divine), Sameepya (proximity to the Divine), Sarupya (identification with the Divine) and Sayujya (merger in the Divine). This is the Dhana (wealth) man has to acquire and treasure. But, man today is craving for Dhana (money) forgetting this 'Sa' consisting of Salokya, Sameepya, Sarupya and Sayujya. Every activity in the world today is centred around Dhana. Supposing you request someone to sing a song or do some work for you, he will immediately start bargaining the amount you will pay for his services. Every activity of man has become business today, so much so that business has entered the field of spirituality also. There is no necessity to purchase God with money which, of course, you cannot. In fact, you yourself are God. You yourself are the divine principle. You are endowed with immense divine power. But you have to keep your mind steady. Let it not jump from one thought to another. If you write correct answers in your examination, you will get correct marks. If you have a good mind, everything will turn out to be good. But if there are bad thoughts in your mind, the result will also be bad. First and foremost, understand the nature of your mind. You can understand the secret of human life only

when you understand your own mind. *Be Good, Do Good, See Good*. Then everything will become good in your life. Be always good and tread the right path. Do not follow the wrong path by imitating others. Follow your conscience. If your heart is pure, everything will become pure and sacred.

### **Keep your Desires under Control**

#### *Embodiments of Divine Atma!*

There is a limit for everything in this world. There is nothing without limit. In fact, the world is a 'limited company'. What will happen to the limited company if it crosses its limits? Hence, everyone should conduct himself within his limits. When a doctor prescribes a particular medicine to a patient, he also indicates the dosage. If the patient takes the medicine without regard to the dosage and exceeds the limit, he may contract another disease. Similarly, God has set a limit for every individual. But modern man has limitless desires. It is necessary that he keeps his desires within limits. He will be put to great danger if he exceeds this limit out of his ego. Whether it is the individual or society or the world, all should observe the prescribed limits.

Man is born with many relations, like father, mother, relatives and friends. All these are created by the world. When he gets married, he has a wife. Later, he has children. Thereafter, he has grandchildren. Thus, his relations go on increasing without any limit. As the relations grow, his desires also grow without limit. Man will be happy if he reduces his desires. *Less luggage, more comfort*. Reduce your luggage. Develop courage and confidence. These are not the qualities you can borrow from others. You yourself have to develop them with patience and perseverance.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Sanctify your life by developing sense control. It is only because people have no control over their senses and no limit to their desires that there is a lot of unrest and agitation in society. Such people roam about freely in society like animals. You should not become animals. Whenever some evil thoughts arise in you, you should remind yourself that you are a human being and not an animal. Anger is an animal quality. When animals get angry, they fight with one another. Unfortunately, today human beings are also fighting among themselves like animals. In a way, animals are better than man today. Animals have a reason and a season, but man has no reason, no season. Thus, man today is behaving worse than animals. Being a human being, you should cultivate human qualities. In fact, a human being should not get angry at all! Even if anger overpowers you, you should try to become calm and quiet. Do not lose your cool. When you cultivate calmness, you will never become agitated and restless.

Peace is within you. It cannot be found outside. Outside, there are only pieces. Similarly, happiness is not outside. Many people come to Swami and pray, "Swami, I want peace of mind." I tell them that they have to search for peace within themselves. I am always full of peace and bliss. What is the reason for loss of peace in man today? His desires are the basic cause of his restlessness. Where there are desires, peace disappears from there. Therefore, reduce the luggage of your desires. Then you will have less burden in life.

### **Do not Allow Evil Qualities to Enter your Heart**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

All of you know that man has to adhere to the path of truth. He should never adopt the path of untruth under any circumstances. Whatever happens in your life, think that it is good for you. Even if someone criticises you, you should think that it is good for you. If

you consider everything good, then everything will become good for you. God is not outside, He is within you. Similarly, Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema, Ahimsa are not outside. They are within you. When you get angry, you lose your peace. Therefore, you should always remain peaceful and blissful. Being a human being, you should have human qualities. A true human being is one who is suffused with Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema. When you develop these human qualities, you will enjoy peace at all times. Then you will always have a smile on your face. But when the mind is disturbed, you cannot have peace.

You are not a mere human being. There is divinity immanent in you. Realise this truth. As long as you consider yourself as an ordinary human being, you cannot escape from restlessness. Changes occur in you due to your food and conduct. Sometimes, some bad qualities like anger and jealousy arise in you. But you should not give scope to these evil qualities. Suppose, you build a house and fix doors in it. Simply because you have fixed doors in your house, will you allow all sorts of animals and insects like donkeys, pigs, snakes and scorpions to enter your house? Not at all! Even if they try to enter, you will at once close the door. Similarly, control is the door of your heart. If you close the door of the heart on evil qualities, they cannot enter it. You should not get angry with anyone, nor criticise or harm anyone. If, for any reason, such circumstances arise, control yourself. When anger overtakes you, put it down immediately considering it as your enemy. It is said, anger is your enemy, patience is your shield of protection, happiness is your heaven. Fill your heart with love and compassion. If you have love in your heart, you will see God everywhere. Bereft of love, you will see only devil. When you develop firm faith that God is in you and you are God and that your body itself is the temple of God, then there will be no scope at all for anger, jealousy, pride, etc., to trouble you. Hence, Bangaru! Develop love and compassion.

*God is your sole refuge wherever you may be,*

*In a forest, in the sky, in a city or a village, on the top of a mountain or in the middle of deep sea. (Telugu Poem)*

Truth is unchangeable, irrespective of time and place. Wherever you are, truth is truth, love is love! If you have love, truth will automatically become part of you and vice versa. You are all born with love. But unfortunately as you grow up, the love in you gradually starts declining and hatred and jealousy begin to increase. Jealousy is a very bad quality. It will harm not only others, but it will cause harm to you as well. Hence, do not at all give scope for such evil qualities. Strive to cultivate good qualities like love and truth. Then only can you experience uninterrupted peace.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram ...*”)

– From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 2nd May 2006.

## **ASHADI EKADASI AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

ASHADI EKADASI is celebrated on the eleventh bright day of the month of Ashad (a month in Indian calendar). On this day, groups of Varkaris (pilgrims) from various parts of

Maharashtra reach Pandharpur, the abode of Lord Vitthal and offer their obeisance to the Lord. The journey performed by Varkaris with devotional singing and dancing while carrying the Dindi (palanquin) of the Lord is symbolic of the journey of life, which has attainment of the Lord as its goal. The devotees of Bhagavan from Maharashtra and Goa celebrate this sacred and colourful festival with great devotional fervour every year at Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan and offer their homage to Him on this sacred day. Traditional Dindi Yatra along with singing and dancing of Varkaris as also several illuminating cultural and musical programmes mark the celebration of this festival at Prasanthi Nilayam.

### **Dindi Yatra and Varkari Dance**

This year, this function was celebrated on 7th July 2006 at Prasanthi Nilayam. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically bedecked with flowers. There were special floral decorations on the dais, the centre of which was adorned with a beautiful idol of Lord Vitthal. Several banners in the Hall displayed the teachings of Bhagavan and the theme of the cultural programmes that were organised by the Bal Vikas children and Youth Wing of the Sai Organisation of Maharashtra and Goa on this occasion. As Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall on the morning of 7th July 2006 at 7.15 a.m., He was offered a traditional welcome by the Bal Vikas children and Youth Wing of Maharashtra. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the huge gathering of devotees in the Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais and inaugurated the programme at 7.30 a.m. by lighting the sacred lamp amidst a thunderous applause of devotees.

A welcome song played on the public address system then offered homage to Bhagavan in these words: *Phir Ashadi Aayi Hai ... Swagat Tumhara Sai Hai ... Kitni Khushiyan Layi Hai ... Puttaparthi Nagariya Hamari ... Yahan Pandharpur Ka Sai Hai ...* (Ashadi has come again ... Welcome Lord Sai ... How much joy it has brought to our Puttaparthi ... the Lord of Pandharpur is present here). At the same time, the Varkaris brought the Dindi (palanquin) with the idol of Lord Vitthal in the centre of the Hall. As a mark of traditional worship, one of them offered a Tulsi (basil) garland to Bhagavan. Thereafter, the Varkaris performed a lively dance. The entire Hall reverberated with music and songs rendered by them in praise of Lord Vitthal. These Varkaris had the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan after performing a journey from Dharmavaram to Puttaparthi on foot, and doing Narayana Seva and organising medical camps in the villages on the way for three days.

### **The Divine Commandment**

This was followed by a musical entitled "The Divine Commandment" comprising a cast of more than 300 boys and girls of Bal Vikas and Youth Wing of Mumbai, Maharashtra. The play held a lively debate between man and animals and presented a befitting commentary on the unethical ways of man and his exploitation of animals and Nature at large. In the end, man was reminded of the divine commandment of 'I am I' which made him realise his divine nature. The organisers deserve kudos for the enormous job of presenting more than 300 children in proper make-up of animals of different varieties and other characters included in the play. At the conclusion of this very illuminating and educative play, Bhagavan blessed the children and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.30 a.m. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all.

### **The Ten Commandments**

In the afternoon, Bal Vikas children and Youth Wing of Maharashtra presented the drama entitled "The Ten Commandments" in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Depicting the story of Moses who was sent by God to liberate the Hebrews and lead them to the Promised Land, the drama underlined the eternal bond between man and God. As exhorted by God, Moses ascended Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments from God in two tablets. The conclusion of the drama was that the teachings given in these Ten Commandments were similar to the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who has incarnated on earth in this era to teach these eternal values to man. The drama which started at 3.35 p.m. came to



a close at 4.40 p.m. After Bhajans, the afternoon programme concluded at 5.20 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

### **Musical Presentations**

As part of Ashadi Ekadasi celebrations, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Maharashtra and Goa organised a number of programmes of devotional music to the delight of the devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam.

The first programme was vocal devotional music presented by the renowned Carnatic vocalist Sri Krishnamurthy of Mumbai on the morning of 8th July 2006. The programme comprising popular devotional songs in praise of Guru and Lord Vitthal was appreciated and applauded by the audience. Bhagavan graced the occasion by His Divine Presence and blessed the artiste at the end of the programme and also materialised a gold chain for him. The programme that started at 8.20 a.m. came to a close at 8.55 a.m.

There were two music programmes on the afternoon of 8th July 2006. The first programme was a Jugalbandi and the artistes who provided this most captivating music were Sri Sunil Kulkarni on santoor and Sri Sudhir Phadke on sitar. The programme began in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan at 3.25 p.m. and concluded at 3.50 p.m. Bhagavan blessed the artistes at the end of the programme. He also created a gold ring for one of the artistes. The second programme was presented by the famous playback singer Ms. Richa Sharma who began the programme with Guru Vandana, and enthralled the audience with a few popular devotional songs. Bhagavan blessed the artiste and also materialised a gold necklace for her. This bonanza of musical presentations on the occasion of the sacred festival of Ashadi Ekadasi came to a happy conclusion with this enchanting presentation.

You cannot destroy anger by anger, cruelty by cruelty, hatred by hatred. Anger can be subdued only by forbearance; cruelty can be overcome only by non-violence; hatred yields only to charity and compassion.

– Baba

### **INTERVIEW**

## **THE WAY TO SELF-PEACE**

*“Sai Baba’s teachings go exactly with the Quran. As I have written in my book “A Journey to Self-Peace”, all His Discourses are matching with the Quran. I have made a comparative study between the Quran and Sai Baba’s teachings. They are the same,” said Dr. Abdelfattah Badawi, Scientific Consultant for Ministry of Military Production, Egypt and author of many books in Arabic and English, in reply to a question of Dr. G. Venkataraman.*

SAI RAM, DR. ABDELFAH BADAWI and welcome to you, sir. We are all eager to know something about yourself. After that, I would like to know, how you happened to come here. You told us just before we started this recording that this was your 6th or 7th visit to Prasanthi Nilayam. I somehow missed you in your earlier trips. So, please tell us how you came to Baba. Over to you.

As a matter of fact, I am a scientist. I am now 70 years old. I am in the field of Applied Organic Chemistry. I was in the Egyptian Armed Forces for 20 years. Then I left the Armed Forces as Brigadier and I went to Saudi Arabia for 10 years as Professor of Chemistry. Then I was appointed as

Professor of Chemistry in Egyptian Petroleum Research Institute (EPRI). For the last four years, I have been working as Scientific Consultant for Ministry of Military Production, Egypt.

How I came to Sai Baba is a very interesting story. Since my youth, I liked mysticism and Sufism. Even when I was in Saudi Arabia, I brought books from Europe and America about Sufism. When I came to Egypt finally in 1988, I tried to find Sufi ways because as you know Shirdi Baba was also a Sufi. I attended many Sufi ways. In 1996, I read a book about Shirdi Baba. In about half a page, an Egyptian writer wrote that there was a proof for reincarnation. Shirdi Baba is well known in India for His miracles. He declared that there would be another incarnation eight years after He shed His mortal coil. It attracted me then, but I forgot about this book for one year. I tried to get some books from America. I had a big catalogue and one of the pages was about Sai Baba. I remembered to have seen this name in an Egyptian book one year ago. I saw about 40 books and chose Phyllis Krystal's book "The Ultimate Experience" and another book "Sai Baba – the Holy Man and the Psychiatrist" by Dr. Samuel Sandweiss. After I read these two books, I became very interested to see this personality.

I wanted to know about Indian culture and I asked the Indian Culture Attache in Cairo. He told me, "You can attend Yoga courses here in our centre." I attended the Yoga course. The first course was by an Indian teacher. He was just coming from India after vacation. I asked him, "Do you know Sai Baba?" He said, "What do you mean? There are two Sai Babas. One was in Shirdi and there is another one now." I asked him, "Are you sure?" He said, "Yes, I am coming from Hyderabad. Sai Baba is living in India, I know." I went back home and thought deeply, asking Sai Baba to show me His miracles. After 3-4 days, I received a telephone from a scientist in America whom I had met in Stockholm. He said that he was coming to attend a scientific conference in Cairo. He was an Indian, but he got American citizenship. When we were having lunch together, I asked him about Sai Baba. Another Indian scientist said, "I am a devotee of Sai Baba." He was Dr. Neelakanta from Madras (Chennai). I asked, "Where is your hotel? I would like to meet you." I met him in hotel Cleopatra in Cairo and I told him that I wanted to see Sai Baba and requested him to direct me. He told me to come to Madras. I told him that I could not tell in my Institute that I was going to see a mysterious man. I told him to send me invitation to attend a scientific conference. Then it would be acceptable. He said, "Okay". I gave him a picture of 49 names of Allah to be given as a gift from me to Sai Baba. Then he sent me an invitation to attend a scientific conference in Madras. My Institute approved it and I flew to Madras. This was in March 1996. He said, it was best to fly from Madras to Bangalore, book a hotel in Bangalore and take a taxi to Brindavan, Whitefield. It was very close. It happened. I got a room in a hotel in Bangalore. I told them that I wanted to go early in the morning to see Sai Baba. They arranged a taxi for me to go to Brindavan.

Once we reached Brindavan, the driver asked me to take off my shoes and come after him. I was very tired because I did not sleep well in the night and had back pain. I waited for half an hour. Suddenly, somebody told me to go in a row. There were Bhajans; it sounded like Sufi songs. After some time, I saw a holy man in red robe coming in between the rows. When He came in front of me, I felt some energy in all my body. Then I saw Him materialising Vibhuti for a lady on the other side. I went back to my hotel and said to myself that I should be close to Brindavan and could not come everyday from there. So, I got a chamber in a house of some Italian devotees. In my room, there was a photo of Sai Baba. I was suspecting how He could prove Himself. The second day, I was with an Indian devotee. We went together to the Hall and Sai Baba was sitting there. As a scientist, I did not have complete trust in God. You know scientists are materialistic. I wanted some proof. For the first time in my life, I saw an aura around Sai Baba's head as He was standing. I thought I had something in my glasses and removed them. I started shivering. It is said, Jesus and Mary had an aura around their face. I realised that this man was not an ordinary person. I did not see that aura around Sai Baba's face after that. He can show it to anybody He wants.

Then I went back and wrote a letter. They say that if He takes the letter, the problem will be solved. I had some family problem since three years and I asked Him to solve the problem. I was lucky; He came near me and took the letter. I went back to Egypt, my home. After three weeks, my family problem was solved. Then I thought of writing a book about Him in Arabic. I had some books; I collected from the Ashram many books. I wrote the book, "Sai Baba and His Miracles". It took about

one month. I felt something directing me to finish the book within one month. I wanted to show the book to Sai Baba and get it blessed by Him. I came to Brindavan. Somebody said that Sai Baba had gone to Kodaikanal. I was upset. I was hesitant whether to go or not. One Italian devotee told me that it took about 12 hours to go to Kodaikanal. We went together to Kodaikanal. We went early in the morning and sat in a row. Sai Baba came. I was not conscious, but the Italian devotee told me, "Congratulations, Sai Baba has blessed your book." I was very happy. I went back home and published the book and within 6-7 months I got exactly the same amount of money I had invested on the book. All of a sudden, I was told that there were religious people in the headquarters of Azhar in Cairo who attacked me in a leading newspaper about this book. They said, it was against Islam and how I could say there was a religion of love. "What is the meaning of religion of love?" they asked. I was astonished. Anyhow, I brought the book to Brindavan and Swami blessed it again. We have this book in the library. I was afraid. I wrote a letter, praying, "Please Baba, do not put me in a critical situation." They said that they had removed the book from the book shop. We have an annual exhibition. I went to the annual exhibition and found the book as it was. As a matter of fact, it was finished. 1000 copies had been sold out. Then I came again. I stayed for one month. I was eager to have an interview with Sai Baba. But I was not successful.

I don't know how it was arranged with professor of surgery in Alexandria, but when I told him, he said he was interested to see Sai Baba. Another professor in the faculty of medicine also became ready. All of a sudden, we were nine. It was in 2001. We came in two groups in two different flights. We came to Puttaparthi and were sitting in Darshan line. Sai Baba came but did not look at us nor did He take any letter from us. The second day, the other group came. We became nine now - five ladies and four gents. We went early in the morning for Darshan. Sai Baba came and put His hand on my head and on the book. Dr. Wadiyar, an 80 years old dentist, said, "Interview." Swami asked, "How many?" I said, "Nine." He said, "Go." I was very happy. We went inside the interview room and sat, gents on one side and ladies on the other. There was a lady from Belgium and her husband, and I saw right in front of me Swami materialising a necklace which He gave to her. Then He looked towards the husband and said, "You are jealous!" He materialised a gold watch with the initials of his name and gave it to him. Then He asked the Egyptian group to go to another room. When I was in Egypt, I wanted to ask Sai Baba, when I shall leave this world. He looked at me and asked, "How old are you?" I told, "65". Then He asked, "How old is Swami?" I knew there was ten years difference. His year of birth is 1926 and mine 1936. I told, "75, Swami." I thought, may be this is the answer to my question. Anyhow. Then He said, "Show Me your book." He read the book page by page. Then He asked me to give my pen. He signed the book, "With Love." I told Him that I wanted to name the book "Sai Baba and Peace". He said, "No name. Don't mention My name." This was the advice from Him and He was truthful. I told Him that I had been attacked in Egypt by a leading newspaper. He said, "I know, I know." After the interview, He blessed on my head and materialised a watch for an Egyptian lady. One of the ladies had a dream in Cairo that she would get a robe from Sai Baba. He went to another room and brought a robe for the lady, about which she had a dream. Then we went to Egypt and I named the book "A Journey to Self-Peace" without mentioning the name of Swami at all. But the book contained His Discourses about love.

*That is very nice. You have told us many interesting things. Just for your information and may be for the information of listeners, I would like to mention something that Swami told me many years ago. It was around 1997 or 1998. One day, I was alone with Him in the afternoon in His room. He had come for Darshan. He said, "Do you know who was with Me this morning?" I said, "I don't know because I had gone for work." I was the Vice Chancellor of the Institute then. He said, "There was a group of Iranians and they wanted Me to teach Gayatri Mantra to one young boy. I told them, No. No. There is no need for that. Everything is there in your religion. Read the Quran and be faithful. Be a good Muslim, not just a Muslim." Then He told me if they went to Iran and chanted Gayatri Mantra, they would all be in trouble. So, He asks each person to be faithful to his religion. That is what I wanted to tell you. In this way, He is very much concerned about the safety and well-being of all.*

Yes, He told me, "I don't want devotion to Me, I want devotion to My teachings." This is most important. Love your religion with devotion. Love God. As a matter of fact, I felt as if a Muslim was

saying this. I felt complete heart transformation. Now I feel, God is always inside me, every moment, every minute. It was not like that before really. I feel self-peace. People around me are restless, troubled, full of tension, but I am happy, peaceful.

*I want to ask you a question. You said you are a scientist and therefore a bit sceptical, which I understand because I have also studied science and worked as a scientist for many years. Did you study the Quran?*

Yes, I have read the Quran.

*The Quran is the word of God. Do you believe in God?*

I believe in God.

*Now comes the question. Most scientists do not believe in God. I want to know if there is any contradiction between your pursuit of science and belief in God.*

As a matter of fact, scientifically the right side in the brain is spiritualism and God spot, and the left one is science; between them there is a corpus. There must be harmony between the two. If you are a scientist, you must be a spiritualist and if you are a spiritualist, you must be a scientist.

*So, you do not see any contradiction. That is very nice. There was a very famous physicist by name Abdul Salam. He once came to India and I went to receive him. He was a very devout Muslim. One day, a western scientist asked him, "You are a scientist. How can you believe in God? Is it not a contradiction?" There came the amazing reply. He said, "Where is the contradiction? Science is all about the outer world and God is all about the inner world."*

Yes, very good.

*Now, you have studied the Quran. I do not know much about Islam. I would like to ask you as a layman a question that many people would like to ask if they have a chance. Do you think that Sai Baba's teachings are consistent with the Quran?*

Sai Baba's teachings go exactly with the Quran. As I have written in my book "A Journey to Self-Peace", all His Discourses are matching with the Quran. I have made a comparative study between the Quran and Sai Baba's teachings. They are the same.

*I expected this answer from you, but I wanted you to say because you have the authority to say that. Can you take one small aspect of the teachings of the Quran and for our benefit compare it with the teachings of Sai Baba?*

The most important aspect is the human values. The Quran emphasises good conduct; it has been written in many verses. I want to tell you something. Nobody knows. I give it to you now. I discovered in Ramadan, the holy month, seven verses in the Quran about "Remember God often (always)." Nobody has discovered this from different parts of the Quran. I made a book in Arabic. As Swami says, "Remember God often (always)"; it has been written seven times in verses in the Quran. There are many verses on human values – truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence. Many of the teachings of Swami are in the Quran. There is no contradiction at all.

*You mentioned the word 'peace'. I would like to ask you a question about peace. You see wherever we turn in the world, there is a lot of conflict. Particularly in the Middle East, which is the birthplace of three religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Leaving politics aside, let us accept the fact that there is a lot of violence and conflict. Now if we tell the people that the only way to resolve conflicts is by following the path of love and peace since violence begets violence and revenge begets revenge, people call us foolish. What would you say to such people who do not believe in the path of love and peace? In other words, do you believe peace and love can solve the problems?*

Of course, as a matter of fact what is the difference between animals and human beings? Violence is an animal trait. Human beings should be loving and peaceful. In the golden age, I think there will be a better world. In the Second World War, millions and millions were killed. Now there are no such wars as First World War and Second World War. People have developed more and more understanding of love and peace. I think this era is going to be a golden age.

*I hope so, because there is one other thing that has happened; as you know, Russia and America are no longer enemies. They have decreased their nuclear arsenal which we did not believe those days, and we were terrified to think that the world was going to meet its end. May be you are right, the golden age will come.*

I think so because one day human values will be taught in the Middle East.

*But the human values must be in the Quran already.*

They are already in the Quran. There are some conflicts between Christians and Muslims. But human values are not related to religion. It is higher spiritualism to be human. It must be taught to the young people. I have a book in Arabic, which is just finished, "Peace for a Better World". I will put this chapter about human values. I hope the wife of our President Mubarak would write a foreword for this book and this could be taught in schools. This is a very firm religion.

*One question about Swami and Egypt. How many people in Egypt know about Baba? Once in a while I see people from Egypt wearing scarves. Are there many people in Egypt who know about Baba?*

No, unfortunately. There are not many people in Egypt who know about Sai Baba.

*What particular teaching of Baba appeals to you most?*

Love. Devotion to God makes me love people, love everything because I feel love in the whole cosmos. You know nuclei and electrons get attracted by a power about which nobody knows. That is the power of love. To be human is to be full of love. This is most important, the key for everything.

*Well, I must thank you for sparing us your time. You have stressed the most important aspect of Swami, which is love. Love transcends everything. It goes beyond caste, creed, colour, race, religion, gender and everything. There is no age barrier also. I am glad you have discovered love through the path of Sufism. Sufism finds resonance equally in other religions also.*

It is Bhakti Yoga.

*Exactly, you have used the right word. Sufism is nothing but Bhakti Yoga and it talks about evolving through various stages.*

I am lucky, I visited Shirdi last year. I was very happy to be there. I felt attracted to Him. I have many books about Him. He is the same, love, love, love.

*Courtesy: Radio Sai Global Harmony*

Of what avail is it if you simply worship My name and form without attempting to cultivate My Prema, Santhi, Sahana, Samatwa and Ananda (love, peace, fortitude, equanimity and bliss)?  
– Baba

## NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

### U. K.

A National Medical Conference was held in London on 21st May 2006 on the theme "The Humanisation of Medicine." The purpose of the conference was to draw attention to healthcare mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The first speaker was Sri Ishver Patel, Central Coordinator of Sathya Sai Organisation in the U.K. and Ireland. He described the activities undertaken by Sai physicians in the world: the international medical camps, the General Hospital rotations and the medical activities in the U.K. and

Ireland. The next speaker was Dr. Suresh Govind, an infectious diseases specialist. He said that the humanisation of medicine required the practice of harmony of thought, word and deed in daily life. By attending medical camps in deprived areas, doctors themselves would gain tremendously because they would gradually develop an attitude of compassion and love towards each individual they treated.

The next speaker was Dr. Puvanachandra, member, International Medical Committee. He spoke on the Prasanthi General Hospital rotations for physicians. As part of his talk, he gave a detailed background of the evolution of the hospital, a succinct synopsis of the criteria for enrolling on the roster and the benefits to be gained by working in the Temples of Healing built by Bhagavan, the Supreme Healer. He was followed by Sri Ajit Popat who asked the audience not to dwell on achievements but, rather, on that which had to be achieved. He advised that since one was unable to make everyone happy, it was best to endeavour to make the Lord happy.

Another member of the International Medical Committee, Dr. Surendra Upadhyay, recalled numerous anecdotes about medical camps, experiences with Sai Baba and about the late Mother Teresa. Ms Urvi Shah outlined the whole process from pre-camp, receiving the request from the host country, right through to the cataloguing of boxes and their contents that accompany the team. The next speaker was the National Service Coordinator, Sri Bharat Handa, who spoke on service activities in the United Kingdom and explained the key aspects of selfless service. He was followed by Professor Keith Critchlow, the architect of the Super Speciality Hospital, Puttaparthi. He spoke on 'Temples of Healing and the Divine Architect'. He also showed photographs of the very first sketch of the Puttaparthi hospital. It was remarkable how the initial sketch was identical to the finished hospital. Inspired by a view of Swami's embrace, as seen from above, drawing patients into His heart, the wings of the building reached out to wrap around those who approached. The conference concluded with a comprehensive summary by Ms. Shobhna Patel, the chairperson of the Sathya Sai Organisation of the United Kingdom.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

The tropical islands of Fiji have been the venue in the past of several large medical camps conducted by Sai devotees of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. More recently, a group of physicians, dentists, nurses and volunteers from New Zealand together with physicians and volunteers from Fiji held five medical camps from 19th-23rd March 2006 under the auspices of the Sathya Sai Organisation. The Sai medical team carried with them 29 cartons of medical supplies including medications and 3 cartons of used prescription glasses.

The first camp was held in a Sai school in Drasa near Lautoka in the island of Viti Levu and was staffed by nine physicians, a pharmacist and 14 volunteers from New Zealand, together with six physicians, a dentist and an optometrist from Lautoka, Fiji. In this camp, about 530 patients were examined. Health screening was provided as well as prescriptions as needed. Referrals were made to the local hospital for more serious cases. The second camp was held in a local school in the village of Waikele in the island of Vanua Levu. Here the New Zealand team was joined by four Fijian medical personnel. Divine intervention by Bhagavan permitted the team to fly to this camp from Lautoka. In this camp, 550 patients were examined and about 800 prescriptions filled. The third camp

was held in Lekutu village in Vanua Levu. Some patients travelled 100 kilometres to reach the camp. In all, 610 patients were seen, 900 prescriptions were filled and 60 tooth extractions were carried out. The fourth camp was held in a school in the village of Seaqaqa in Vanua Levu where 650 patients were seen and 900 prescriptions filled. The fifth and last camp was held in the Naleba School near Labasa. In this camp, 910 patients were seen and 1,200 prescriptions filled. Residual medical supplies at the end of the camps were donated to the local medical centre at Lekutu village. Scores of patients remarked that the best service provided in the camp was the generous loving care rendered by all. In one of the schools, the headmaster made a speech about the magnanimity of the medical team and the deep gratitude of the local people. He said, "Surely, God has sent you and you bring with you His love."

#### **SULTANATE OF OMAN**

Over the last three years, Sai devotees in Oman have been making major strides in instilling Sathya Sai Human Values in the schools in Oman. The momentum of this effort has taken the education of Sathya Sai Human Values to several schools throughout the Sultanate including Arabic and bilingual schools and to the local non-Indian Omani population. Over the last three years, the Sathya Sai Organisation under the banner SAI (Serve And Inspire) has been conducting Sathya Sai Human Values education contests nationwide with the full cooperation and sponsorship from the leading newspaper "The Times of Oman" and the Ministry of Education. The event is called "Spreading the Light through Human Values."

On 13th April 2006, the Fourth Sathya Sai Human Values contest was held in which 2,020 students from 103 schools registered. Earlier, every year from 2003 to 2005, the first, second and third contests were conducted in which 579 students from 39 schools, 1,105 students from 86 schools and 1,059 students from 94 schools registered, respectively. Approximately, 100% increase in the number of registrants in the last year alone shows the increasing awareness of the Sathya Sai Human Values programme among the people in this region. In the contest held this year, the SAI group made a presentation to the audience of the service projects undertaken in Oman by Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation. The event was inaugurated by Dr Muna bint Salim Al Jardany. Sri Essa Mohammed Al Zadjali, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, The Times of Oman Group, expressed his joy to see so many children from all parts of Oman. Dr Madiha Ahmed Nasser Al Shibani, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Education, applauded the cooperative working spirit among the students from Omani government, bilingual, special education and international schools. The event was widely covered in the local and regional newspapers such as "The Times of Oman", "Al Shabiba", "Oman Daily Observer", "Oman Tribune" and "Khaleej Times" as well as Radio Oman FM. It is noteworthy that the "The Times of Oman" carried a special cover story on Sathya Sai Human Values.

#### **U. S. A.**

A medical camp was organised by Sai devotees in Baltimore, Maryland on 17th June 2006. Sixteen medical personnel and 44 volunteers saw 90 patients and screened them for hypertension, diabetes mellitus, mental health, visual impairment and glaucoma, dental pathology, lead exposure, paediatric health, malnutrition and health education. In addition, free CPR training was provided with certification for 6 registrants.

A free mammography camp was conducted by the Sathya Sai Organisation in St. Louis, Missouri on 11th June 2006 at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Mammography equipment was donated by the Barnes Jewish Hospital, under the guidance and support of the Siteman Cancer Centre, Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The day began with a silent prayer to Bhagavan at the church. Thirty four women underwent a mammogram. Health education and breast self-exam was taught to the attendees. An interactive educational presentation with posters and flip charts on osteoporosis, heart disease, nutrition, cancer of breast and cancer of cervix was given. Handouts were given both in English and Spanish on women's health issues. The camp was visited by the Director of the Health Unit of St. Louis County who applauded the efforts of the Sathya Sai Organisation.

– Prasanthi Council

### **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Khammam district distributed Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to 34 needy families in Katkur village on 4th June 2006. Each family was given 4 kg rice, 1 kg edible oil, 1 kg Dhal along with utensils and clothes. This district distributed school uniforms to 179 needy students of various schools situated along Palavanha Town on 18th June 2006.

As part of Grama Seva being carried out in Somaram and Rukumpally villages, Ranga Reddy district conducted a series of medical camps in June 2006, treating 998 patients of different ailments. The district also conducted two free veterinary camps, treating 851 cattle. 11 Samithis of the district conducted water distribution centres for two months in summer season.

East Godavari district conducted two mega medical camps in Bodaluru and Addathegala tribal villages and treated 1,450 patients of various ailments, and also gave the necessary medicines free. The district selected three poor patients from Bodaluru and eight from Addathegala and got them operated at Rajahmundry.

Prakasam district arranged a function in Guntapalli village on 11th June 2006 to hand over 28 newly-built houses to the beneficiaries.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir organised the cleaning of the premises of the Kheer Bhawani Temple in Ganderbal Tehsil on 28th May 2006. Narayana Seva was also performed in this temple on 29th May 2006, wherein Prasadam was distributed among hundreds of visiting devotees.

A free veterinary camp was organised on 17th and 18th April 2006 at Bhadarwah in Doda district. About 400 animals of Manthala, Shohanta, Panwara and other adjacent villages were examined and vaccinated against foot and mouth disease. The poor people of this area thanked the Sai Organisation for arranging free veterinary camp in this area for the third consecutive year. This has resulted in the complete eradication of the hazardous foot and mouth disease of the domestic animals.

**Tamil Nadu:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu organised a series of medical camps at Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal. A general medical camp was held on 6th May 2006 on Easwaramma Day. Seven doctors examined 287 patients and gave free medicines to them. The patients also participated in Bhajans held in the Bhajan Hall. At



the conclusion of the camp, Narayana Seva was performed wherein food and clothes were distributed to the needy people.

An extensive eye screening camp was organised at Sai Sruthi with the participation of senior eye surgeons from Arvind Eye Hospital, Theni district on 18th June 2006. The number of patients screened was 501, out of which 42 patients were operated for cataract at Arvind Eye Hospital and 92 patients were advised to wear spectacles. 367 were treated as out patients. The camp concluded with Narayana Seva.

A mega medical camp on “Diabetes Awareness and Prevention” was organised at Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 15th and 16th July 2006. The facilities made available at the programme were: blood glucose screening and BP recording, consultation, retinopathy testing, health education classes, neuropathy testing, diet exhibition and distribution of educational materials. The programme commenced with Bhajans in the main prayer hall of Sai Sruthi at 9 a.m. on 15th July 2006. The patients started queuing up for registration much earlier. A total of 900 patients were screened during this two-day programme. The break-up of screening were as follows: known diabetic cases 309, new diabetic cases 19, borderline diabetic cases 86 and non-diabetic cases 486. Narayana Seva was performed on both the days. All were given Bhagavan’s photograph and Vibhuti Prasadam.

## CHINNA KATHA

### Never Tell a Lie

OUT of his great love for his son, a householder once gave a gold coin as birthday present to him and said to him, “My dear, ask your mother to get a ring made out of it for you.” As his exams were to commence on the following day, the boy kept the gold coin on the table lying there and got engaged in his studies. Meanwhile, his younger sister came there. She was a very naughty girl. Taking the gold coin in her hand, she asked, “Brother, what is this?” “This is a gold coin,” he replied. “Where has it come from?” she asked. “It has come from a tree,” he said. “How does it become a tree?” she asked again. “It grows into a tree and bears fruits when one puts it in a pit, covers it with soil and pours water over it. There would be coins in every fruit,” he told this lie. As his sister was about to ask another question, he said, “Don’t bother me. I don’t have time. I have to study. Get lost.” Saying this, he buried his head in his book.

Taking advantage of this situation, the girl took the coin and went inside. Just as her brother had told her, she went to the backyard, dug a pit near the well, covered it with soil and poured water over it. A maid servant was observing all this. As soon as the girl went inside, she took the coin and hid it. After some time, the mother of the boy came to the front room where he was studying, and told him, “It is time to go to school, come and have your food.” Out of his happiness, the son told his mother, “Father has given me a gold coin as birthday present to get a ring made out of it. See, it is here only.” Saying this, he looked at the table. The coin was not there.

He called his sister and enquired sternly about the coin. She said, “Oh brother, if this grows into a tree, we will get many more such coins. That is why I sowed it in the soil near the well.” When he went there and looked for it, the coin was not there either. The

boy felt miserable. Instead of spending his birthday in playing and merry making, he had to shed tears. He told his mother what had happened. The mother asked the girl, "What is the reason for your burying the coin in the earth?" She replied, "Brother told me that when you put the coin in the soil and pour water over it, it will grow into a tree and bear fruits. Many more coins will come out of those fruits. That is why I have done this." The mother cautioned her son calmly, "You have told a lie to your sister and in a way you have taught lies to her. You have seen the result of your acting in this manner! Instead of spending your birthday joyously, you are weeping now. Not only this, you have lost the coin also."

Hence, never speak untruthful words to children even in a casual manner. Eventually, this habit can grow, and they may resort to telling big lies which can lead to great dangers.

## **ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA**

### **INVITATION**

**Ati Rudra Maha Yajna will be conducted for the peace and prosperity of the world in the Divine Presence of BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi (A.P.) for twelve days from Wednesday, 9th August 2006 to Sunday, 20th August 2006.**

**The Yajna will be performed in 11 Homa Kundas.  
140 Ritwiks proficient in the Vedas will participate.**

**Rudrabhishekam will be performed to a specially installed  
Linga during the Maha Yajna.  
All are invited to attend the Yajna and seek the blessings of  
Bhagavan.**

**SAI YOUTH**

## Back Cover Matter

### *Spiritual Revolution*

A revolution – more powerful and pervasive than any that man has undergone so far – not political, economic, scientific or technological but deeper and more basic, is now on. It is the Spiritual Revolution. It sharpens the inner vision of man so that he can see the Atmic reality. Its impact will surely envelop and enrich all human communities and transform mankind into a stream of seekers flowing smoothly to the limitless sea of Divinity.

- Baba

**SEPTEMBER 2006**

**ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA DIVINE DISCOURSE: 1**

## YAJNAS FOSTER DIVINE NATURE OF MAN

*The day people took to fascination for English language, knowledge of one's own religion and language declined. When knowledge of one's own religion and language declined, love for one's culture disappeared. When love for culture disappeared, righteousness declined on earth. When righteousness declined and disappeared from earth, Bharat lost its exalted position. Oh Bharatiyas! Open your eyes and be alert to the situation at least now. Oh men of noble qualities! What more can I explain and convey? (Telugu Poem)*

*Embodiments of Love!*

BHARAT is Pavitra Bhumi, Thyaga Bhumi, Punya Bhumi (land of sacredness, sacrifice and merit). It is the land where a number of chaste women took birth.

It is the birthplace of Savitri who brought her dead husband back to life by the power of her chastity. Is there any other country in the entire world where a chaste woman could bring her deceased husband back to life? It is the sacred land which gave birth to Chandramati who extinguished the wild fire with the power of truth. It is the land where Sita was born, who entered the fire and came out unscathed

establishing her chastity and purity. She never raised her head and never looked at Ravana even for a moment during her confinement in Lanka. Damayanti, who reduced an evil-minded hunter to ashes with the power of her chastity, was she not born in this land? This great land of Bharat is virtually an ocean of noble qualities. The entire race of Bharat is resplendent with chastity and purity.

Bharat is, in fact, a teacher of all the countries of the world. Though all men in this country cannot claim such great sacredness and nobility, every woman here is truly chaste, truthful and righteous. The women of Bharat never oppose or deride their husbands. Where else would Lord Siva incarnate except in this sacred land of Bharat? (*loud applause*)

### **God Incarnates on Earth to Re-establish Dharma**

One cannot attain the vision of God merely by doing worship, performing Vratas or conducting rituals like Yajna. It is only by developing purity of heart and noble qualities that one can have the vision of God. God is omnipresent. He is the creator, sustainer and destroyer of all the objects and beings of the universe. Every object in this universe is a gift of God who is immanent in all of them. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam* (the entire universe is permeated by God). Hence, whatever object you observe, do not consider it merely inert matter; it is a form of divinity. (Bhagavan showing a handkerchief) You may say, this is a cloth. But it is not really so. It is a combination of threads. But, that is also not its correct description. The threads come from cotton which is the source of cloth. Similarly, God is the source of everything. *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (God is attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). God is called by different names by different people, but He is beyond all names and forms. He is all-pervading. *Sarvatah Panipadam* (His hands and feet are everywhere). Wherever you see, it is only God who exists. All the world is the reaction, reflection and resound of God. You see your body. But it is like a water bubble. The mind is a bundle of thoughts. Hence, one should not lead one's life depending solely on the body and the mind. No doubt, the body is a gift of God. But we are born to offer everything to God that has been given by Him. Lord Krishna declared: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). Hence, you are not a mere human being. The name that you bear has been given to you by your parents. In fact, at the time of your birth you had no name at all. Therefore, man cannot be identified with the body which is temporary and impure. He is essentially divine. That is why God incarnates on earth in human form from time to time to make man realise his divine origin. Whenever righteousness declines, God incarnates to uphold it as declared by Lord Krishna in the Gita.

*Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya Glanir Bhavati Bharata,*

*Abhyutthanamadharmasya Tadatmanam Srujamyaham.* (Sanskrit Verse)

(Oh Arjuna! When there is a decline in Dharma and rise in Adharma, I incarnate for the establishment of Dharma.)

In today's world, righteousness has declined and truth has gone into oblivion. The whole world today is beset with injustice, disorder, indiscipline and unrighteousness. Faith in God is the greatest truth of man's life. *Truth is God. Love is God. Live in Love.* Lead your life with love. There can be no life without love. Love God to receive His love. It is by love alone that God can be attained.

### **The Vedas Contain Deep Spiritual Truths**

As stated by the Pandit (head priest) who spoke just now, Rudram consists of Namaka and Chamaka, the Mantras of which are full of great power. Rudram occurs in Krishna Yajur Veda which is the source of many Sastras (scriptures), Itihasas (epics) and Puranas (mythologies). Unfortunately, the Vedas lost their pre-eminent position because there were very few people who chanted Vedic Mantras regularly. The study of the Vedas is very beneficial for all as they are rich in spiritual knowledge and contain the fundamental principles governing man's life. The Vedas are the gift of God for the welfare of the entire mankind. Vedic Mantras can be chanted by one and all without any distinction whatsoever of religion, caste, nationality, etc. (Swami then called on the dais two students, one belonging to Russia and the other to America, and asked them to chant Vedic Mantras in front of the

entire gathering. They chanted Sri Suktam and Rudram together with correct pronunciation and perfect intonation to the joy and surprise of one and all.)

It is Swami's wish that the people of all countries, irrespective of religion, caste, nationality, etc., should learn Vedas and chant Vedic Mantras. Learning of the Vedas is not limited only to Indians or to people belonging to Brahmin caste. The other day, some people from Iran and Iraq came to Puttaparthi. The devotees from Iran are still here. We are making efforts to teach Vedas to all. The Vedas remove all types of sorrow. The Yajna that is now being performed does not have a limited objective like that of Putrakameshti Yajna or Aswamedha Yajna. It is for the welfare and emancipation of the entire mankind. A few fortunate ones are learning the Vedas and propagating them. However, there are some unfortunate people who learn the Vedas but do not make any effort to share this knowledge with others. However, the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions learn the Vedas and share this knowledge with others. In order to learn the Vedas, one should acquire the knowledge of Sanskrit to begin with.

Vinay Kumar has been appointed as the Youth Wing leader of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka State. He is entrusted with the responsibility of mobilising the youth of Karnataka to learn the Vedas and spread their message. Youth Wing leaders of other States of India like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, etc., have also been appointed for this purpose. Similarly, the youth of other countries of the world are learning all the Vedas, especially the Rig Veda.

We should not neglect the Vedas. The secret of the entire creation is contained in them. They reveal to us the goal and purpose of life. In fact, they are the repositories of all knowledge. They set the norms of the four stages of man's life – Brahmacharya (celibate stage), Grihastha (householder stage), Vanaprastha (recluse stage) and Sannyasa (renunciant stage). People have started realising the glory of the Vedas now; you can find even women chanting the Vedic Mantras. Men and women appear to be different so far as their body structure is concerned, but there is no difference between them as regards the learning of the Vedas and chanting of Vedic Mantras. The Vedas are replete with divine mysteries and deep spiritual truths. Rudram forms a very important section of Krishna Yajur Veda. Rudram is generally understood to be a prayer to Lord Rudra. In fact, it is the essence of all the Vedas, viz., Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda and Atharvana Veda. Another important feature of Rudram is the Ekatwa (unity) between its two parts, Namaka and Chamaka. Namaka lays stress on Virakti (detachment) whereas Chamaka dwells on desires for this and that. What is to be discarded and what is to be desired? That which is evil is to be discarded and all that is good is to be desired. Understanding of both these aspects is essential for man.

### **Realise the Principle of Oneness of God**

People generally think that giving up of family life, house, land and other forms of wealth is Thyaga (sacrifice). But this is not true sacrifice. This can be done easily. One who renounces the fruits of his desires and actions is a true renunciant. One has to understand the purpose of human birth. We are not born merely to eat, drink and make merry. Human birth is given to us to help our fellow human beings. *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. Do not hurt or harm anybody. Do not speak harsh words. Do not criticise anyone. To criticise others is the greatest sin. Do not criticise even your enemy.

Human body is made up of Pancha Bhutas (five elements). It consists of Panchendriyas (five senses) which crave for the fulfilment of desires. However, there are also certain values like Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) which are inherent in us. These have to be brought out and manifested in our daily life. This process is called educare. The knowledge acquired from the study of books can be termed as education. This is not the type of learning that we have to acquire. What we should acquire is educare, by which the noble qualities that are immanent in us are manifested in our life. This is the sacred internal path which requires self-effort and does not depend upon the reading of books written by others. Educare is, in fact, the gift of God. It can be attained only by God's grace and by no other means. Therefore, one should constantly contemplate on God. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam* (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances contemplate on God). That is real devotion.

We may call God by any name, Rama, Krishna, Jesus or Allah, but God is one. These are all the different names ascribed to God. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). Hence, we should never make any distinction between the different names of God.

*Ornaments are many; gold is one,*

*Cows are of many colours, milk is one.* (Telugu Poem)

One should have an open heart to know the mysteries of God. There is nothing wrong in worshipping God by the name of your liking. But it is wrong to revile other names and forms of God. Some people have Narayana as their Ishta Devata (chosen deity), but they do not like Siva. This is a big mistake because Siva and Narayana are the two names of the same God. God is one, but He is worshipped in many names and forms. He who realises this oneness will have peace of mind. One who loves one form of God and hates another can have no fulfilment in life. It is not only for the youth to realise this principle of oneness; all should follow this and put it into practice in their life. It is God who protects the world. The name of God is more powerful than even the most powerful bomb. God's name protects that which is good and annihilates all that is evil. Hence, if you worship God, the whole world will be protected.

### **Youth should Learn and Propagate the Vedas**

This Yajna is being conducted for the welfare of the world. A very important aspect of this Yajna is that it will protect and foster the divine nature of man. At the same time, it will eradicate his demonic qualities. Thus, it will promote the welfare of humanity. This Yajna can be performed by anyone interested in the welfare of mankind. The material and other resources for conducting this Yajna have been arranged by Vinay Kumar. He undertook the job lovingly and performed it almost single-handedly. Many people came forward to give rice, fruits, vegetables and other materials, but he did not accept anything from anyone. The expenditure for conducting this Yajna involves a large amount of money. He arranged the entire material for this Yajna by himself. I wish that every State has such dedicated youth leaders. He is doing a lot of service. I am very happy with his service. He declined all offers of help for conducting this Yajna, saying, "Sai is with me; He alone will help me."

He was married ten years ago. Both he and his wife are serving Swami. When the proposal to conduct this Yajna was placed before Me, I asked them, "Dear ones! Do you propose to conduct this Yajna with the desire to have a son?" They replied in one voice that that was not their desire and motive of their prayer. Then I enquired what else they wished to have. Their reply was, "Swami! We want You only!" I have not heard such a reply so far from any couple. True to his name, Vinay Kumar is doing a lot of good work with love and humility. His father was an Income Tax Commissioner. He was a friend of Lakshmi Narayana. They were together for a long time. Now Vinay Kumar and Lakshmi Narayana are working together to organise this Yajna. Vinay Kumar treats him like his own father. Such noble souls and youth leaders are needed in the world more and more. When the leaders are good and competent, the whole world will progress and prosper. The world has come to this sad state due to lack of good leaders. Nowadays, we rarely find good leaders in any field, be it the field of education, politics, religion or spirituality. Wherever you see, all human endeavours are beset with craze for money. Everything is business.

However, money is not the consideration so far as Sri Sathya Sai Organisation is concerned. Everything is free in our Organisation. Education from 1st Standard to the Ph.D. level is totally free. Same is the case with our hospitals. Our General Hospitals and Super Speciality Hospitals are providing medical services totally free of cost. The hospitals outside charge three to four lakh rupees for performing a heart operation. How can poor people pay such a huge amount? It is beyond their means. The medical services including the specialist services are totally free in our hospitals. Poor people come to our hospitals for treatment without having even a rupee in their pocket and return to their places completely cured of their diseases. We should render all services free of cost. I wish that all our Seva Dal members and college students render free service. Thereby, they will attain Swami's grace. You may forget anything, but never forget the Name of God.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahi ...*" and continued His Discourse.)

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Ati Rudra Maha Yajna is most sacred and highly efficacious. The lives of all those who participate in it will be sanctified. There will be 11 Ritwiks (priests) performing the Yajna at each Yajna Kunda. There are 11 such Yajna Kundas. Thus, there will be 121 Ritwiks who will perform the Yajna. For each Yajna Kunda, there will be one person, who will look after everything concerning the rituals. All the people connected with the Yajna will work in unity to make it a success. It is only by unity that anything can be achieved. From unity comes purity which ultimately leads to divinity. Hence, all should conduct themselves as brothers and sisters. If, for any reason you get angry on a particular occasion, consider anger as your enemy and get rid of it. Kama (desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed), Moha (delusion), Mada (pride) and Matsarya (jealousy) are the six enemies of man. These are the cause of his troubles in life.

### *Embodiments of Divine Self!*

You are not ordinary human beings; you are the embodiments of the Divine Self. Each individual is given a particular name only for the sake of identification. But in reality, all are essentially divine, not mere human beings. I wish all of you a happy, peaceful, contented and blissful life. You cannot have peace without devotion. Hence, develop devotion, Bangaru! (an endearing term used by Bhagavan, meaning gold). Immerse yourself in devotion, not in the deep ocean of Samsara (worldliness). It is only your devotion that will take you to God.

- **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 9th August 2006 on the inaugural day of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.**

### *An Event of Great Spiritual Significance*

## ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

A NEW DIMENSION was added to the fostering of the Vedas and Vedic lore when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessed the performance of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna at Prasanthi Nilayam from 9th to 20th August 2006. Ati Rudra Maha Yajna is one of the most sacred forms of worship of Lord Siva, who is the conqueror of death and embodiment of infinite mercy, compassion and love. Performed with the objective of promoting the welfare of the entire mankind and establishing peace, love and harmony in the world, it was a significant step in the purification of the world's environment vitiated by hatred, greed, violence and other evil propensities of man. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is Himself Siva-Sakthi Swarupa (embodiment of Siva and Sakthi), graced the occasion by His Divine Presence on all the days of the Yajna both in the morning and evening and blessed the participants and priests with His benedictions and Divine Discourses. Huge concourse of devotees thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to witness this grand spectacle of immense spiritual significance.

The Yajna programme comprised Abhisheka (sacred bath) of a specially installed Siva Linga, Parayana of Rudram (chanting of sacred Mantras of Siva worship) by 121 priests and students along with Linga Puja (worship of Linga), and offering of sacred oblations in 11 specially constructed Yajna Kundas with sacred Vedic Mantras, more particularly Rudram and Sai Gayatri. Besides, there were illuminating talks on spiritual topics by a

galaxy of learned speakers, and presentation of devotional music programmes by well-known musicians and the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam. The venue of the Yajna was Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated with colourful buntings, charming festoons and plantain leaves. A beautiful Yajna Mandap was set up in the centre of the Hall where 11 Yajna Kundas were made according to the scriptural injunctions. The decorations of the Yajna Mandap was as beautiful and natural as it was innovative. The material used for decoration was bamboos, coconuts, mango leaves, plantain leaves, coconut leaves and fresh flowers. An altar was also set up in the Yajna Mandap where 138 Kalashas containing water of all the sacred rivers of India were installed for Kalasha Puja (worship of pots containing sacred water). Besides, many other Kalashas were placed along the sides of Yajna Mandap.

### **Inaugural Ceremony**

Bhagavan was offered a traditional welcome with Poornakumbham by the chief priest when He came out of His abode, Yajur Mandir to shower the bliss of His Darshan on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall at 2.30 p.m. on 9th August 2006. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession led by Nadaswaram musicians and Veda chanting priests. After coming to the dais, Bhagavan graciously inaugurated the programme by lighting the sacred lamp at 2.45 p.m. amidst chanting of sacred Vedic Mantras by the students and priests. This was followed by an excellently rendered invocation song on the glory of Bhagavan Baba addressing Him as Ati Rudra Maha Yajna Purusha and Sathya Sai Guru Mahadeva.

In his introductory speech, Sri Vinay Kumar, youth organiser of the Yajna, said that Ati Rudra was the highest among the four forms of worship of Lord Siva, the other three being Rudra, Ekadasa Rudra and Maha Rudra. Referring to the performance of this Yajna as an historic event, Sri Vinay Kumar expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for providing this sacred and rare opportunity to devotees to witness and participate in it. This was followed by a brief speech by Sri D. Lakshmi Narayana, former Income Tax Commissioner, who coordinated the organisation of this Yajna along with Sri Vinay Kumar. He remarked that Bhagavan had showered His grace on the youth by permitting them to organise this Yajna in His Divine Presence. He hoped that the youth in other parts of the country would follow this noble example set by the youth of Karnataka. After this, the chief priest, Sri Nanjunda Dixit addressed the gathering. The learned Vedic scholar said that the concept of worship of Lord Siva by the performance of Ati Rudra Yajna had been propounded by ancient saints and sages of Bharat. But the performance of this Yajna at Prasanthi Nilayam was a unique event because it was being performed in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan who is Himself the incarnation of Siva, said Sri Nanjunda Dixit. Giving the details of the Yajna, the learned priest said that 11 priests would perform Rudra Homa at each of the 11 Yajna Kundas daily in addition to Linga Abhisheka and Linga Puja along with 11 Rudra Parayanas by 121 priests daily for 11 days, making a total of 14,641 Rudra Parayanas which was the prescribed number for Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. In the end, Bhagavan blessed the huge gathering of devotees, priests and students with His Divine Discourse. The Vedas, Bhagavan said, were the source of all knowledge and the repositories of ultimate wisdom and spiritual truths. Everybody, Bhagavan added, could chant the Vedas without any distinction of caste, colour, creed, religion or nationality and derive benefit from chanting because they contained eternal and universal truths. Bhagavan asked two overseas students to chant Vedic Mantras in front of the gathering



and said that it was His wish that Veda chanting should be done by the people belonging to all the countries of the world irrespective of their religion or race. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue of "Sanathana Sarathi".) After the Discourse of Bhagavan, Abhisheka and Puja of the Linga installed in Sai Kulwant Hall was done and Arati was offered to it. The programme came to a close at 6.45 p.m. with chanting of Mantra Pushpam by the priests and students. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

### **Performance of the Yajna**

On 10th August 2006, Sai Kulwant Hall started reverberating with sweet notes of Mangalavadyam by Nadaswaram musicians and Vedic chants of priests at 5.30 a.m. Bhagavan came to the Hall at 6.10 a.m. and blessed the mammoth gathering of devotees in the Hall with His Divine Darshan. After His arrival on the dais, Bhagavan went near the Siva Linga and performed the sacred ceremonies of Prana Pratishtha (energising with life principle), Namakarana (naming) and Kumbha Abhisheka (bathing) of the Linga at 6.20 a.m. surcharging it with divine power. It was named Sayeeswara Linga. Bhagavan also materialised a beautiful jewel in the resemblance of three lines of Vibhuti mark on the forehead of Siva with a ruby in its centre symbolising his third eye. The chief priest decorated the Linga with this divine creation of exquisite beauty amidst Vedic chants of the priests and joyous notes of Nadaswaram musicians.

Bhagavan returned to the dais and occupied His seat at 6.30 a.m. Two priests then produced the sacred fire in the traditional way by churning one piece of wood over the other. They brought it to Bhagavan for His blessings before placing it in the Yajna Kundas. After this, the chief priest described the importance of the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna and gave details of Linga Abhisheka, Rudra Parayana, Rudra Homa and other rituals which were proposed to be performed on 11 days from 10th to 20th August. At 7.30 a.m., the chief priest started the Panchamrita Abhisheka and Puja of the Sayeeswara Linga amidst Vedic chants. Collective Rudra Parayana by 121 priests began soon after Linga Abhisheka and Linga Puja. A unique feature of this Parayana was that the students of Sri Sathya Sai schools and colleges also did Parayana along with the priests. After the completion of each of the 11 Parayanas, Arati was offered to the Linga. After completing 11 Parayanas, Puja of the Linga was performed by offering flowers, silk clothes, basil garlands, Bilva leaves and other sacred articles at the Linga along with chanting of Vedic Mantras of Linga worship. This was followed by Rudra Homa by 11 priests on each of the 11 Yajna Kundas presided over by a senior priest. Oblations were offered in the sacred fire with the chanting of Rudram by all the 121 priests jointly, sanctifying the environment with highly surcharged sacred vibrations. After Rudra Homa, Sai Gayatri Homa was performed by offering oblations in the sacrificial fire with the chanting of Sai Gayatri.

### **Poornahuti of the Yajna**

Linga Abhisheka, Linga Puja, Rudra Parayana, Rudra Homa, Sai Gayatri Homa and other connected rituals continued daily for 11 days from 10th to 20th August 2006 when Poornahuti (final oblations) was offered by Bhagavan to conclude this grand spiritual event of far reaching importance. A sea of humanity thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to witness the grand spectacle of Poornahuti of the Yajna on the morning of 20th August 2006. The programme of Linga Abhisheka and Linga Puja started on this day at 4.00 a.m.

Rudra Parayana began at 5.00 a.m. when all the priests jointly commenced the chanting of Rudram. The students of Sai institutions and many devotees also participated in the chanting, filling the Hall with sacred sound energy from where it radiated to all parts of the universe. After completing the prescribed 11 Rudra Parayanas, the priests started Rudra Homa. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants and auspicious musical notes of Nadaswaram. As the auspicious time of Poornahuti neared, all the devotees in the Hall were filled with eager expectation. At 8.05 a.m., the chief priest started putting oblations in the Yajna fire with a long silver ladle instead of the usual short wooden one while Rudra chanting continued with full vigour and devotion by the priests, students and devotees. At the conclusion of Rudra Homa, Sai Gayatri Homa began at 8.15 a.m. At 8.30 a.m., Bhagavan went to the main Yajna Kunda presided over by the chief priest and offered Poornahuti by putting oblations in the Yajna Kunda. A bundle of valuables and precious clothes blessed by Bhagavan was also offered in the Yajna Kunda amidst loud joyous notes of music and sacred Vedic chants. Thereafter, Kumbha Abhisheka of the Linga was performed and sacred Kalasha water blessed by Bhagavan was poured over the Linga and Arati was offered to it.

After Poornahuti and Kumbha Abhisheka, Bhagavan went into the rows of devotees and sprinkled Teertham (sacred Kalasha water) on them with His Divine Hands as a token of His blessings on all after the successful completion of the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. While Bhagavan sprinkled Teertham on the devotees, the students sang Bhajans in praise of Siva and all the priests performed Kumbha Abhisheka of the Linga by pouring sacred water from the Kalashas worshipped during the course of the Yajna. Soul-elevating Bhajans then commenced at 9.00 a.m. in which thousands joined with vigour and devotion. The Bhajans came to a close at 9.20 a.m., after which the final chanting of Rudram was done by all the priests jointly. The programme of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 9.40 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

### **Talks by Learned Speakers**

Besides witnessing the Linga Abhisheka, Linga Puja and Rudra Homa, and hearing Rudra Parayana, the devotees were blessed by Bhagavan with His nectarine and illuminating Discourses during the course of the Yajna. In all, Bhagavan gave 10 Discourses during the performance of the Yajna. Before the Divine Discourses of Bhagavan, many learned speakers addressed the august gathering and shared their knowledge with them on a variety of spiritual themes. All talks were given in the afternoon sessions before Bhagavan's Discourses after the conclusion of usual Linga Abhisheka and Linga Puja with sacred Vedic chants. The speaker on 10th August 2006 was Sri N. Srikanta Rao, a learned Telugu Pandit and Sanskrit scholar from Bangalore. Sri Rao dwelt on the glory of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna and emphasised the need for worship of Lord Siva for peace and prosperity in the world which was passing through difficult times due to agitation and restlessness in the mind of modern man.

On the afternoon of 11th August 2006, Sri Subbaraya Sharma, a learned Vedic scholar gave a talk on Dakshinamoorthy, the incarnation of Lord Siva. Hailing Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba as Dakshinamoorthy of this Age, Sri Sharma observed that in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan, one experienced bliss as one's doubts melted away just as doubts of people were dispelled by Dakshinamoorthy's divine power of silence.

Two learned speakers shared their thoughts with the devotees on 12th August 2006. The first speaker was Dr. R.L. Kashyap, Director, Sri Aurobindo Kapali Sastry Institute of Vedic Culture, Bangalore. Explaining the meaning of various Mantras of Rudram, the learned speaker observed that Mantras were not ordinary words; they came from the highest plane and revealed the power of the soul. Dwelling on the significance of Namaka and Chamaka, which form two parts of Rudram, Dr. Kashyap remarked that the object of chanting the Mantras of Rudram was to harness the intense power of the mind in order to achieve perfection in all spheres of life and ultimately achieve the goal of life. The second speaker, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, referred to the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna and observed that Yajna was meant to internalise knowledge and destroy hatred and other evil propensities of man. Praising the work done by the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka in organising this Yajna with meticulous planning, Sri Giri hoped that the example set by the Youth Wing leader Sri Vinay Kumar would be replicated by the youth in other parts of the world.

Two eminent speakers addressed the gathering on 13th August 2006. The first speaker was a renowned educationist of Karnataka, Dr. Gururaj Karjagi. The erudite speaker explained deep spiritual truths by narrating a number of educative stories and explained that symbolism was the medium through which common people could attain the knowledge of reality. Giving an example, he said that the idol of Ganesh is worshipped for a few days and thereafter it is immersed in water after attaining the knowledge of real Ganesh who has no form or attribute. The second speaker was Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Referring to the performance of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna at Prasanthi Nilayam as an unprecedented event, Sri Srinivasan observed that never in human history had an Ati Rudra Maha Yajna of this magnitude been performed and that too in the presence of Rudra Himself who has incarnated on earth in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sri Srinivasan complimented the youth of Karnataka not only for the perfect planning and execution of the Yajna, but also for the spirit of unity, devotion, discipline and sacrifice with which it was being conducted by them.

On 14th August 2006, Prof. N.S. Ramaswamy, former director of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and at present Chairman, Indian Heritage Academy, Bangalore was blessed by Bhagavan to address the devotees. Prof. Ramaswamy observed that at a time when the world was plagued with conflicts, violence and restlessness, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has incarnated to restore peace, harmony and love between man and man. 21st century, he said, belonged to India and in essence to Bhagavan who has practically demonstrated to the world how love can unite people of all religions, cultures and nationalities in the bond of brotherhood.

On 15th August 2006, Dr. Easwaran, Head of the Department of Chemistry, St. Stephens College, Delhi addressed the gathering. Dr. Easwaran beautifully illustrated through a number of mythological stories that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is none other than Lord Siva Himself. Dwelling on the significance of the Panchakshari Mantra “Om Namah Sivaya”, the learned speaker observed that it contained the essence of all the Vedas.

There were three speakers who addressed the devotees on 16th August 2006. The first speaker was Swami Nirbhayananda Saraswati, President, Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Bangalore. The learned speaker observed that Rudram Mantras were lyrical, uplifting, elevating and ennobling. Quoting from scriptures, he said that one could attain health, peace, prosperity and ultimately liberation by chanting these Mantras with devotion. The next speaker, Sri Kishan Bhagwath, an M.B.B.S. student and an alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Pre-university College, Alike, observed that a Poornavata like Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came after thousands of years. It was a great privilege to be His contemporaries and a rare opportunity to take part in His Divine Mission as His instruments, said Sri Bhagwath. The third speaker of the day was Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Sri Mahalingam said that real Yajna was internal and it was to seek goodness, nobility, spiritual eminence, splendour of our true Self, and to offer all our desires in the Yajna Kunda for one desire – to be one with God.

Two speakers were blessed by Bhagavan to speak on 17th August 2006, the 9th day of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. The first speaker was Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Scientific and Cultural Heritage, Thiruvananthapuram. Speaking on the subject of science and spirituality, the learned speaker likened the Tandava Nritya of Siva to the rhythmic movement of heavenly bodies in the universe and the dance of electrons in an atom, which was the source of stupendous energy. Referring to Sai Samithis as atomic reactors of Bhagavan's love, the learned speaker observed that the divine energy of Bhagavan's love was vibrating in the whole world and was uniting mankind. The second speaker was Sri Ajit Popat from London. Sri Popat referred to Bhagavan's educational institutions, hospitals, water projects as Yajnas which were providing spiritual education, healthcare and social welfare for the progress and prosperity of mankind. He exhorted all to put their selfishness, greed and hatred in the sacred Yajna fire, purify their hearts and begin the Yajnas of healthcare, educate and sociocare as demonstrated by Bhagavan by His example.

Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning was the first speaker on 18th August 2006, this being his second speech during the course of the Yajna. Sri Giri felt that it was a rare opportunity for all to listen to the chanting of Rudram in a meticulously correct and rhythmic manner. Not only was it being chanted 11 times daily by 121 priests for 11 days, but the college and school students were also chanting it along with the priests, and hence it far exceeded the number of 14,641 Parayanas prescribed for Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. The speaker who spoke after Sri Giri was Sri Gunaranjan Pemmaraju from Bangalore. Sri Pemmaraju beautifully described how the road of man's journey of life could become smooth and even when the Right Hand Side (Royal Highway to Sai) was equated with Left Hand Side (Love, Humility, Service) as in an equation of mathematics. After these two speeches, Bhagavan blessed the audience with another nectarine Discourse. He also blessed two renowned actresses, Smt. Sowcar Janaki and Smt. Anjali Devi, to address the devotees. Smt. Janaki paid glowing tributes to Bhagavan for organising this soul-uplifting Yajna and expressed her gratitude to Him for curing her knees which had immobilised her and also for cancelling the cancer of her daughter-in-law. Smt. Anjali Devi who made the tele-film "Shirdi Sai Parthi Sai Divyakatha" expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for making her an instrument of

His Divine Mission and for permitting her to perform the role of Mother Easwaramma in this tele-serial.

The first speaker of 19th August 2006 was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Dwelling on the exalted ideals set forth in the Vedas, the erudite speaker quoted the celebrated poet Jayadeva who sang at the beginning of his immortal work Gita Govinda: "The revival of the Vedas and the survival of this planet earth are interdependent." Referring to Bhagavan's Divine Mission of Veda Poshana (fostering of the Vedas), the learned speaker said that it was the Divine Sankalpa (Will) of Bhagavan to spread the universal wisdom of the Vedas to all parts of the world, and added that this was happening before our eyes as witnessed by the entire gathering, how perfectly the children from Iran, Russia and America had chanted the Vedic Mantras in the presence of Bhagavan.

The last speaker was Sri Vinay Kumar, Youth Wing Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka. Sri Vinay Kumar thanked all who had helped in the organisation of the Yajna, and added that the entire credit of the grandeur and glory it acquired was solely and truly due to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's meticulous planning, His direction and His advice at every step. Sri Vinay Kumar concluded his talk with a prayer to Bhagavan to make the youth of India and the world effective instruments of His Divine Mission. The programme of illuminating talks which provided subtle insights into the various aspects of spirituality, devotion and Vedic wisdom to the mammoth gathering of devotees by a galaxy of learned speakers came to a close with this prayer of Sri Vinay Kumar to Bhagavan.

### **Musical Presentations**

A fine medley of captivating classical music, devotional songs and instrumental music by a galaxy of renowned musicians, child artistes and the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning enthralled the gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall during the course of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. The first musical presentation was made on the afternoon of 10th August 2006 by two talented child artistes. The programme began with a classical song in praise of Lord Siva rendered by the child artiste Karthik Gyaneswar which earned him the appreciation of the audience and blessings of Bhagavan who showered His grace on him at the end of the presentation and also materialised a gold chain for him. The second presentation was a masterly flute recital by the child artiste Akash who showed great maturity and talent in his captivating presentation.

Two excellent musical presentations were made on the afternoon of 11th August 2006. The first presentation was made by a well-known musician, Sri O.S. Arun of Chennai, who started with a prayer to Lord Ganesh, "Gayiye Ganapati Jaga Vandana" and followed it up with Panchakshari Mantra "Om Namah Sivaya" and three more excellent songs in praise of Siva and Sai which had a spellbinding effect on the audience. No less spellbinding was the musical presentation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning students who occupied the stage after the conclusion of Sri Arun's presentation. The very first song of this presentation "Sivasankari Sivanandalahari ..." had a captivating effect on the audience. The students sang six songs between themselves to the delight of the entire audience and were greeted with a thunderous applause at the end of each song. Everyone in the audience was so lost in these divine musical presentations that none took notice of time as the programme stretched up to 7.00 p.m. There was no trace of fatigue

on any face; instead, everyone displayed joy and exuberance. The students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning made another equally enthralling presentation of devotional songs on the afternoon of 13th August 2006. First three songs were in praise of Lord Siva and the remaining three were Mira Bhajans relished by the audience with much delight.

Another scintillating musical presentation comprised devotional songs by Sri M.R. Vaidyanathan of Coimbatore on the afternoon of 14th August 2006. Commencing with a prayer song in praise of Lord Ganesh, the renowned artiste delighted one and all by singing songs in praise of Vitthala, Rama and Krishna. Bhagavan blessed the artiste at the end of his presentation and also materialised a gold chain for him.

The evening of 15th August 2006 was enlivened by two outstanding presentations. The first presentation was made by Ustad Rafique Khan and Party of Gwalior Gharana fame. The first item they presented was a scintillating Sitar recital. This was followed by a Kirtan of Om Namah Sivaya in which the huge gathering of devotees also participated. This was followed by an exquisite rendering of Mira Bhajan, “Rama Nama Rasa Peeje Manava ...” The audience responded enthusiastically to their grand performance with a thunderous applause. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the entire group and distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands. After this, the Institute students made a delightful dance presentation to the accompaniment of songs in praise of Rama, Krishna, Siva and Sai. Among the dance items presented by them, two items stood out conspicuously by their excellence – one was a Yaksha Gana dance (a traditional folk art form of Karnataka) and the other was Tandava dance of Siva. Pleased with their performance, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the participants and posed for group photos with them.

A musical presentation of excellent devotional songs was made by two sisters Smt. Ranjani and Smt. Gayatri, reputed artistes from Chennai, on the afternoon of 17th August 2006. Displaying their exquisite musical talent, the artistes enthralled the audience with four devotional songs including a Mira Bhajan. Bhagavan blessed the artistes at the conclusion of the programme and gave Saris to them with His Divine Hands.

On the afternoon of 19th August 2006, Sri Ghatam Karthick and his troupe delighted one and all in Sai Kulwant Hall with a fine medley of instrumental, light classical and classical vocal devotional music. Besides, devotional songs in praise of Siva, there were captivating flute recitals and other instrumental compositions which enraptured the audience. Bhagavan blessed the entire troupe and distributed clothes to them at the end of their presentation. He also materialised a gold ring for one of the members of the troupe. With this excellent presentation, the devotional music programmes came to a happy conclusion.

**ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA DIVINE DISCOURSE: 2**

**PERFORM ALL ACTIONS  
TO PLEASE GOD**

*Ritwiks – Embodiments of Sacredness, Devotees and Students!*

BHARAT is the land of abundance. It is verily the mine of gold. It is the sacred land which has given birth to great scholars, musicians and women of chastity. It is unfortunate that having been born in this sacred land, the people of Bharat are not able to realise its ancient glory and rich cultural heritage.

### **What is True Yajna?**

The rituals conducted by the head priest this morning have a profound significance and subtle inner meaning. People observe the performance of the rituals, but they are not able to experience the truth about them in their heart. Whatever we hear from our elders, we should try to experience it in our heart. *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam; Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in harmony are noble ones; those who lack harmony of these are wicked). Therefore, it is necessary for all those who observe the performance of these rituals to experience their truth in their heart.

There are nine forms of devotion for attaining God which have been propagated since ancient times. The intense devotion and steadfast faith that are seen in Bharat are not seen anywhere else. In Bharat, wherever you see, you find excellence in every field, whether it is music, literature or any other area. It is only in Bharat that people, despite their trials and tribulations, are able to lead a peaceful life by thinking of God at all times. Such sanctity and sacredness is not noticed anywhere else in the world. All over the world, wherever you go, you find only turmoil, misery and suffering. It is the great good fortune of the people of this country that they have taken birth in this sacred land. Performance of sacred rituals like Yajnas and Yagas is not found anywhere else in the world. People think that offering oblations in fire is Yajna. But true Yajna is to offer oneself to God, to please God and to become deserving of His love. Yajna should not be performed for attaining selfish ends. It should be performed for the welfare of the world.

In Bharat, people have been performing Yajnas and Yagas since ancient times. Yajnas were performed in Treta Yuga, but demons tried to disrupt them because they did not understand the truth about them. With the dawn of Dwapara Yuga, most people tried to understand the truth about the performance of these ritualistic practices. Kings like Janaka performed many Yajnas. People, especially those who are educated, should understand the true meaning of Yajnas. In fact, it is necessary that everybody should participate in them. It only means that whatever actions one does, one should do them to please God. It should be our firm conviction that we do everything to please God and attain liberation. In fact, the very purpose of human birth is to please God. Human life is not meant to be wasted on eating and drinking. Man should try to recognise his true nature. You keep enquiring from others, “Who are you?” and thus waste your time. But you never enquire, “Who am I?” Once you know the truth about yourself, you will know the true nature of everybody. You should not waste your time on trying to know about others. God is the embodiment of time. *Kalaya Namah, Kala Kalaya Namah, Kaladarpa Damanaya Namah, Kalateetaya Namah, Kalaswarupaya Namah, Kalaniyamtaya 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). Time is most precious. Therefore, do not waste even a single moment. People today make efforts to attain materialistic gains and mental power. They

do everything to satisfy their senses. But nobody tries to attain self-realisation. How long do the sensual pleasures and bodily pleasures last? They are all momentary. Only the heart is permanent. You should make efforts for the satisfaction of the heart. This is possible only by associating yourself with good company.

*Satsangatwe Nissangatwam,*

*Nissangatwe Nirmohatwam,*

*Nirmohatwe Nischalatattwam,*

*Nischalatattwe Jivanmukti.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Good company leads to detachment; detachment makes one free from delusion; freedom from delusion leads to steadiness of mind; steadiness of mind confers liberation.)

You become bad by associating with bad company. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* The type of qualities you acquire depends upon your company. Therefore, you should associate with noble and spiritual-minded people. The people gathered here form a great spiritual company. This type of company is not available anywhere else. When you associate yourself with such a noble company, you get noble feelings.

### **Good Words Result in Good Actions**

When water evaporates, it forms into clouds. But all clouds do not bring rain. Rain depends upon the type of clouds and many other factors. Today we are not getting proper rains. Man's life depends upon water. Pure water ensures good health and long life. Many diseases are caused by polluted water. Similarly, pollution in the environment is also the cause of many diseases. Therefore, we should keep our environment clean and pure. It is also necessary that we consume only pure water. Then only can we become healthy and blissful. Happiness is very essential for good health.

*Students – Boys and Girls!*

You are all young. It is essential for you to keep your environment clean. Eat only clean and pure food and have only good company. Speak good words, have healthy entertainment and engage yourself in good activities. *Life is a game, play it.* Engage yourself in the welfare of others and conduct yourself in such a noble way that it leads to your emancipation. Whomsoever you converse with, you should always converse in a peaceful manner, filling your words with empathy. Never use harsh words. Your harsh words will hurt the feelings of others. You should speak such words which melt the heart of others. *Help Ever, Hurt Never.* Help everybody.

*Saha Navavathu*

*Saha Nau Bhunakthu*

*Saha Veeryam Karavavahai*

*Tejaswinavadheetamasthu*

*Ma Vidvishavahai.*

(May the Lord protect and nourish us!

May we grow in intelligence and valour working together!



May we live in friendship without any conflict!)

Develop friendship with others by speaking good words. Good company will fill your heart with goodness. When your thoughts are good, your actions will also be good. And when your actions are good, their result is bound to be good. The tongue, that is the gift of God, should therefore be used to speak softly and sweetly in a sacred way. It is a noble tradition of Bharat that people here speak sacred words. When some elderly person comes to your house, you should treat him respectfully and offer him a proper seat. Never use improper and disrespectful words while talking to elders. Your being good or bad depends mainly upon the words you use. When you speak good words, you will have a good position in society and others will also speak to you nicely. Ignore any bad words spoken by others.

### **All that is Related to God is Good**

Students! Never be proud of your education. If you develop pride at this stage, you will become egoistic in life. When your words are good, your heart will also be good. When your heart is full of sweetness, all your feelings will also become sweet. Therefore, make your heart pure, soft and sweet. During the forthcoming days, many noble persons will address you. You will have the opportunity of listening to their sacred talks. See that these sacred words are imprinted on your heart.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Lead your lives with compassion, kindness and love. Suffuse your life with love. Love is nectarine. It has unmatched sweetness. Therefore, use always good words. Even if you come across your enemy, offer your salutations to him. Be friendly with everybody. The Vedas declare that we should live and work together, and achieve noble goals with unity.

*Let us all move together, let us all grow together,*

*Let us all stay united and grow in intelligence together,*

*Let us live together with friendship and harmony.* (Telugu Song)

This is the foremost teaching of the Vedas. God has given you a soft tongue. You should not speak harsh words with your tongue. The soft tongue should always speak soft and sweet words. Harsh words will make you hard-hearted. If you speak good words, you will have good results. On the other hand, harsh words will always bring bad results.

*Embodiments of Love!*

The head priest has given a talk on a very good spiritual topic. You should try to understand the meaning of the points dwelt upon by him. Do not limit your education to what is taught by the teachers in the classroom. All bookish learning is artificial. This type of artificial education is of little worth. What is important is not artificial but 'heartificial'. In the coming days, you will listen to the talks of many learned speakers on lofty themes which will enhance your knowledge and purity. *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender). Out of nine paths of devotion, *Sravanam* is the first one. So, listen to good things and try to assimilate the goodness contained in them. Move away from the place where unpalatable words are spoken. Let everything bad dissolve in thin air. Accept all that is good. Then, only good will remain with you for ever. All that is related to God is good. Only that is true, eternal and sacred.

Absorb all that is sacred and true and base your life on these eternal values. God's teachings are full of sweetness. His words are nectarine. One should never ignore the teachings of God. You may even give up the body, but not the teachings of God. Body is made up of five elements. Nobody knows when it will meet its end. It is bound to fall one day or the other. Do not give undue importance to the body. Life is not meant merely to sustain your body. Associate yourself with sacred company for mental purification and attainment of bliss. It is not enough if you merely associate with sacred company; you should suffuse your heart with sacred teachings of such an exalted company.

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 10th August 2006 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.

## **FESTIVALS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

### **Worship of the Divine Mother**

Worship of the feminine principle of God is an important feature of Indian spiritual history. It is customary to worship Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati during the nine days of Navaratri festival. But in many parts of India, special worship is offered to goddess Lakshmi by the ladies and the function is known as Varalakshmi Vrata. Like last year, Varalakshmi Vrata was organised at Prasanthi Nilayam this year also with great piety and devotion in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The function was held on 4th August 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was tastefully decorated for the festive occasion. Special floral decorations were done on the dais where an idol of Varalakshmi was placed for offering worship. More than 1,500 ladies participated in this function and offered worship to the goddess.

Bhagavan was offered a traditional welcome with Poornakumbham amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and auspicious rendering of Nadaswaram music by a group of musicians when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. Soon after coming to the dais, Bhagavan went into the rows of the ladies who were taking part in this function and showered His blessings on them. Bhagavan returned to the dais at 7.40 a.m. and formally inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp placed there. The programme of Puja started with the worship of Lord Ganesh by the participating ladies as instructed by the chief priest. After this, the ladies performed Puja of goddess Varalakshmi for nearly one hour as per the instructions given by the chief priest. At the conclusion of the Puja, the chief priest offered Arati to the idol of Varalakshmi placed on the dais. In the end, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.00 a.m. A sumptuous feast was offered to all the participating ladies in the South Indian Canteen at the conclusion of the function.

### **Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations**

Sri Krishna Janmashtami this year assumed added significance at Prasanthi Nilayam since it was celebrated on 16th August along with the performance of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. On this day, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.15 a.m. when the priests were doing Rudra Parayana collectively after completing the Abhisheka and Puja of the Sayeeswara Linga.

The procession of beautifully bedecked cows and calves led by richly caparisoned Sai Geeta (Bhagavan's dear elephant) and followed by Bhajan singing group of students entered Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.45 a.m. from Gopuram Gate. Bhagavan came down from the dais to shower His love and blessings on them. First, Bhagavan fed a 5-day-old calf with a feeding bottle full of milk and watched it lovingly as it guzzled the milk. Then it was the turn of Sai Geeta. It was a very touching scene when tears started streaming down its eyes when Bhagavan lovingly fed and caressed it with His Divine Hands. Bhagavan then fed it a second time also and showered His love on it again. After this, Bhagavan fed a fawn. Thereafter, it was the turn of robust and healthy cows of Gokulam. They were fed with bananas and apples. All the while, a group of students kept singing Krishna Bhajans with zeal and devotion. After this, Bhagavan returned to the dais where two students who were dressed as Krishna and Balarama received Bhagavan's blessings. Thereafter, Bhagavan released white pigeons for peace in the world. Prasadam was distributed to all on this occasion. Meanwhile, Rudra Parayana by the priests continued which was followed by Rudra Homa and Sai Gayatri Homa. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.00 a.m.

### **Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations**

In an environment sanctified by the collective chanting of the Vedic Mantras by Prasanthi Nilayam school and college students, and sweet notes of Nadaswaram music by the Anantapur College students, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba showered His blessings on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall when He came to the Hall at 8.10 a.m. on the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi on 27th August 2006. After coming to the dais, Bhagavan blessed the idols of Lord Ganesh and Kalashas brought by the students for worship in their respective institutions. This was followed by a excellent programme of devotional music which included Stotras (hymns) and group and solo devotional songs in praise of Lord Ganesh. Presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, this programme of soul-stirring musical compositions in Sanskrit, Hindi and Telugu filled each heart with sacredness and sweetness. The programme came to a close at 9.30 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

The idols of Lord Ganesh worshipped in schools, college, hospitals and premises of Ashram departments by the students and Ashram staff were brought in a grand procession to Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 31st August 2006 for the blessings of Bhagavan before their immersion. Brought in beautiful chariots and palanquins, the idols which were lined up in Sai Kulwant Hall presented a grand spectacle displaying innovativeness and fine workmanship of the students and staff. Some of these reminded of the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna performed recently. One of them was shaped like a Linga which was worshipped during the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. Another showed a Yajna Kunda where two boys in the dress of Ritwiks kept offering oblations in the Yajna fire. Other displays were also very beautiful and attractive. Bhagavan blessed all the students and staff members accompanying them.

After Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the Institute students presented a short skit to relate the significance of celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi. At the end of the skit, they presented a jubilant dance to the delight of one and all. After this, Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students and staff members brought the chariots and palanquins before Bhagavan in the centre of the Hall and offered salutations to Him. After seeking

the blessings of Bhagavan, they circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir and took the idols out for immersion, bringing the joyous festival of Ganesh Chaturthi to a happy conclusion.

## **SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES**

**Prashanthigram - 515 134, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.) India**

**(Accredited by the National Board of Examinations)**

**Phone No. 08555-287388 - Ext.: 506, Fax 08555-287544. Email: adminpg@sssihms.org.in**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for undergoing DNB training for three years in the following Specialities.

### **Minimum Qualification**

#### **1. Super Specialities**

- a. Urology (Session to commence in January 2007) }
- b. Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery } MS/DNB (GEN. Surgery)

#### **2. Broad Specialities**

### **Minimum Qualification**

- a. Anaesthesiology M.B.B.S. and pass in the Central Entrance Test of the (January 2007 Session) National Board of Examinations.

The Institute offers stipend as prescribed by the National Board of Examinations and single room hostel accommodation on payment of usual rent.

The selection will be based on the performance in the written, clinical and viva voce tests for Urology and CTVS and through interview and objective assessment for Anaesthesiology.

The application form and the brochure can be had from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prashanthigram, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh. Pin - 515 134 on payment of Rs. 300/- (rupees three hundred only) by demand draft drawn on SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam in favour of "SSSIHMS, Prashanthigram".

*Director*

### ***From our Archives***

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF YAJNAS**

*Thought, word and deed, when man keeps as one,  
He is acclaimed on earth as truly great,  
Wedded to truth, the presence of God is gained,  
Liars, like pebbles, abound; true men, like diamonds, are rare.*

### ***Embodiments of Love!***

THE PRESENCE of God, the vision of the Absolute, is not a state to be attained or newly achieved. God or the Absolute is the very nature of the Self. The individual is the indivisible God. Even when enmeshed in this world of conflict and confrontation, the Self is God, in reality. Deluding himself as the body in which he lives and attaching him-

self to the charm and challenge of Nature, he imposes selfhood on himself and suffers from that limitation. The rain drops clear and pure from the clouds, but on earth the water is rendered turbid and polluted by its contact with the ground. That does not affect its real nature. The water that rose as cloud and fell as rain is clear and pure. The salt of the sea is discarded in the sea itself. All the rivers of all the continents end in the sea; they lose, on merging with the sea from which they started their long journey, their forms and their taste or characteristic qualities.

Similarly, the selves that have assumed human forms and that are designated by separate names, emerge from the same source and merge in the universal form which they particularised. In the Bhagavadgita, Lord Krishna declares, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). They may appear different but their reality is the One. The Vedas, therefore, accost all selves as *Amrutasya Putra* (sons of immortality). They remind every living being of its being the undying divine.

A millionaire may take on the role of a down-and-out in a play and act the part remarkably well on the stage, but that impersonation does not make him a down-and-out. Even while on the stage, he knows that he is a millionaire, pretending to be poor. He will indeed be a fool if he forgets his reality. The individual self is the role; the reality is God.

Every role and action has a method, a mode, a way. The engineer, for example, works according to certain norms, certain principles and processes. These have to be decided upon with reference to the nature of the subsoil, the type of foundation, the height of the structure, etc. A painter has to calculate the area, the base, the background, etc. If they do not pay attention to these, the structure won't be strong, the picture won't be liked. The same holds good for the Yajna (sacrificial rite) that was inaugurated this morning. First, the fire altar, where offerings are poured into the sacred fire. It has to be made to measure, as laid down in the ancient past. If the prescribed rules are broken or bypassed, the result promised cannot be secured. The fire that is lit in the altar has, according to the texts which recommended the Yajna, to be churned out of the hard wood which was used this morning. After it is lit, tongues of flame have to be raised in order to receive the articles that are offered to the deities that are invoked by the sacred incantations.

The Vedas invite us to realise that everything – living and non-living – every quality and characteristic of everything is only an aspect of the one Atma, the source and substance of all. The Aham or the ego is an appearance on the Atma as the foam on the edge of the wave, which is but the ocean itself. The Atma can well be devoid of ego, but ego cannot exist without the Atma as the reality underneath. However, man validates Aham (ego), giving it Akaram (form) full of attributes and so, it gets polluted as Ahamkaram (egoism)! When the ego is free from the status of 'ism', it is a facet or factor of the Atma. Attributes, modes, Gunas (qualities) drag it into the tangle of dualities and so, it gets malefic and sheds its positive, purifying role. The oblation that is done here in the sacred fire is symbolic of the evil adhering to the ego, the animal urges that still animate it.

The 'ism' or mould in which the ego gets hardened tantalises man and blinds him to the truth. Sankaracharya has described the harm it inflicts and prescribes the recitation of the name of God to defuse the consequence. The pure ego will then merge and lose its identity in the Atma, which has no birth and no death. These Yajnas serve one purpose more than all else – the cleansing of all levels of consciousness, Chitta Shuddhi, for they

involve renunciation, invocation of Divinity and ascetic practices. This achievement alone cannot ensure Moksha (liberation). That can be won only by the awareness of the reality leading to Kshaya (removal) of Moha (attachment) to the unreal. But, this ultimate objective is seldom kept in view. Vedic rites were gone through in order to win the boon of sorrow-free worldly life and blissful heavenly sojourn, and only as a stage in realising the freedom from birth and death, and merging in the truth.

With a cleansed mind, one has to pursue the enquiry into the reality, until no trace of fascination for the unreal persists. Yajna involves renunciation. It means 'giving up'. What is it that we have to give up? Riches? That is quite easy. The home? That too is not difficult. Giving up one's wife and children, one's lands and houses and removing oneself into the forest? That too has been done by many. But, though one's body and mind are in the recesses of the jungle, the wife and children, the lands and houses might still occupy the thoughts and emotions of the person who has come away. What have to be given up, therefore, are one's evil tendencies, harmful thoughts, selfish feelings and longing for sensual pleasures. One has to get rid of envy, of the love for parading oneself. When these have been renounced, hearth and home cannot harm us.

The Vedas desire man to give up the animalist ego, and its complement, anger. The evils of envy, pride and spite belong to the same brood. These are all bestial though human in appearance. The Vedas declare that love, tolerance, compassion, non-attachment and adherence to truth are the genuine human traits.

Jesus Christ said, "Ask, and it shall be given you"; "seek, and ye shall find"; "knock, and it shall be opened unto you." But, are we asking, seeking and knocking? Yes. We are asking, we are seeking, we are knocking at the door. But, whom are we asking? What are we seeking? At whose door are we knocking? We are not asking for everlasting bliss; we ask only for short-lived material pleasures. So, we do not get all that we ask for. What is the reason? Has He no compassion? The child is sick but it asks for many varieties of sweets which the mother refuses to give. Does it mean that she hates the child? Or, is she hard-hearted? Has she lost her affection? The refusal is itself a sign of compassion. For, each person is an invalid, suffering from recurrent birth and death. Granting whatever is asked can only lengthen the suffering. Hence arises the withholding and the denial. And, you too do not ask for the indispensable! You do not pray for the peace that knows no break. If you do, the boon will be granted.

Of course, you do seek. But, do you seek God, or someone ungodly? God will respond when the call arises from the heart. Your call is fouled by greed, by hatred against others, by the desire for vengeance, by the hiss of envy and intolerance. I know you knock at the door. But, at which door? Keeping the door of your own heart closed, how can your clamour succeed in getting other door opened? Knock at the door of your own heart. God, the resident, will come into view. Prahlada had the faith that God resides in every heart and everywhere. So, when a pillar in the palace was knocked at, the Lord manifested therefrom. Believe that He resides in you and turn your vision inward.

You complain that God is merciless, hard to please, etc., only because you do not wish to give Him what you ought to or ask from Him what He would gladly give. Tender hearts, holy thoughts, loving speech – these can invoke the Divine Atma to manifest into awareness. For, these personify Sathya, embody God as Sathya or the Truth of truths. Therefore, Sathya has to be adored and propitiated. The Homa or offering of oblations in

this ceremoniously lit and ceremoniously fed fire is the symbolic adoration of the Truth of truths, Sathya.

Philosophy is interpreted as the search for truth. But, truth is not something to be sought for. You have only to be aware of it, to experience it, to be it. Without it, philosophy is but full-loss-ophy! These Yajnas which encourage you to sublimate your emotions are all designed to direct you towards the goal.

Truth is totality, the One which integrates and includes the many. The sages of yore were not satisfied with one facet of the truth or one view, not of one god but of That where all streams merge. As Bairagi Sastry told you now that it is Keshava whom adoration addressed to all gods reaches. *Sarva Deva Namaskaram Kesavam Pratigachchhati* (whichever deity you worship, it reaches God). One house cannot become a village, nor one individual, a society, nor one tree, a forest! To be conscious of the totality, one has to fill oneself with the sublime grandeur of the forest, not squat under a single tree. This is the inner purpose which led aspirants and seekers after truth to the core of the Himalayan forests. Keeping away from the din of the populace was only an excuse. In the sylvan hermitage, the prayer resonant with Yajur Veda, 'Let all be of one mind, of one heart, towards one goal, sustained by one strength' rose more meaningfully and more effectively. The present socialist ideal of the unity of mankind is a Vedic concept; in fact, the Vedic ideal was even wider and more comprehensive. 'Let all the worlds be happy and prosperous. The world is one family', the Vedas proclaimed.

It is wrongly assumed that the Vedas had only one section of the population, one caste, one race, one community in view. This is the result of misreading and mistaken inference. They are concerned, it was said, only with Brahmins and with the Pandits among them. This too is a wrong conclusion. Every Vedic ritual had as its goal the prosperity and peace of the world. The Vedas yearn to establish the welfare of the three worlds – the nether regions, the earth and heaven. It is a pity that a narrow outlook is foisted by short-sighted people on such profound texts. The Vedas do not allow scope for distinctions on the basis of caste or creed. They assert, "I shall save whoever keeps Me in memory." "I shall be beside whoever is beside Me." "Whoever adores Me in whatever form and through whichever name, I shall manifest Myself before them with that form, bearing that name."

Oblations are offered in this sacred fire to the One, but the One is invoked through many names: 'Om! Prostrations to Rudra! Om! Prostrations to Aditya! Om! Prostrations to Varuna', etc. The Rishis or sages had each a favourite form and name and, as a result, the One Lord acquired many names. Many among you perform the worship named, Laksharchana or Saptaham. What is done then is repeating the names of God a hundred thousand times or for full seven days and nights. A flower is placed before the picture or idol with the recitation of a name – Madhava, Keshava, Narayana, etc. The idol is the same throughout. When we name Him Madhava, we are conscious that He is also Keshava and Narayana, and we derive delight from that knowledge.

Each hymn of the Vedas is called a Rik, which means 'praise'. And the word Veda is derived from the root Vid, 'to know'. What exactly should we strive to know? We must know the One, which has no second, no another, no other. So, every word, every statement in the Vedas, every Mantra or Rik in them, connotes only the One, though out

of insufficient or wrong understanding people mistake the lesson and ascribe the words to indicate the many.

It is essential that the true import be grasped by all. Since the opportunities to learn it have declined, mistaken interpretations gain currency. In the course of this weeklong Vedic Yajna, we shall delve into the deeper significance of the Vedic teachings.

– From Bhagavan’s Discourse on 21st October 1982 on the first day of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna (“Sanathana Sarathi” March 1983)

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI**

### **Exhibition on “Journey with Sai”**

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of “Sanathana Sarathi” around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in “Sanathana Sarathi” and other relevant records. Copies of publications/records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required.

It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P.). Email: editor@sssbpt.org

*Convener*  
**Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust**

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

ON THE OCCASION of the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the 50th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award for Youth, the Queen hosted a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 13th July 2006. About 8,000 invitations were sent out to individuals who had made a unique contribution to the United Kingdom. The National Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation was chosen by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to attend and receive a special certificate and recognition for the outstanding contribution made by Sai Youth towards nation building and promoting happiness and harmony within the community. Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation of the U.K. has been a recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh award in the past (please see “Sanathana Sarathi” October, 2005).

National Youth Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of the U.K., Shitu Chudasama attended the function and was asked to address the audience regarding the work of Sai Youth and Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation. He told how Sri Sathya Sai Baba teaches



that only youth can transform youth and how He calls upon them to be leaders like lions - bold and courageous. A miracle of Swami's omnipresence occurred during the ceremony. When the certificate was presented, it bore the name of Divinity itself, Sri Sathya Sai.

### **M O R O C C O**

An SSEHV teacher training conference was held at the American School in Casablanca, Morocco from 1st to 2nd July 2006. Morocco is a French-speaking kingdom in North Africa. As many as 120 teachers from 14 schools attended the conference that was conducted fully in French by Carole Alderman, Director, British Institute of Sathya Sai Education and Christina Wilson, a French-speaking trainer of the Institute. During the two days of the course, teachers were introduced to the five human values and five teaching techniques through lectures and interactive activities in which everyone participated enthusiastically. The teachers made sincere efforts to incorporate Sathya Sai Human Values into their training sessions and even in their interactions during the conference. Later, various schools discussed together and reported back on how they would take SSEHV further. A resolution was made to translate SSEHV books into French and Arabic languages to facilitate their use in schools in Morocco. At the end of the conference, all the teachers were extremely enthusiastic and eager to implement SSEHV as part of the curriculum.

### **I N D O N E S I A**

Since December 2005, Indonesia has been repeatedly struck by tsunamis and earthquakes. There is a great need for humanitarian help in these devastated islands. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in Indonesia has been tirelessly providing disaster relief and medical care to the victims. The exemplary and timely mobilisation of massive resources by the Sai Organisation in response to these sequential natural calamities was partly reported in the July 2006 issue of "Sanathana Sarathi". The selfless service rendered by the dedicated Sai devotees in Indonesia continues:

On 1st June 2006, one public kitchen was set up in Klaten and another in Gunung Kitul. In addition, large quantities of food, healthcare materials, and clothes were delivered. Sai Medical Teams increased from three to six. On 3rd June 2006, Sai devotees from Jakarta began to manufacture bricks for the reconstruction of many houses that were destroyed. The flow of relief materials, food and clothes accelerated. On 4th June 2006, Sai devotees from Bali set up many tents to house homeless victims. Working with Sai Youth, they began reconstructing damaged houses. On 5th June 2006, rebuilding and rehabilitation work was initiated by Sai devotees in several villages, and Sri Sathya Sai Central Council provided financial aid, building materials and financial resources to rebuild houses.

As this disaster relief was being rendered, the south-western coast of Java was again hit by a tsunami on 17th July 2006. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation again rose to the occasion. Office bearers visited the devastated areas, assessed the damage, ascertained the needs, drafted a plan to provide the urgently needed humanitarian aid, and began, without delay, to implement the plan. Withstanding these horrendous natural disasters, the people of Indonesia have been comforted by the loving care of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His devotees from Indonesia.

### **U. S. A.**

Jasper, a small town in the State of Texas, was hit by Hurricane Rita. Six months later, the population is still recovering from the destruction and water-borne diseases resulting from the hurricane. In response to this major calamity, Sai devotees from the Sai Centres in the States of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana, working together selflessly conducted a medical camp on 4th February 2006 providing free medical care for the needy. During this camp, 400 patients were seen. Preventive health screening was done for diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, etc. Groups of devotees visited a nearby nursing home for the elderly and provided love and care to the residents.

On 12th August 2006, a free Sai Medical Camp was held in St. Louis, Missouri in which 227 patients were seen. In addition to treating those in need, healthcare education and preventative healthcare screenings were provided. Most importantly, a booth was set up in the Medical Camp titled "Sai Human Values and Health." Information about Swami's teaching on human values and health in English and Spanish languages was made available. Dr. William Kincaid, the Director of Health for the City of St. Louis, Missouri came to the medical camp. On behalf of the city of St. Louis, he expressed his gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Organisation for conducting these free medical camps for the people of St. Louis.

– **Prasanthi Council**

## **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Anantapur district conducted Bal Vikas Children's Joy Festival at Anantapur on 1st and 2nd July 2006 in which 400 children, 110 Gurus and 100 active workers from all over the district took part. 50 children had the opportunity to show their creativity in making various articles like flower pots, bouquets, wall hangings, greeting cards, paintings, etc., with waste material like used CDs, leaves of different trees, flowers, etc. Some children wrote Sai Ram on rice grains. 14 students impressively spoke on Swami's childhood, Indian Culture and the importance of Bal Vikas. Some children showed their talent in heritage sports like playing top in different ways, stick fights in self-defence, etc., to the joy of the assembled audience. Nine teams from different parts of the district took part in cultural programmes like dance, drama and group singing on spiritual themes. Children demonstrated Puja methods in Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions and recited Veda Mantras. They also took part in a debate on cultivating human values. A very interesting and enlightening quiz programme on the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata and Bhagavadgita was held in which five teams of 80 selected students took part. All winners and participants were given prizes.

West Godavari district conducted Bal Vikas Children's Joy Festival on 23rd July 2006 at Eluru in which 400 children took part. Bal Vikas rally, parents meet, talks highlighting the importance of Bal Vikas and Sri Sathya Sai Education and cultural programmes were the highlights of the festival.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** A two-day training programme for Bal Vikas Gurus was successfully hosted by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Dimapur, Nagaland on 24th and 25th June 2006. About 150 devotees attended the meet from Assam and Manipur besides the host State of Nagaland. Faculty members from the State Organisation dwelt at length on the various aspects of conducting Bal Vikas classes as well as the need for parent contact programme. On the conclusion of the programme, certificates to 74 Gurus who

received training were awarded. A happy augury of the meet was the presence of a number of Naga tribal people hailing from even the trouble-torn Wokha district of Nagaland. The devotees enthused by the nice atmosphere resolved to conduct regular Sai Bhajans in Dimapur. Another attraction of the camp was a cultural programme hosted by Dimapur Bal Vikas students and youth on the evening of 24th June 2006. The audience enjoyed the programme and expressed joy at such an arrangement.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** In a function held in R.S. Pura under the chairmanship of the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu on 28th July 2006, free services offered by the Sai Organisation to improve cattle health by launching free mass vaccination and other programmes for the cattle of border villages were explained by the President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, copies of the book “Seva Pushpam Sai Amritam” were distributed among the faculty members of the university. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Dean of the Faculty, said that one should redeem one’s life by engaging oneself in service of others. This selfless service would come to one’s help in time of need without any limit, observed Dr. Srivastava.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** About 30 km away from Allahabad, fire broke out in a village Kante in which about 50 houses of the poor villagers were burnt. They lost everything. Our Seva Dal members rushed to help them. They distributed all the essential food items for a week and clothes to the victims of the fire. On 23rd April, our Seva Dal members went along with doctors and visited each house. 210 patients were checked and medicines were distributed. Villagers were amazed at the way Seva was done by the devotees of Bhagavan.

Sri Sathya Sai Samithi, Mirzapur organised a bio-tech programme in a big way and villagers from Sheker, Bihampur, Bhagalpur and many other villages attended the programme. The queries raised by the villagers were answered by experts from Allahabad University. Every villager was given Bhagavan’s photo and Vibhuti.

Seva Dal members of Kasgavan and other villages set an example of selfless service for others when they repaired the thatched roofs of the huts of poor villagers and put plastic sheets on 30 of them as these were damaged in heavy rain in Kanpur Dehat. During Guru Purnima, Narayana Seva was conducted in Kanpur Dehat and 3,000 villagers were served food. Chants of “Sai Baba Ki Jai” could be heard all over.

Noida Samithi organised a blood donation camp on 2nd July 2006 in collaboration with doctors of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Total blood donated was 88 units. On the same day, an eye check-up camp was also organised with the help of eye specialists of the Medical Institute. Total number of patients examined and treated was 110. Free spectacles were given to the needy patients.

## **BHAKTA SAKHA 2007 DIARY**

Matt laminated & shrink wrapped 14.5 x 20.7 cms A5 single date (Saturday & Sunday single page) **BHAKTA SAKHA 2007** diaries are on sale. **Price Rs.95/=** (postage & packing extra)  
**Other Specifications:** 394 pages (inner diary sheets and general information in 70 gsm maplitho paper 354 pages, 24 back to back multi colour full page pictures of Bhagavan and ashram details

in 130 gsm art paper 40 pages) with page marker, and more than 300 sayings of Bhagavan. **Weight** 580 grams approx. **Minimum Order acceptable is 5 (five) diaries.**

**Payment details** (Cost + postage + packing) **for single destination / address**

Number of diaries (Minimum order 5 diaries)	Registered Book Post		
	Within India	Overseas (Airmail)	
	Rupees	Ind Rs	USD
5	548	1275	29
6	650	1485	34
7	750	1730	40
8	850	1940	44
Each Additional diary	140	331	8

**Payment** can be made through personal cheques / bank drafts payable in India (Ind. Rupees) / at New York USA (US dollars) **in favour of** Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam and send the same to **the Convener Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Andhra Pradesh, India** along with complete address with PIN / ZIP (in capital letters) to which the diaries are to be sent. **Payment by SWIFT** through our account No: 10678029537 with State Bank of India, Prasanthi Nilayam (Branch code2786) SWIFT code: SBININBB319. Send us complete details of remittance.

## **CHINNA KATHA** **TRUTHFULNESS**

SIR C.V. RAMAN was a renowned scientist. He established an institute for conducting scientific research. He was the director of that institute. Many young men applied for various posts in this institute. He called them for interview.

An incident of great significance occurred at that time. A young man, who was also called for interview, could not give correct answers to the questions asked in the interview. At the end of the interview, Sir C.V. Raman gently said to him, "My dear boy, do not entertain any hope of securing a job here. Better you try for a job elsewhere. You may collect your train fare from the office before you go." Highly discouraged and disappointed at his failure, the young student went to the office and collected the money that was due to him.

After some time, Sir C.V. Raman came out of the interview room. Seeing the young man pacing up and down in the verandah, he said to him in a rather angry tone, "There is no use waiting here. Have I not told you already to try for a job elsewhere? Why are you still loitering here?" Folding both his hands in all humility, the young man replied, "Sir, I am not waiting here with the hope of getting the job. I will certainly follow your advice. I am waiting here for a different purpose. They have given me five rupees more than what was due to me as railway fare. I did not count the money at the time of receiving. Meanwhile, they closed the office and went home for lunch. I am waiting so that I can return the extra money to them."

Putting his hand lovingly on the young man's shoulder, Sir C.V. Raman said, "Come and meet me tomorrow. I will give you the appointment order for the job. I need persons of honesty and integrity like you."

Students should cultivate the habit of truthfulness like this.

## **BACK COVER MATTER**

### *Purusha and Purushottama*

While the individual Person or Purusha is God installed in that body which is thereby a temple, the Purushottama, the Supreme, Sovereign Person, is the sum-total of all the Purushas and so has in Him all of them. The human being alone can know the identity and the bliss thereof. He is the crown of creation, divine in nature and unique in destiny.

- Baba

## **OCTOBER 2006**

### **ONAM DISCOURSE**

# **ONAM GIVES THE MESSAGE OF BROAD-MINDEDNESS**

*The Lord shines resplendently in the universe; so also the universe shines in the Lord. The relationship between the Lord and the universe is intimate and inseparable. Listen! Oh valorous sons of Bharat!*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

TODAY is the holy, divine and glorious festival of Onam. The people of Kerala celebrate it with great joy and sacredness.

#### **Understand the Inner Significance of Celebrating Onam**

At the worldly level, it is celebrated by taking oil bath, wearing new clothes and eating a variety of special dishes. All the members of the family join in the festivities and enjoy themselves by feasting and merry making. But the real significance of this festival does not lie in these outer festivities. On this occasion, some people do Namasmarana, perform Parayana (reverential reading) of the Ramayana, undertake sacred activities and visit

temples. Out of all the temples, the temple of Krishna attracts a large number of devotees since the people of Kerala attach great importance to it. All these sacred activities are the result of their faith in and devotion for God. There lies the inner significance of celebrating this festival.

In ancient times, Emperor Bali ruled over the sacred land of Kerala. He looked after his subjects with loving care. The people, on their part, reposed full faith in the emperor and led a happy and peaceful life. Emperor Bali performed many Yajnas (sacrificial rituals) and other Vedic rituals during his reign. Once he undertook to perform a great Yajna. On this occasion, he announced that whoever asked for anything from him, he would surely give. On hearing this resolve of the emperor, Lord Vishnu assumed the form of Vamana as young dwarf Brahmin and came there holding an umbrella made of coconut leaves. Ratnamala, the daughter of Emperor Bali, was enchanted by the divine effulgence, radiance and aura of Vamana. She thought to herself, "Who is this brilliant young boy radiating divine effulgence! How nice it would be if I could have him as my own child!" Thus, while everyone was lost in the admiration of his divine form, Vamana came there. On seeing Vamana, Emperor Bali stood up and extended him a warm welcome. After offering him a proper seat, he asked, "Sir! May I know the purpose of your visit? What can I do for you?" Vamana replied, "Oh Emperor! I want only three steps of land and nothing more." Surprised at this meager demand, Bali immediately granted it, saying, "Oh! Is that all you ask for? All right, take it." Vamana expanded his form and measured the entire sky with one step and the whole of earth with the other. He then asked Bali, "Where do I put my third step?" Emperor Bali replied, "Swami! You asked for just three steps of land. But you have covered the entire sky and earth with just two steps. All my domain is already exhausted. Please bless me by putting your third step on my head." Vamana then placed his foot on Emperor Bali's head and sent him down to the Patala Loka (nether world).

### **Ego is the Cause of Many Evil Qualities**

You may have a doubt in this context as to how Bali could be pushed down to the nether world by Vamana simply by placing his foot on Bali's head. When the entire sky and earth could be covered with one step each, you can imagine how powerful and gigantic Vamana's steps were! The third step was equally powerful. Its impact could therefore push Emperor Bali down to the nether world. There were other reasons also for sending Bali to the nether world. Bali was no doubt a great and noble emperor. He was endowed with many noble qualities like devotion and humility. He had a highly developed mind. However, there was an element of ego in him. God can tolerate anything but not anger and ego. What is this ego? What for is this ego? Is it for physical beauty, power of the senses, intellectual acumen or wealth? No, none of these should be the cause of one's ego. In fact, ego breeds many evil qualities in man. God has gifted man with such sacred and noble qualities as Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Develop these qualities. These are like Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths) for a human being. Anger, jealousy, ego are animal qualities. How can a person with animal qualities be called a human being? A human being is one who has good qualities. Follow truth. Truth is God. Cultivate love. *Love is God. Live in love.* Unfortunately, today people are not making efforts to manifest sacred and noble qualities that are immanent in them. Ignoring their innate nature, they are carried away by outer impulses. Human body is like an iron safe. It contains the invaluable jewels of Sathya,

Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. Value the precious jewels that are inside, and not the iron safe. The physical body which is made up of five elements is bound to perish one day or the other.

*This body which is made up of five elements is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may have to leave one's mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature.*  
(Telugu Poem)

People repose their faith in such a frail and impermanent physical body. The body is like a puppet; it may fall in a fraction of a second. Reposing their faith in such a perishable body, people forget their prized possessions which are inside it. That is why they have no peace. Even if you ask a millionaire whether he has peace, he will immediately say, "I have everything in this world, but I have no peace." Wherever you see in this world today, you see only 'pieces', not 'peace'. Peace is very much within you. Hence, search for it inside. That is your duty. Unfortunately, man forgets this sacred duty and runs after paltry and mean things. You can experience true and eternal peace only when you manifest your innate noble qualities.

### **Follow the Noble Ideals of the People of Kerala**

The five human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are the true and permanent property of a human being. Since time immemorial, the people of Kerala have been adoring and owning these sacred qualities. What is the inner meaning of Vamana placing his foot on the head of Emperor Bali and pushing him down to the nether world? It means the crushing of Bali's ego. Having realised this inner meaning, the people of Kerala shed their ego. That is the reason why the State of Kerala earned a good name as a land of peace and purity. It is still a land of greenery and prosperity (*loud applause*).

Every human being has some worry or the other. But the people of Kerala are free from worries. They have very few worldly desires. They lead a life of unity, harmony and cooperation. Even if some differences crop up, they set them aside. They consider them as passing clouds. Truly, the people of Kerala are endowed with purity, selflessness and steadiness (*loud prolonged applause*). Others should follow their example. In spite of their preoccupations, they never forget to apply Vibhuti on their forehead. They go to temples both in the morning and evening. People say, Kerala is a communist State. I do not subscribe to this view. It is not 'communist', but 'come-you-next' (*loud applause*)! Their sacred feelings have taken them nearer to God. On the auspicious occasion of Onam, all the people go to temples and perform special Pujas (worship). They go in large numbers to the Bala Krishna temple, sing devotional songs and experience bliss. Though some change has come about in the attitude of some people due to the effect of modern age, yet the people of Kerala have always been pure-hearted and broad-minded. They always pray for the welfare of all. *Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the people of the world be happy!). They do not desire anything which, they know, will not please God.

When Vamana pushed Emperor Bali down to the nether world, the people felt very unhappy, thinking, "Oh God! Our emperor is no longer with us; who will look after us from now on?" Emperor Bali then made a promise to his people that he would visit them

every year and bless them. That day is celebrated as Onam. Goodness will always yield good results.

### **Good Company Fosters Goodness**

*Dear Students!*

Mind is its own witness. Similarly, virtue is the witness of body. A foolish man however witnesses only foolishness. Never behave in a foolish manner. Exercise your discrimination and enquire into everything objectively. If you behave foolishly, you will earn a bad name. Study well and achieve excellence in your studies. Along with this, develop good character and conduct. *Character is real life; character is real education.* Hence, develop good character. Do not imitate others. Associate only with good company.

*Satsangatwe Nissangatwam,  
Nissangatwe Nirmohatwam,  
Nirmohatwe Nischalatattwam,  
Nischalatattwe Jivanmukti.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Good company leads to detachment; detachment makes one free from delusion; freedom from delusion leads to steadiness of mind; steadiness of mind confers liberation.)

*Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* Hence, have good company. When you have good company, you are sure to become good. Goodness is not to be acquired from somewhere outside. It is inherent in your nature. You have only to develop it. Just as proper care and nourishment are required for a small sapling to grow into a gigantic tree, you have to make efforts to develop your goodness. Earn a good name for your parents, society and country. What does the word Hindu connote? It stands for the following qualities:

- H – Humility
- I – Individuality
- N – Nationality
- D – Devotion
- U – Unity

A true Hindu is one who has these qualities. It is only when we conduct ourselves in keeping with such noble ideals that we deserve to be called human beings. Having been born as human beings, it is a great mistake to behave like animals. Whenever animal qualities raise their ugly head in you, remind yourself, “I am not an animal; I am a human being.” Being a human being, you should develop human qualities. Unfortunately, human beings today lack human qualities. Wherever you see, you find only animal qualities. Wherever you go and whomever you meet, everybody has only one desire – money, money and more money! All human endeavours, big and small, have only one motive: to accumulate more and more money. After all, what for is this craze for money? *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows.* Therefore, develop morality. Only then will you become a true human being. The people of Kerala have a high standard of morality. Of course, they also have a desire for acquiring wealth. But it is much less when compared to others. Therefore, others should emulate their ideal, lead a noble life and earn a good name. From ‘good name’, you should progress to ‘God Name’. But, first and



foremost, you must ensure that the food you eat is good. Good food is the basis of good 'head' (thoughts), and good 'head' is responsible for godliness in man. Thus, it is only when you eat good food, you can progress on the path of godliness.

Today we see pollution everywhere. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat are all polluted. Even the heart of man is polluted today. All man's endeavours also get polluted by the impurity of his heart. With the inspiration of God from within, we have to undertake the Sadhana to get rid of this pollution. It is only when we are able to remove this pollution and make our heart pure that we deserve to be called human beings. Divinity can be attained only by purity. And purity can be achieved by developing unity. Unity, purity and divinity are interrelated. Man should develop these more and more. Only then can man's life become pure, sacred and divine.

### **Peace of the Individual is the Basis for World Peace**

Bharat has been called *Punya Bhumi* (land of merit), *Thyaga Bhumi* (land of sacrifice) and *Yoga Bhumi* (land of spirituality) since ancient times. Unfortunately, today it is being turned into *Bhoga Bhumi* (land of worldly pleasures). What we need most today is *Thyaga*. What is *Thyaga*? *Thyaga* is not going to forest, leaving one's wife, children and property. Real *Thyaga* lies in renouncing the fruits of one's actions and desires. Therefore, one should renounce one's mean desires. Then only will one's heart become pure like white cloth. God likes only such a pure and sacred heart. God does not expect anything from you. He has no desires at all. It is only you who have desires. God will be happy if you have only sacred desires. Then peace and happiness will reign supreme in your family, society and country. First of all, you should strive for peace in the family. From the family, it should be radiated to friends, relatives and society at large. When society becomes good, the country will prosper. There can be peace in the country only when the individual is at peace with himself. World peace is possible only when there is peace at the individual level. How can there be peace in the world when the individuals lack it?

### ***Students – Boys and Girls!***

All of you should work for establishing peace in the country. The greatness of Bharat cannot be described in words. Since ancient times, it has been striving for world peace. However, due to the fascination of the Bharatiyas for English language, they neglected their own religion and culture. You may learn any language. There is nothing wrong in it. But you should not neglect your own language and culture. Foster peace in your heart. Always be happy and cheerful. Sweet smile should dance on your lips forever. Never put on a 'castor oil face' (sad face) under any circumstances. Always keep smiling. Share your happiness with one and all and lead a happy and blissful life. Be happy and make others happy. The people of Bharat have always led a blissful life with such noble qualities. There is no dearth of such people even today. May be they are not very rich, yet there is no narrowness in their mind. When you develop broad-mindedness, you can accomplish any great task. Realise the truth that the festival of Onam is observed to develop broad-mindedness. Experience happiness yourself, share it with your family and with society at large. Then all people will be happy. *Happiness is union with God*. Attain the experience of this sublime happiness. Be happy and live like members of one family, sharing your love and happiness with one another.

Live in unity, greeting each other, “hello! hello!” lovingly. Let there be no occasion of parting from each other. Never say, ‘goodbye’. Rather, become ‘good boys’. Develop these sacred feelings of unity. There are still some programmes to be covered. I do not want to inconvenience you by giving a lengthy Discourse.

- **From Bhagavan’s Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th September 2006 on the occasion of Onam.**

The Atma alone has to be loved; all other things are loved for the sake of the Atma. When the Atma is understood, everything else is understood. All effects are subsumed by the Cause.

– Baba

## **DASARA CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

DASARA celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam began on the morning of 26th September 2006 in an environment saturated with gaiety and piety. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall on this day at 7.50 a.m. amidst auspicious notes of Nadaswaram music and sonorous Veda chanting by the Ritwiks (priests) and students, both from Sri Sathya Sai Primary and Higher Secondary Schools, and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. At 8.00 a.m., Bhagavan went into the Bhajan Mandir, distributed clothes to the Ritwiks and showered His blessings on them. After wearing the new dress blessed by Bhagavan, the Ritwiks came out from the Bhajan Mandir at 8.50 a.m. in a procession carrying the sacred Kalasha. Earlier the worship of the Kalasha blessed by Bhagavan was started in the Bhajan Mandir by the Mandir priest on 23rd September 2006. The procession led by Nadaswaram musicians then proceeded towards Poornachandra Auditorium where Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was going to be started in the Divine Presence of Veda Purusha, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students followed the Ritwiks after circumambulating the Bhajan Mandir. All devotees also went to Poornachandra Auditorium to witness the grand spectacle of the commencement of this Yajna of great spiritual significance.

### **Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna**

After Bhagavan’s arrival in Poornachandra Auditorium, the Ritwiks started the process of producing sacred fire for Yajna in the traditional way of churning one piece of wood over the other. Bhagavan blessed the sacred Yajna fire after it was produced. The priests then put the fire into the Yajna Kunda amidst chanting of sacred Mantras. After preliminary rituals, the priests started offering oblations in the Yajna Kunda along with chanting of Vedic Mantras. Simultaneously, Parayana (reverential reading) of sacred texts, worship of Devi, performance of Surya Namaskar and Sahasralingarchana (worship of thousand Lingas) started.

Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna continued in this sacred manner for full one week from 26th September to 2nd October 2006 when it was brought to a happy conclusion with the offering of Poornahuti (final oblations) by Bhagavan Himself in the sacred Yajna fire. On the morning of 2nd October 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at

8.50 a.m. and blessed the huge gathering of devotees with His Divine Darshan. Soon after this, beautifully bedecked Sai Geeta (Bhagavan's dear elephant) was brought in the Hall. Bhagavan went near it, caressed it lovingly and fed it with fruits. The procession of Ritwicks led by Nadaswaram musicians and Sai Geeta and followed by Veda chanting students then started ceremoniously from Sai Kulwant Hall for Poornachandra Auditorium for the Poornahuti of the Yajna. Bhagavan came to Poornachandra Auditorium at 9.30 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants by the students and priests and took His seat near the Yajna Kunda. Soon after this, Bhagavan offered Poornahuti into the Yajna Kunda with His Divine Hands amidst the chanting of Vedic Mantras. After this happy conclusion of the Yajna, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the priests by sprinkling Teertham (sacred Kalasha water) on them.

### **Proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha**

One of the most important features of the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna are the Divine Discourses of Bhagavan, through which Bhagavan imparts His Divine wisdom to the devotees who throng Prasanthi Nilayam on this sacred occasion. This year during Dasara celebrations, Bhagavan gave four Discourses to the delight of a massive gathering of devotees. Before these Discourses of Bhagavan, some eminent men of learning shared their views with devotees on a variety of topics of great spiritual significance.

Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, was the first speaker who spoke on 27th September 2006. Dwelling upon the significance of Navaratri celebrations, the learned speaker observed that Navaratri provided an opportunity to the devotees to practise fasting and vigil for nine days to enable them to gain control over hunger and sleep, which were basic to the control of the senses and the mind. Referring to Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva 2006 as also to Ati Rudra Maha Yajna performed last month and the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna being performed during Navaratri, Sri Giri emphasised that all the actions of Bhagavan are selfless and for universal good. In conclusion, Sri Giri exhorted the students to put into practice at least the basic commands of Bhagavan, viz., Love All, Serve All; Help Ever, Hurt Never.

The first speaker on 28th September 2006 was Sri Ajit Popat of London. Referring to Bhagavan's Grama Seva as Prema Yajna (sacrificial ritual of love) which was being conducted along with Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna, Sri Popat observed that it exemplified how love should be put into practice. Quoting from the teachings of Bhagavan, Sri Popat added that knowledge was of no use when it was not put into practice, action was useless when not performed with love and life was a waste if not spent in contemplation of God. The next speaker was Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Explaining the symbolic act of the killing of the demon Mahishasura by the goddess with her trident, the learned speaker likened Mahishasura to man's demonic qualities, which should be annihilated by the trident of Papa Bheeti, Sangha Neeti and Daiva Preeti (fear of sin, morality in society and love for God) as taught by Bhagavan.

The first speaker on 29th September 2006 was Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Sri Gokak observed that it was a well-established tradition to worship the goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, symbolising power, wealth and learning during the nine days of Navaratri. Elaborating on the inner meaning of this worship, Sri Gokak observed that the worship of Saraswati was meant to impart discrimination to man so that he should use his power and wealth in the righteous

way. In his speech, the second speaker, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute, referred to the two types of education described by Bhagavan in His previous day's Discourse, and exhorted the students to acquire Atma Vidya (knowledge of the Self) besides secular knowledge. The learned speaker made a fervent plea to the students to seize this golden opportunity when God Himself in the form of Bhagavan Baba is imparting this knowledge to them.

Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute, was the first speaker on 1st October 2006. Quoting from Narada Bhakti Sutras, Sri Mahalingam remarked that Bhakti was the culmination of sacrifice and it required complete self-surrender as exemplified by the Gopikas of Brindavan. This, he added, was the end of all Sadhana. The second speaker was Dr. T. Ravikumar, a faculty member of Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Dwelling on the importance of faith as the basis of God-realisation, the speaker narrated a few incidents from his personal life how Bhagavan instilled faith in him and gave him the rare experiences of His Divinity.

On the evening of Vijaya Dasami, 2nd October 2006, Dr. K. Hanumanthappa, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, was blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering. The learned speaker narrated a number of incidents when Bhagavan gave him the experience of His omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience. He observed that one could come into the ambit of Bhagavan's love only due to one's merits earned in thousands of previous births. Referring to the uniqueness of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, he said that he had seen numerous universities in all parts of the world, but there was no institution like the one set up by Bhagavan which provided the highest quality of education totally free of cost. The proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came to a happy conclusion with this inspiring talk of Dr. Hanumanthappa.

### **ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA DIVINE DISCOURSE: 3**

## **DEVOTION TO GOD WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE DIVINE**

*The Lord of Kailasa has manifested his Divine form with the crescent moon adorning his head, the cool water of the Ganga flowing between the matted locks, with his radiant third eye in the middle of the forehead and the purple neck gleaming like the sheen of a blackberry. He wears serpent bracelets and a snake belt, his entire body is smeared with sacred ash, his forehead is adorned with a Kumkum dot, his ruddy lips glow with the juice of the betel, diamond-studded gold earrings dangle from his ears and his whole body glows with divine effulgence.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

DAKSHINAMOORTHY, THE incarnation of Lord Siva, was ever youthful. He never grew old, yet he had disciples who were hoary with age and were steeped in sacred

learning. He imparted divine knowledge to them through the language of silence and they spread his message in ever so many ways.

### **Dakshinamoorthy's Power of Silence**

In fact, Dakshinamoorthy principle permeates the entire universe. The world is nothing but the reaction, reflection and resound of this divine principle. It is impossible to describe the true nature of Dakshinamoorthy.

*The stories of the Lord are amazing,  
They purify the lives of the people in all the three worlds,  
They are like the sickle that cuts the creepers of worldly bondage,  
They are like a good friend who helps you in times of need,  
They are like a shelter for the sages and seers doing penance in the forest.*

(Telugu Poem)

How can anyone describe the glory of Dakshinamoorthy? His nature defies all description. He is silence personified. His silence itself imparts all wisdom to the seekers. From that silence emanate Sujnana (discriminatory knowledge), Vijnana (higher wisdom) and Prajnana (constant integrated awareness). His knowledge of the Self is radiated all around through his silence. He is always in his natural state. His glory and effulgence are reflected on his ever smiling face. Dakshinamoorthy principle is, in fact, beyond all descriptions. *Nirgunam, Niranjana, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (He is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). Nobody in the world can fully describe his true nature. His form is full of brilliance and bliss. How can anyone describe such a divinely resplendent form which embodies love and truth?

*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,  
Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?*

*Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.*

(Telugu Poem)

There is no place in this world which is not permeated by truth. Truth is changeless. All objects in this world may undergo change, but truth does not change. Dakshinamoorthy, who is the embodiment of this changeless principle of truth, defies all description. The famous musician, M.S. Subbulakshmi, used to invoke the blessings of Dakshinamoorthy before commencing her musical concert. It is only by his divine will that everything becomes possible. Nothing is possible without his will. All divine forms have emerged from him. He is so young, yet all divine powers are immanent in him. Where is Dakshinamoorthy? He is omnipresent. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, he permeates the entire universe). Dakshinamoorthy is present in our eyes that see, the ears that hear and the nose that breathes. All the words that we speak belong to him. In fact, he is the prime mover of all our activities. Hence, we should lead our lives in constant awareness of the Dakshinamoorthy principle.

Divinity is all-pervading. There is no place in this universe which is not permeated by God. There is no object in this world which is not divine. All beings, nay, even small insects represent the principle of divinity. One divine principle manifests itself in different forms.

*Jewels are many, but gold is one.*

*Cows are many, but milk is one.*

*Beings are many, but the indweller is one.*

(Telugu

Poem)

Everyone has to recognise this truth. We sing the glory of God by many names like Rama, Krishna, Govinda, Narayana. These are all names ascribed to God by man. God has no particular name or form.

### **Ignorance of Man is the Cause of his Bondage**

Dakshinamoorthy principle permeates all beings. He is Chaitanya Swarupa (embodiment of consciousness). Wherever there is consciousness, there is Dakshinamoorthy. Though divine consciousness is immanent in all beings, man is unable to realise it due to his body attachment. It is overshadowed by the body-mind-intellect-mindstuff-ego complex of man. Added to this are the Arishadvargas (the six inner enemies of man, viz., desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy) which come in the way of the realisation of this divine principle. These are like the dark clouds that cover the resplendent sun. The sun is not visible when it is covered by clouds. When the clouds are driven away, the sun becomes visible in all its splendour. Similarly, man has to remove the clouds of ignorance, ego and six inner enemies to visualise his resplendent divinity. How is it possible? When strong wind blows, the clouds are blown away. Similarly, when you chant the Divine Name and constantly contemplate on God, these dark clouds of evil qualities melt away. In fact, these inner enemies of man have no existence at the time of his birth. Man acquires them during the course of his life. They are self-acquired. They come one after the other and settle as thick clouds on his psyche. For example, a single bangle worn on the hand does not make noise. When the second bangle is added, they start making noise. Man starts his life as a single individual. In course of time, he develops illusion due to Kama (desire). He marries and gets a wife. Thus, one becomes two. Gradually, the two multiply themselves into many, that is, children, grandchildren. Thus, the size of the family goes on increasing. This bondage is of man's own making; it is not given by God. Hence, one has to exercise caution right from an early stage of one's life. This was the Sadhana (spiritual practice) undertaken by Dakshinamoorthy. That was how he remained ever young and free from bondage. We should follow the path shown by Dakshinamoorthy.

### **Man should Realise his Divine Nature**

A human being should lead his life in a manner that is worthy of his status as man. He should not degenerate himself into an animal. Only then can he call himself a human being. Otherwise, he may turn into a mere animal. The animal qualities of Kama (desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed), Moha (delusion), etc., are found in large measure only in animals. Man should always live like a two-legged human being, not like a four-legged animal. He has therefore to constantly remind himself that he is a human being, not an animal. Not only that; he should have the conviction that he is not merely a human being, but verily the embodiment of divinity so that he may say with confidence, "I am not man; I am God." You say, "This is my handkerchief." Hence, it follows that you are different from the handkerchief. Similarly, you say, "This tumbler is mine." It follows that the tumbler is separate from you. In the same way, you say, "This is my body." The implication in this statement is that you are not the body. When you say, "my mind", it

means you are different from the mind. Then, the question arises, “Who are you?” Since you are different from all these things, you are able to say, “my body, my mind.” Is it not? The result of this enquiry establishes the truth that you are the Self, and not the body, mind, intellect, mind-stuff, senses or ego. However, by association with these, you acquire various adjuncts.

A Paan is made by mixing certain ingredients like betel leaves, areca nut, lime, etc., in a prescribed proportion. If excess lime is put without caring for the limit, it may cause sores on your tongue. Similarly, man has to fulfil his responsibilities within certain limits. If he observes the limits, he can lead his life as a true human being. If he crosses the limits, he no longer remains a human being; he becomes a demon. A human being should live like a human being only. There are three letters in the word ‘Manava’ (man): ‘Ma’ means Maya (illusion); ‘Na’ means without and ‘Va’ means to conduct oneself. Thus, a human being is one who conducts himself without illusion. Only then can you call yourself a human being, not otherwise. This sacred knowledge was given by Dakshinamoorthy. He taught that one should not develop body attachment, in spite of the fact that one has to don the vesture of the body.

### **Lead a Divine Life**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Love is the most important treasure we possess. It is the most precious gift that we receive from our mother. *Love is God. Live in love.* Lead your life with love. Do not hate anybody. Even when you come across your enemy, offer your salutations to him. You find many foolish people in the world. All sorts of differences and conflicts crop up when you associate yourself with such people. Instead, contemplate on God. One who constantly contemplates on God is the noblest of all human beings. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam* (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances, contemplate on God). Spend your life in the constant contemplation of God. Engage the body also in God’s work. Make your life divine by developing devotion to God. It is only when you lead a divine life that your intellect will blossom. Your humanness will then be sanctified and your life will be redeemed. But first of all, you should live like a real human being. Then only can you attain divinity.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

As long as you harbour evil qualities like desire, anger, greed, etc., humanness cannot blossom in you, and you cannot experience bliss. You should have the realisation that you are the embodiment of bliss, wisdom divine, beyond duality and all-pervasive divine principle. When you lead your life beyond duality with the awareness of your divine reality, only then can you call yourself a true human being. Whenever you are assailed by evil qualities, get rid of them by chanting the Divine Name of God. Then you will be able to realise your divinity.

You are all embodiments of love. You cannot live without love even for a moment. You may express love in any form, but lead your life as an embodiment of love. In this way, you will eventually attain divinity. This is the important message I am conveying to you today.

- **From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th September 2006 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.**

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI**

### **Exhibition on “Journey with Sai”**

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of “Sanathana Sarathi” around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in “Sanathana Sarathi” and other relevant records. Copies of publications/records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required.

It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P.). Email: editor@sssbpt.org

*Convener*

Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

## **SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2006**

SINCE the year 2000, Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva has come to assume an important part of Dasara celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Like previous years, thousands of students of the three campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan and Anantapur assisted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam along with staff of these institutions took part in Grama Seva 2006 which was conducted from 26th September to 2nd October 2006, covering more than 125 villages in the three Mandals of Puttaparthi, Bukkapatnam and Kothacheruvu. The students distributed Bhagavan’s Prasadam (sanctified food) and new clothes with love and humility to more than 2,50,000 people in the massive operation of selfless service which was meticulously planned and perfectly executed.

The Grama Seva started on the morning of 26th September 2006 soon after the commencement of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna in Poornachandra Auditorium. Veda chanting and Bhajan singing students and staff of the Institute circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir, received Bhagavan’s blessings and departed for Grama Seva carrying with them the Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan for offering it with love to villagers at their doorstep. The enthusiasm and joy of the students was seen to be believed when they started on their mission of love and selfless service in nearly 50 vehicles packed with new clothes and food packets prepared overnight by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute. On the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami, which happened to be the last day of Grama Seva, the students of Anantapur Campus performed Grama Seva in



Prasanthi Nilayam township. Like last year, a group of 19 youth specially came from London this year also to participate in Grama Seva. Bhagavan blessed the group and provided them this rare opportunity of performing selfless service in villages.

Over the years, Grama Seva during Dasara celebrations has created a unique bond of love between the students and the people of the villages. The villagers clean the roads and decorate the villages with buntings, festoons and Rangoli to welcome the students who bring to them not only the Prasadam but Bhagavan's Divine Love. They join the students in Nagar Sankirtan in large numbers and offer all types of help in the distribution of Prasadam. This exchange of mutual love between the students and the villagers is the most ennobling and endearing feature of Grama Seva where the difference of the giver and receiver is obliterated and all get united in a unique bond of love. As one hears from the students, the joy of Grama Seva cannot be described in words. It is a love to love and heart to heart experience which elevates and captivates one and all. This kind gesture of Bhagavan saturated with His Divine Love has brought about a perceptible change in the lives of the villagers which was significantly witnessed during the Grama Seva this year.

### **34th ANNUAL DAY OF SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST**

2ND September 2006 was the 34th Annual Day of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust which has successfully executed stupendous projects for the welfare of the masses like drinking water projects, free educational institutions, free hospitals and various other welfare schemes under the direction of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A bouquet of devotional songs was offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan to express gratitude to Him for all these schemes and projects which have touched the lives of millions of people and set a shining ideal of selfless service to mankind.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.30 p.m. Soon after His arrival, He lighted a candle and cut the cake placed in the verandah. The programme which was organised by Bhagavan's students working in Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and various other departments began at 4.05 p.m. after Bhagavan was seated on the dais. What followed was a soul-stirring programme of Telugu and Hindi devotional songs set to scintillating music. It enthralled the audience for over one hour and came to a close at 5.35 p.m. with a loud prolonged applause of the devotees expressing their appreciation for this well-planned and well-executed programme. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the participants, distributed clothes to them and posed for group photos with them.

### **ONAM CELEBRATIONS**

Three-day Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam from 3rd to 5th September 2006 were marked by a series of excellent cultural and musical programmes by the devotees of Kerala who came to Prasanthi Nilayam in large numbers to celebrate this holy festival in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. As part of these celebrations, four magnificent dramas were staged by the Bal Vikas students of Kerala, in addition to the soul-elevating musical concerts by renowned musicians and Bhajans led by the Sai Youth

of Kerala. All through the three days of the Onam celebrations, sweet and auspicious notes of Panchavadyam music added sweetness and delight to the festivities. On the holy day of Onam, 5th September 2006, Bhagavan gave His Divine Message exhorting one and all to imbibe the qualities of broad-mindedness and equal-mindedness as exemplified by the people of Kerala.

### **Bhakti and Vibhakti: A Drama**

The programme of Onam celebrations had a very befitting start on the afternoon of 3rd September 2006 when the Bal Vikas students of Kozhikode district of Kerala presented a dance drama “Bhakti and Vibhakti” explaining the true meaning of devotion to God. It depicted a few deeply moving episodes from the lives of two famous devotees of Lord Krishna who is worshipped as Guruvayurappan in the Guruvayur temple of Kerala. The drama, which began with a soulful prayer song and dance, first showed how Lord Krishna came in the form of the commander-in-chief of the king to save his devotee Poonthanam Nambudiri when he was attacked by dacoits in the forest on his way to the Guruvayur temple. The second devotee of the Lord whose life was portrayed in the drama was Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiri, who was cured of his paralysis by the Lord and whose pride of scholarship was subdued by Him when He accepted even incorrect chanting of His Name by Poonthanam Nambudiri, making Melpathur realise that the intense devotion of the devotee was more important than the grammatical accuracy of chanting. Beautiful dances of the students set to sweet music and accompanied by melodious devotional songs coupled with excellent acting of the children enraptured the audience for nearly one hour. The drama which started at 4.35 p.m. came to a close at 5.30 p.m. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the students and posed for photographs with them.

### **Drama on Service to Parents and Music Programmes**

A musical concert by the renowned musician Sri Sankaran Namboothiri was the attraction of the morning programme on 4th September 2006. The artiste enthralled the audience with Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs for nearly one hour and filled each heart with devotion and joy. On the afternoon of 4th September 2006, there was another captivating musical concert and a drama on the sublime theme of service to parents. First, the drama “Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava” was presented by the Bal Vikas students of Sri Sai Vidya Vihar, Alwaye which depicted how Pundarika received the illuminating teachings of service to parents from Sage Kukkuda and how through his devotion and service to his parents, he earned the grace of Lord Panduranga. In conclusion, the drama portrayed the shining example of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who set up prestigious educational institutions, super speciality hospitals and executed stupendous water supply projects, fulfilling in a grand way the simple desires of Mother Easwaramma for a small school, a dispensary and a well for the people of the village. This was followed by an excellent presentation of devotional music by the well-known musician Sri Vayyankara Madhusoodhanan.

### **Programmes on Onam Day**

On 5th September 2006, Sai Kulwant Hall was beautifully decorated with festoons made of palm leaves, garlands of flowers of many colours and colourful cloth hangings in typical Kerala style. Bhagavan was offered a grand welcome with Poornakumbham and Talapoli (lighted lamps) and Mangalavadyam amidst Veda chanting by the Bal Vikas

children of Kerala when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.45 a.m. to shower the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees on this auspicious day. The programme began at 8.00 a.m. with a welcome song to Bhagavan after He was seated on the dais. Thereafter, a very educative and illuminating programme entitled “Sai Tips to Fly High” based on the teachings of Bhagavan was presented by the Bal Vikas students of Kollam. The programme comprising a series of skits highlighted the main teachings of Bhagavan and provided valuable tips on value-based living.

On the afternoon of 5th September 2006, Bhagavan blessed the huge gathering of devotees with His Divine Discourse. Before Bhagavan’s Discourse, Prof. E. Mukundan, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala described the Seva activities being conducted in Kerala by the Sai Organisation and introduced the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering. The first speaker was Sri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, Member of Parliament from Calicut, who remarked that Bhagavan has incarnated to give to mankind His message of love. Peace and unity could be established in the world if man followed the message of Bhagavan, added the learned speaker. The second speaker, Justice Sreedharan, Lokayukta of Kerala, expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for providing guidance and showing him the right path when he was faced with difficult situations in the performance of his duties. The learned speaker prayed to Bhagavan for His blessings so that all His devotees could do their duty honestly and live up to His expectations. After these brief speeches, Bhagavan gave His Discourse which was like a shower of bliss for all. (Full text of Bhagavan’s Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

After Bhagavan’s Discourse, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyapeeth, Srisailam presented the drama entitled “Na Me Bhakta Pranashyati” portraying the story of Sakkubai’s devotion to Lord Krishna and the Lord’s unlimited grace on her. The day’s programme concluded at 5.10 p.m. with an excellent presentation of vocal music by the famous musician Sri Vishnu Bhat. The celebrations came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan and distribution of Prasadam to all.

### **Love is God – Live in Love: A Drama**

Love is the main teaching of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is Himself the embodiment of love. A drama on the theme of love was enacted by the 10th Class students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam in Sai Kulwant Hall on 21st September 2006. It brilliantly depicted how modern man in the hustle and bustle of a metropolitan city could lead his life successfully by putting into practice this valuable maxim given by Bhagavan: “Start the day with love; spend the day with love; fill the day with love; end the day with love. This is the way to God.” It powerfully brought home the truth that man could overcome even most difficult situations in life with courage and confidence if his heart was filled with the nectar of love. Simple story, elevating theme, good direction and superb acting of the students made it an outstanding presentation. The drama which began at 4.10 p.m. came to a close at 5.00 p.m. Bhagavan witnessed the entire drama and blessed the cast in the end. He also blessed them with the coveted opportunity of group photo with Him.

# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## RUSSIA

IN the southern foot of the Ural Mountains is the rustic Chelyabinsk region of Russia. A medical camp was held from 5th – 12th August 2006 in Nyazepetrovsk city in the Chelyabinsk region. About 200 Sai volunteers from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, the U.K. and the U.S.A. participated in the camp. Of these, 96 were medical personnel. A total of 7,000 patients were seen during the eight days of the camp. Medications and 1,000 eye glasses were given to patients and 7,500 syringes were given to a nearby hospital for its use. Education and screening for diabetes, hypertension, obesity, asthma and heart disease was conducted. Twenty volunteers helped renovate parts of the hospital in the city while several others worked in the kitchen preparing meals and cleaning up.

## KAZAKHSTAN

The large community of Akmola Oblast includes Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan in the prairies of western Kazakh. The 2nd annual outdoor Sai Children's camp was held from 24th July to 2nd August 2006. About 74 participants from 14 Russian-speaking countries took part in the event. The participants built a conference room at the campsite where the walls were adorned with Swami's sayings from His Discourses. Lectures on Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values were conducted in the conference room. Sai Spiritual Education children performed dramas and plays. Teachers narrated stories of Swami's childhood and enacted playful episodes to inspire the children. There were daily sessions of prayers, meditation, discussions, storytelling and Bhajan singing. Group activities included climbing a mountain and meditating on the glory of Sai at the mountain top. Everyone present at the camp felt spiritually refreshed.

## U. S. A.

Sathya Sai devotees from Tampa Bay, Florida conducted a free medical camp on 10th June 2006 at the Homeless Emergency Project Community Centre in the heart of several low-income homeless living shelters for indigent population. 30 physicians, 15 nurses and 70 volunteers served 305 patients. Every patient was given a loving and caring health screening and medical advice. Patients were screened for diabetes, hyperlipidemia, dental health, vision, hearing, breast cancer, head and neck cancers, asthma, HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis. In addition, individual consultations were provided by experts in internal medicine, family practice, paediatrics, pulmonology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, dermatology, cardiology, oncology, gynaecology, psychiatry, dentistry, ophthalmology, adult and paediatric nutrition and smoking cessation. Paediatric vaccinations were provided as needed.

The video 'His Work' was shown continuously in one of the rooms and devotees were standing by to answer any questions about Swami. Lunches were provided to all visitors and all were given a carry bag with "Love All, Serve All", the five human values being emblazoned on it. The Clearwater City Commissioner, Carlen Petersen, visited the camp and was very impressed by it. He noted that it was a good example for others in the community. At a formal monthly Homeless Coalition meeting presided over by

community shelter directors, social service agency heads and the mayor's representative, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation and its volunteers were formally recognised and thanked for organising the medical camp and serving the community.

The city of Denver is situated amidst the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Sai young adults and advisors met for a leadership conference in Denver on 25th – 27th August 2006. Dr. William Harvey, a member of the Prasanthi Council, spoke of the importance of faith and patience in the lives of young adults. Sri Jonathan Roof, the current president of the Central Council of the U.S.A. Sathya Sai Organisation, narrated inspiring personal experiences with Swami and pledged his commitment to the young adult programme and its growth. Dr. Mayur Pandya spoke of his experiences with Bhagavan during his undergraduate and graduate years as a student of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Dr. Hyman Johnson provided Sai spiritual interludes as the master of ceremonies. There were also two panel discussions and three workshops on leadership, communication, spirituality and role of young adults within the Sai Organisation. The programme concluded with several young adults sharing their experiences of working at the disaster relief project following the devastation by hurricane Katrina. Everyone felt spiritually uplifted by the conference and looked forward to the future growth of the young adult programme.

## **L A T I N A M E R I C A**

In the country of Panama, Colon is the second largest city. In 1987, the first Sai Spiritual Education class was established in Colon, Panama for 10 to 15 children. Most of these children have joined the youth movement of the Sai Organisation, and are active in service activities such as organising medical camps, giving blood donations, and visiting elderly people and hospitals. The interest to do service first started in Sai Spiritual Education classes. The children also learn about the unity of religions and Sathya Sai Human Values. Currently, the Sai Spiritual Education classes have up to 40 children in Colon, and an equal number in Panama City. On Sunday, 30th April 2006, Sai Spiritual Education teachers of Panama organised a "Super Sports Sunday" at the University of Panama. About 40 children participated in the sports day. The children were divided into four teams, each with 10 players, ranging in ages from 4 to 15. The fun-filled afternoon was spent with activities such as olympic relays, questions and answers on class material and even a game for teachers. The children are transformed and their attitude towards the parents and elders is that of love and respect.

The Sathya Sai School in Paraguay was founded in 2001 with 20 students. Now the number of students has grown to 43 and the school is located in the same building as the Sathya Sai Centre. Over the years, Education in Sathya Sai Human Values has had an impact on the lives of the children, parents and teachers. In many of the families, the Sai School children have set an example and inculcated human values in their brothers and sisters who have not attended the Sai School. On one occasion, a student taught another child the importance of non-violence in speech. Another student was severely handicapped and was unable to ambulate or speak. With Sai love and encouragement from other students, he is now beginning to walk and speak a bit. As a miracle of Sai love spreading across people, the father of one of the students was so grateful to Bhagavan for the transformation he saw in his son that he offered to accommodate the Sai School in a larger building with a sports playground.

## **U. K.**

On 17th June 2006, Sri Kalyan Ray, chairman of the education committee of Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, had an open meeting with Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. in Harrow, London. The meeting was attended by key office bearers, trustees, educationists and invited guests. Sri Kalyan Ray first informed the audience that Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation held the highest level of responsibility in terms of governance for all Sai activities outside India. He added that the education committee of the Foundation had seven members at present who had a combined experience of 150 years in the field of education. He noted that the Committee was a task force and that its work would be characterised by order, authenticity and accountability. He further said that the primary task for the education committee would be to prepare a global overview of all spiritual education activities currently taking place, their impact and identifying opportunities for the future. Information from around the world would be compiled and the result would be a comprehensive 15-year strategic Sai Education plan which would be developed to integrate and harmonise human values into a lifelong learning process for all citizens of the world. At the end of his presentation, Sri Kalyan Ray took questions from the audience and further explored some issues for discussion.

In the quaint town of Milton Keynes, U.K. a pagoda was constructed in 1981 to remind people to live harmoniously together in love, tolerance, patience, mutual respect and non-violence. It is called the Peace Pagoda. 18th June 2006 marked the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Pagoda. The celebrations were organised and led by the devotees from Milton Keynes, Bedford and Luton Sai Centres. Volunteers served food for more than 400. The programme began with invocation and multi-faith prayers. There were many speeches on peace and faith. After lunch, participants were entertained by a variety of musical, dance and cultural events. The concluding dance was a dedication by the SSE Children of Luton Sai Centre to the goddess of learning – Saraswati. The event was a great inspiration to all who attended and a reminder that peace began with a transformation of the self and imbibing Sathya Sai Human Values.

## **THAILAND**

On 7th May 2006, the children who attend the Sai Spiritual Education Programme in Thailand organised the celebrations for Easwaramma Day under the guidance of the Central Coordinator and EHV Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation. The event's guest of honour was Sri Seetharam, the attaché to the Indian Embassy. A total of 83 Sai Spiritual Education students participated in the programme which was attended by over 100 students, 10 teachers and 250 people from the general public. The programme started with invocation Stotras and prayers. This was followed by a spiritual play produced by the children. Certificates and medals were given to the students and the programme ended with Arati, prayers to Bhagavan and dinner.

## **ITALY**

North-east of the holy city of Turin in the province of Novara is the city of Divignano. The first national meeting of all children attending EHV programmes in Italy was held at the Mother Sai Complex in Divignano from 29th April – 1st May 2006. In all, 23 children and their families attended the conference. The meeting was filled with daily team activities emphasising cooperation and love. There were also daily Bhajan singing

and creative activities. Parents participated in inspiring study circles and workshops on self-esteem, leadership, practice of spirituality and Sai Human Values. All families attending the conference benefited by sharing experiences of applying Sathya Sai's teachings in everyday life at home with their children.

– **Prasanthi Council**

## **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** Khammam district undertook relief work and helped flood-affected people. It distributed food packets on 6th and 7th August in the areas near Bhadrachalam. After recession of water, it distributed rice, oil, onions, etc., sufficient for a week in Bhadrachalam. Clothes, bed-sheets and utensils were also distributed in these villages on 13th August 2006 along with bread, milk packets and water packets. Seva Dal members had to walk through two-feet deep mud to reach Tulapuram village to render the above services to 65 houses on 12th August 2006. The district also provided 5 kg rice, 800 gm green Dhal, ¼ kg tamarind, ¼ kg dry chillies, one detergent soap, one toilet soap, 1 kg potatoes, water packets, bed-sheets and clothes to 68 houses in Pathanalaram village on 15th August 2006.

Adilabad district provided 197 food packets and 10 cans of drinking water to the occupants of vehicles stranded on the highway for three days due to breach of bridge as a result of floods. It also rendered medical services to the stranded passengers on 7th and 8th August 2006. The district gave to each of the 50 flood-affected families in Vadduru and Arlipi villages 10 kg rice, 1 kg Dhal, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg oil, 1 kg wheat along with other cooking material. It also gave 2 bed-sheets, 1 towel and 1 Sari to each family. The district distributed 700 food packets, 20 litres milk and bread in Venkatarao pet village near Kagaznagar on 7th August 2006. The district served tiffin and milk in the morning and food packets in the afternoon to the flood-affected people in Islampur and Gauthami Nagar areas of Manchiryal town on 5th August 2006. The district conducted a free medical camp at Manchiryal town and treated 500 patients suffering from viral fever and gave the necessary medicines.

Srikakulam district distributed 3,500 food packets to flood-affected people in Srikakulam town and another 400 packets in the nearby villages. It also held mobile medical camps and rendered services to 1,256 flood victims. It also carried out sanitation work in flood-affected areas by removing the silt from the roads. This district conducted a series of medical camps at different places – in Tekkali treating 1,200 cases, in Kotabommali examining 890 patients, in Kasibugga examining 560 sick people, in Palasa treating 360 patients, in Palakonda treating 1,691 patients and in Venkateswara Colony examining 341 patients. It also conducted medical camp in Polla and Seethampeta tribal villages, examined 321 patients and also distributed rice and clothes to needy people. Medical camps were also conducted in Veeraghattam, Javam and Childiuri villages examining 940 patients. The district came to the rescue of 23 fire victim families in Kondapuram by providing 10 kg rice, new clothes and utensils to each family. It also distributed to the needy in Polla tribal villages 450 kg rice, 21 bed-sheets and nine Amruta Kalasams (containing different food provisions).

East Godavari district was worst affected by floods. Sai Organisation in this district carried out relief work on large scale in Amalapuram, Ambajipeta, Rajole and

Ravulapalem areas. Thousands of food packets, water packets, milk packets, biscuits, candles and match boxes were distributed to the flood-affected people, going in boats and walking in muddy areas. Sanitation and medical aid was undertaken on large scale. Requested by Government, Sai Organisation undertook cooking of food and serving to 3,000 flood-affected people sheltered in S.B.K. College in Amalapuram. Sai Organisation also undertook necessary sanitation work and also provided medical aid. In a few areas, cattle feed to the tune of 500 kg rice bran and paddy grass was also provided.

West Godavari district carried out flood relief work in seven villages near Polavaram. Daily 2,000 food packets were distributed for 10 days from 10th August 2006. Sanitation and medical camps were also conducted. Clothes were distributed to 75 families.

Nellore district came to the rescue of 32 families of Balaji Nagar Yeddularevu Sangam area who lost everything in the fire accident on 27th August 2006. The district youth distributed to all the 32 families Amruta Kalasams, clothes, blankets, soap, school uniforms, notebooks, pens, etc., on 29th August 2006. The affected people were also served food packets as temporary relief.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, always in the forefront of Sai educational activities in Assam, was appropriately the venue of a three-day training programme for teachers of Sai schools in Assam. Organised with much enthusiasm by the Sai devotees of Golaghat, an important town of Upper Assam, the event generated hope and expectations amongst the education fraternity. Experts from Mumbai delivered illuminating lectures on a wide range of topics. Foundation of Sathya Sai Education, Guiding Principles – the Human Workshop, the Approach to Human Education, Role of Vibrations and Music, Prayer and Positive Thinking, Jyoti Meditation, Unity and Continuity of Indian Culture, Role of Parents, Observation Technique and Evaluation, etc., were some of the important aspects of Sai Education which formed the integral part of the training programme. Experimental learning workshops were also conducted. Thirty-eight teachers from Sai schools of Golaghat, Sivasagar and Dibrugarh attended the course. In addition, six members of the management of Sai schools also attended. The training programme which commenced on 27th July 2006 came to a close on the evening of 29th July 2006.

**Gujarat:** Surat witnessed a devastating flood from 7th to 11th August 2006. Almost 90% of the city was under water. Several places were 15 to 20 feet under water. Sai Organisation started relief work immediately. The most essential need in the beginning was drinking water. This along with milk, dry snacks, etc., were distributed wherever needed. Thereafter, kits containing food grains, utensils, blankets, etc., were prepared and distributed from door to door. In all, 2,100 kits containing 5 kg rice, 5 kg wheat flour, 2 kg sugar, 2 kg oil, 1 kg Dhal, 1 kg salt, 250 gm tea, 2 kg onion, 1 kg potato, 400 gm spices along with candles, match boxes, etc., were distributed to as many families.

From 15th to 27th August and on 2nd, 3rd, 10th and 24th September 2006, medical camps at various places were organised and more than 4,000 patients were provided free treatment. All were given chlorine tablets. Drinking water was tested in 3,598 houses and necessary advice and chlorine tablets were given. Seva Dal members undertook cleaning work in four schools and three affected areas. In the above relief work, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithis of Surat, Vadodara, Sachin, Bardoli, Navsari, Gandeva, Chikhli, Amdavad



and Saurashtra took part. Doctors team from Dharmakshetra, Mumbai rendered their services.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Surat organised a free medical check-up and treatment camp in Narayanpura, a very remote village at the border of the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra on 23rd and 24th September 2006. 585 patients were treated in the camp. 48 patients were identified for cataract operation. They will be brought to Sri Sathya Sai Eye Hospital, Surat where operations will be performed.

A new Health Centre was inaugurated on 24th September at Amdavad. At present, the work has commenced with general OPD and dental care. In the very near future, ophthalmology department will be started. Thereafter, cardiac diagnostic care unit also will be provided in due course. This project is being mainly handled by the Sai Youth of Ahmedabad in keeping with five-year action plan of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Ahmedabad.

**Punjab:** A medical camp was organised on 3rd September 2006 in village Kotkala, district Bhatinda in which a team of 11 professional doctors examined more than 750 patients. Free medicines were also distributed. The camp was highly appreciated by local people. Another medical camp was organised on 6th September 2006 in village Chahal, district Hoshiarpur in which more than 250 patients were examined and free medicines were distributed.

An 81-hour workshop for repairing cycles, scooters, bikes and cars was organised on 10th September 2006 to provide free service to the pilgrims on the eve of 'Maa Chintpurni Mela' (fair to worship goddess Chintpurni).

An 81-hour Akhanda Bhajan at State level was held from 14 to 17 September 2006, wherein about 15,000 people attended and received Bhagavan's blessings. All Samithis of Punjab participated in it. A blood donation camp was held on this occasion, in which 81 bottles of blood were donated. In addition to that, 97 people pledged to donate their eyes.

A Bal Vikas day was organised at Jalandhar on 24th September 2006 in which more than 260 children participated. Awards were given to the participating children and their parents.

**Tamil Nadu:** Global Blood Donation Day was observed by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Tamil Nadu on Sunday, 17th September 2006. This noble service of blood donation is carried out by Sai brothers and sisters to save precious human lives. Seva Dal volunteers campaign on door-to-door basis in their respective areas and gather donors irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

In Chennai Metro, South, North and West districts put together, donors donated 758 units of blood. In Tiruvallur district, 147 units of blood were donated. In Kancheepuram district, 202 units of blood were donated. Blood pressure, haemoglobin and blood group were checked for every donor before the donation was carried out. Sai Bhajans were sung during the entire period of blood donation so that the unknown recipient would get the liquid love charged with divine vibrations.

**CHINNA KATHA**

# YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR LIFE

ONCE Krishna thought of testing the nature of Yudhishtira and Duryodhana. First, He called Duryodhana and said, "Duryodhana! A great task is to be performed. For that, a noble person is required who is pure, kind-hearted and an embodiment of peace." Duryodhana promised to do so and said, "I will surely bring." Saying this, he went in search of such a person. He ascended his chariot and wandered the whole day. Proud as he was, he did not consult anyone, anywhere. He came back and told Krishna, "Krishna! A thoroughly noble person is nowhere to be seen in this kingdom. I think, I am the only such person. If You tell me the task, I will surely perform it." Krishna sent him away, saying, "All right. I will call for you when the occasion arises."

Krishna then came to the Pandavas. He called Dharmaraja (Yudhishtira) and said, "I have a task to perform. For that, I need a very mean-minded person who is given to untruthful and evil ways. Can you bring such a person?" Folding his hands in all humility, Dharmaraja said, "Surely, I will try." He searched the whole day to find such a person. But all appeared to be good to him. After coming back, he said most humbly to Krishna, "Oh Lord! There is no wicked person in our kingdom. I am the only one who has some wickedness or the other. Please make use of me."

In the egoistic outlook of Duryodhana, all appeared to be wicked. In the humble nature of Dharmaraja, all appeared to be good. Good and bad depend upon our attitude.

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### *The Manas and the Atma*

The Atma, when cognised in the consciousness, flashes like a streak of lightning; in a second, it will reveal its brilliance and splendour. It is impossible to grasp its full majesty. Manas (mind) is the cloak of the Atma; it conditions the Atma or rather appears to. So, it seems to be very close to the Atma, and makes you believe that it attains it; but it is incapable of doing so. Since it is closest, the Sadhaka (aspirant) imagines that his mind has realised the Atma and yearns for the experience again and again. This, of course, is good, for it fosters the search for the merger with Brahman.

- Baba

## **NOVEMBER 2006**

### **EDITORIAL**

## **KNOWLEDGE FINDS CONSUMMATION IN PRACTICE**

MAN has ultimately to merge with God. Sooner or later, he has to reach the goal of God-realisation. It is up to him to perform this journey in thousands of births or in one birth. In His first public Discourse given on the day of Vijaya Dasami, the 10th day of Dasara festival, in 1953, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba emphatically declared: "This I will tell you; there is no escaping it; all creatures have to reach God some day or the other, by the long route or the short route."

It is the rarest of rare opportunity for modern man when the Supreme Being Himself has incarnated on earth in the human form of Bhagavan Baba with the specific task of redeeming man's life and making the route of God-realisation as short and easy for him as possible. If we look back at His life and teachings, we will realise that Bhagavan has demonstrated all possible routes to man which can lead him to his goal of life. He has reconstructed the highway of Bhakti (devotion), providing opportunities to all to redeem their life through Namasmara (recitation of God's Name), Bhajan singing and Veda chanting. He has remade the path of selfless service to mankind by His hospitals, educational institutions, water projects and other humanitarian tasks as models for man to follow. Besides, He has been giving the supreme transcendental knowledge of the Vedas and Upanishads in His Discourses and writings in the easiest possible language to show to man the brilliant path of Jnana (knowledge) to redeem his life.

The Vedas, Bhagavan has been saying, are the breath of God. They contain eternal truths for man's highest spiritual attainment. They are the fountain-source of all knowledge which is universally applicable to all without any distinction of religion, caste, race and nationality. The Supreme Being Himself is the source of this Divine wisdom. Moreover, several generations of sages put this knowledge into practice in their life, attained enlightenment and vouchsafed its veracity. Vedanta (philosophy based on the Vedas) therefore is a practical science. The same Supreme Being who whispered this knowledge to the Rishis of yore has now descended on earth in human form to give it directly to modern man for granting him liberation and salvation. Veda Poshana (promotion of the Vedas), Bhagavan declared long ago, is one of the main tasks of His Divine Mission on earth. In all His writings compiled now in 16 Vahini books and all His Discourses contained in nearly 40 volumes of Sathya Sai Speaks, Bhagavan has been expounding the supreme wisdom of Vedanta in a language and diction which modern man can understand and put into practice in his life. Mere chanting of Vedic Mantras and reading of sacred texts is not enough. As Bhagavan says, "You may master all the commentaries, and you may be able to argue and discuss with great scholars about these texts; but without attempting to practise what they teach, it is a waste of time."

Bhagavan has been emphasising this truth by questioning modern man, in His inimitable style, in one of His often-quoted Telugu poems: "Will the enveloping darkness be dispelled by the mere news of a lamp? Will the hunger of a hungry man be satiated by simply hearing the names of the delicious dishes? Will the poverty of a poor man be alleviated by hearing the glory of wealth? Will the disease of a sick person go merely by hearing the efficacy of the medicine? Is it possible to remove the thick darkness of ignorance only by reading sacred texts? What is the result of acquiring high education without putting it into practice? It is a big zero."

Knowledge is useful only when it is put into practice. One may know all the routes to God-realisation, but mere knowledge of the path is of little use unless one steps on it. As Bhagavan says, "Of what use is it to listen to Discourses endlessly without putting anything into practice?" Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to say: "Some have heard of milk, some have seen it, some have touched it; and some have drunk it and assimilated it. Among these, the last alone have benefited by the milk, for they alone were nourished and strengthened by it." The Vedas contain eternal truths which illumine the path of a spiritual aspirant. They are not meant merely for study, discussion,

argumentation or intellectual ornamentation; they are meant to be experienced. They shine best when put to application; then they lovingly help man to achieve the greatest spiritual heights. They not only teach man the principle of the Self, but also show him the practical means of realising it. Knowledge has to be lived. It finds its consummation in practice and experience.

In this age of science and information technology, access to information has become very easy. One can read the world's biggest libraries on one's computer. Its unfortunate consequence is that man today has become information gatherer. He is burdening himself with too much theoretical knowledge. In fact, the entire system of education today is information-oriented. It neither brings about any transformation within man nor caters to the development of human values in him. It merely turns him into a storehouse of information.

As Swami Vivekananda says, the emphasis should be on the assimilation of values and ideas rather than on gathering of information. Stressing the need for practice, he says, "If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library ... If education is identical with information, then libraries are the greatest sages and encyclopaedias are the Rishis (evolved beings)."

Instead of making man humble, kind, compassionate, truthful and broad-minded, education today is nurturing the demonic qualities of greed, selfishness, vanity, ego, and craze for power, position and wealth in man. Bhagavan gives the example of Ravana who had mastered all the four Vedas and six Sastras (six systems of Indian philosophy). In His Divine Message on the occasion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami in 2004, Bhagavan said about Ravana, "In spite of all this knowledge of scriptures, was there any transformation in him? No. Instead of developing Daivatwa (divine qualities), he developed Danavatwa (demonic qualities). The ten heads of Ravana symbolise four Vedas and six Sastras. Rama severed Ravana's ten heads since he did not put into practice the knowledge he had acquired." In his craze for acquiring power, position and wealth, man today is losing even his humanness. He wants to acquire the knowledge of everything in the world except himself. As Bhagavan says, man today travels thousands of miles in space, but he does not go even one inch within himself. That is why, he lacks the knowledge of his innate divine principle which is the fountain-source of peace, bliss, love and compassion in him. That is the main cause of man's restlessness and all the strife, conflict and violence in the world. It is only when man recognises his inner reality can he realise the basic unity of mankind. When man does not know himself, how can he know God and attain the goal of God-realisation?

The Birthday of Bhagavan provides us an opportunity to take a resolve to put at least one or two teachings of Bhagavan, like *Love All, Serve All; Help Ever, Hurt Never* into practice in our life and strive to earn Bhagavan's grace. May Bhagavan bless us to attain the goal of our life in this very birth!

— Editor

## **DASARA DISCOURSE: 1**

# ALWAYS REMAIN CONSCIOUS OF YOUR DIVINITY

*All that is seen by the naked eye is not the truth. God is the only reality; all else is mere illusion. Unable to realise this truth, people waste their time in debating over what is truth and what is not.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

YOU consider everything that you see in this objective world as true. But, in reality, nothing is true in this world. Truth is that which is eternal, beyond the three periods of time – past, present and future. That is God.

## **Understand the Difference between Truth and Illusion**

The physical world that you see is subject to change. To consider this scenario, which changes every moment, as real is to subject oneself to self-delusion. Today you are a student, tomorrow you may become an officer; later you will be a retired officer. Then, what is true – a student, an officer or a retired officer? No relationship exists between a man and a woman before their marriage. Once they are married, they become husband and wife. But even this relationship is not permanent; it is absolutely temporary. Thus, all that you see in this objective world and all the relationships between individuals are only temporary, not permanent. But God is not like that. He is always the same in all periods of time – yesterday, today and tomorrow. Not reposing your faith in God who is true and eternal, you are deluded into thinking that what you see in this objective world is true. Hence, first and foremost try to understand the eternal truth. Once you understand this truth, you will understand everything else. Without understanding this, all that you seem to understand is of little use. Therefore, try to understand the difference between Sathya (truth) and Mithya (illusion). The entire universe is subject to change. It is transitory, temporary and unreal. Today's mountains may be reduced to mere hillocks tomorrow. Today's rivulets may be changed into mighty rivers the next day. Bharat has been described as the land of lofty mountains, large rivers, huge trees with many branches, which make the country beautiful.

## **All Worldly Relations are Temporary**

People today repose their faith in ephemeral and unreal world and forget God who is the embodiment of truth. That is the root cause of all the sorrows and difficulties faced by man. You say, you are facing difficulties. From where did these difficulties come? These are the consequence of your actions and thoughts. Everything in this world is subject to change. It appears to be permanent, but it is not so. God is the only changeless principle. We should therefore install God, who is changeless and eternal, in the altar of our heart and offer our love to Him. That is the foremost duty of a human being. Only then can he experience bliss. What is life after all? Does it mean eating, drinking, sleeping and dying ultimately? By doing so, how can human life be called sacred? At the time of his birth, man is pure and sacred. As he grows up, he gradually loses his purity. This is not proper. A human being should always maintain his purity. I have always maintained purity and

sacredness all through My life. As the age advances, there might be some changes in the body. But they are all at the physical level.

It is said *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (Of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Having attained such a rare birth as a human being, we have to strive to realise the Atma. One who realises the Atma attains liberation. We should not waste our energy in worldly pursuits. In the pursuit of worldly and material gains, we expose ourselves to Arishadvargas (the six inner enemies of man, viz., desire, anger, greed, attachment, pride and jealousy). That is the cause of our delusion. Due to delusion, we develop likes and dislikes, love and hatred and experience happiness and sorrow in life. The body that is made up of Panchabhutas (the five elements of earth, water, fire, air and ether), Pancha Koshas (five sheaths of the soul), Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths) and Panchendriyas (five senses) is ephemeral and transitory like a water bubble. The mind is unsteady like a monkey. Knowing fully well the transitory nature of the body and fickleness of the mind, we lead our life reposing full faith in them, and suffer the dualities of pleasure and pain, happiness and sorrow.

The Dehi (indweller) in the Deha (physical body) is eternal. It is referred to as the Atma. We identify the physical body with certain names. For example, the name Anil Kumar is an identification for a particular form. Similarly, the name Sathya Sai Baba represents this physical body. It is not possible to identify the physical bodies without names. A human being lives in the world, donning a physical body that is ephemeral. All that we see in the objective world is the creation of our mind. But the truth is that which we cannot see with our physical eyes. That is the Atma. Hence, when someone enquires, “Who are you?”, you should say, “I am the Atma.” You should not identify yourself with the physical body. Your physical body bears the name given to it by your parents. Though everybody calls you by this name, yet it is not the name that is important. Both name and form are temporary and unreal. As long as you live in this world, they are relevant. The moment you depart from this world, they lose their relevance.

Once there was a millionaire who was, in fact, rolling in wealth. When his end approached, he was filled with grief. All his relatives surrounded him. At this critical moment of his life, he remembered the truth stated by Adi Sankara: *Punarapi Jananam Punarapi Maranam* (I am caught up in this cycle of birth and death). Realising that all his relatives and friends were, in fact, interested only in his wealth, he wailed, “My dear ones! All that I have earned during my life has been given to you. Even the palatial buildings and big mansions that I built have also been handed over to you. My bank deposits have also been given away to you. Yet, you are not worried about me and are thinking of the wealth I am leaving behind.”

### **Spiritual Practice is Necessary to Attain Purity**

As long as people live in this world, they keep thinking about property and wealth only. They do not think about what will happen to them after death which can occur anywhere, at any time. You are now sitting here. But you do not know what will happen to you when you get up and take two steps forward. After you depart from this world, who is related to whom? Who are your friends and relatives? No relationships at all! Hence, do not be unduly attached to the body.

Make the body pure by performing good actions. It gets polluted when people develop many kinds of relationships in the world. This pollution affects the health of the body.

For example, in the rainy season, water is sometimes polluted due to excessive rains. Many people who drink polluted water become sick. Today the food we eat, the water we drink and even the air we breathe are all polluted. This pollution is the cause of ill-health and suffering of many people. It is therefore necessary to save the body from pollution and keep it pure and sacred. Total purity however is possible only by undertaking the nine forms of devotion as Sadhana (spiritual practice): *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender). One can undertake the Sadhana of any one of these forms to attain complete purity. Human is not confined merely to Jivatwa (humanness); he embodies Daivatwa (divinity). Every human being, nay, every living being, is an embodiment of divinity verily. Divinity is immanent in birds, beasts and even in insects.

It is unfortunate that man ignores this divine principle which permeates everything. It is therefore necessary for a human being to undertake Sadhana to know the truth of his divinity. Sadhana is not mere physical exercise. It is deep enquiry of truth. What is truth? Is the body true? Are the senses, mind or intellect true? No, none of these. The mind is a mad monkey. The intellect is also not steady. If you follow the fickle mind and unsteady intellect, you cannot reach your destination; you will lose the way. So, do not go by these. The body is bound to perish one day or the other. Hence, you should strive to forget the body right from now. However, food is necessary for the sustenance of the body. But eat only pure and Sattwic food. Lead your life in this sacred way and constantly remain aware of your divinity by contemplating on Sohum Mantra (Swami here demonstrated how it is constantly manifested with each breath, 'So' with each inhalation and 'Hum' with each exhalation). The same divine principle has been stated in the Mahavakya (profound statement), *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman) in the Vedas. From the time you get up from your bed till you go to sleep, you should constantly remind yourself that you are Brahman and not merely a human being. Always remain conscious of your divinity, remembering at all times: "I am God. I have no bondage; I am pure, unsullied, eternal divine principle." It is God only who protects and sustains you. He is your father, mother and everything in life. Everything that you have is only by God's grace. If you forget God and keep thinking of everything else in this world, you will lose everything in life. If you constantly contemplate on God, all worldly thoughts will leave you. Hence, contemplate on God with love. *Prema Muditha Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram* (chant the Name of Rama with your heart filled with love). *Love is God. God is love.*

### **Education Should Make you Humble and Desireless**

Without love, there is no mother, no father, no brother, no sister, no wife, no husband. Man develops worldly relations for his convenience and happiness. He uses them to serve his selfish ends. Give up selfishness and strive for self-realisation. Enquire, "Who am I?" Are you the body, mind, intellect, mind-stuff or ego? No, none of these. Recognise your reality, "I am I." Understand this truth through proper enquiry.

*Dear Students!*

You are all pursuing education and acquiring high academic degrees. There are numerous people with high degrees like M.A., M.B.A. and Ph.D. in this world. But, what service are they rendering to society? They are concerned with furthering their own interests, and

are not bothered about helping others. They use their education only for a living. There is nothing great in it. The real worth of education lies in self-sacrifice and selfless service. Renouncing one's desires and fruits of one's actions is real Sadhana. One who practises this is a real yogi, not the one who sits under a tree practising meditation with closed eyes. Never become narrow-minded, be large-hearted. Broaden your heart. Broadening of heart denotes expansion of love. It is not the physical enlargement of heart which requires surgery to remove this abnormality. Practise expansion of love. Only then can you be called a real human being.

You may think that Swami's Discourses are very simple. But, the entire essence of the Vedas and Sastras (sacred texts) is contained in them (*loud applause*). You should not be proud of your learning. Your learning should make you humble. It should endow you with human qualities. You should attain the state of desirelessness. Then only can you be called a true human being. Too many desires are dangerous. Less desires make the journey of life more comfortable. Therefore, reduce your desires. Give up the desires which are unnecessary. Otherwise, you will waste your time in the pursuit of these desires. Time is God. Don't waste time. *Time waste is life waste!* Do not waste even one second; utilise it to contemplate on the Sohum Mantra. Then only will your life as a human being be sanctified.

Many people waste their time in reading newspapers. Many newspapers are full of all sorts of nuisance. You will acquire only nuisance by reading them. There are all types of unnecessary things and pictures in newspapers. What sort of pictures are they? What a shame! One does not feel like looking at the newspaper at all! This is not the type of stuff you should read. Instead, spend your time in the contemplation of God. God is beyond all names and forms. All the same, His name is full of sweetness.

### **Understand the Purpose of Celebrating Festivals**

*Dear Students!*

What for are all these festivals celebrated? They are celebrated to remind us about God. People of all religions have festivals to celebrate. All religions teach only good things. Therefore, everyone should follow his religion and respect other religions. No religion is bad. It is your bad intellect which sees bad in other religions. So, rectify your intellect. When you have discriminatory intellect, you will see only oneness of all religions.

Do not waste time. Do not make it unsacred. Observe the sacredness of time and thereby experience bliss. Man is essentially the embodiment of bliss. Hence, you should always be happy and blissful. Do not harbour unnecessary desires; you will feel depressed when they are not fulfilled. *Happiness is union with God.* Be always happy with a smiling face. Do not put on a 'castor-oil face' under any circumstances. Remain smiling all the time. The more enthusiastic and energetic you are, the more happy you will be. After all, what is there for you to worry about? Nothing at all. The students who do not prepare well for the examination will, of course, be worried. But if you have prepared well, then why should you worry? You will surely get good marks. Hence, read well, pass the examination with distinction and work for the advancement of the country.

The celebration of the festival of Dasara is meant to encourage and enthuse you to control Dasendriyas (ten senses – five senses of perception and five senses of action). It also signifies the killing of Mahishasura by the goddess Chamunda. Mahishasura is a demon. What is the inner meaning of this story? A Nara (human being) should have no



association whatsoever with Asura (demon). So, man should give up the company of those who have demonic qualities. Always have good company, as advised by Adi Sankara:

*Satsangatwe Nissangatwam,  
Nissangatwe Nirmohatwam,  
Nirmohatwe Nischalatattwam,  
Nischalatattwe Jivanmukti.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Good company leads to detachment; detachment makes one free from delusion; freedom from delusion leads to steadiness of mind; steadiness of mind confers liberation.)

Be in good company. Your company determines the type of person you are. If you join bad company, you will also become bad. Say goodbye to bad company, and leave the place immediately where you find such a company. Never go near such a place. However, do not hate anybody. Whomever you come across, consider him as the embodiment of divinity and offer salutations to him and enquire, “How are you, brother?” Then the other person will also respond, “How are you, brother?” Be happy and share your happiness with all. A human being is one who develops human values. What are these human values? These are: Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. Where there is love, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is righteousness. Where there is righteousness, there is truth. Truth is one, not two. Always speak truth, follow righteousness. Be peaceful, happy and blissful. Then only can you acquire true knowledge. Conduct yourself with love in society.

I always address you as embodiments of love because I am full of love. I have only love. Love is My only property. You should all become heirs to this property. I distribute love to one and all. I do not hate anyone. I have no selfishness at all. I am totally selfless.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan “*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho ...*”)

- **From Bhagavan’s Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 27th September 2006.**

## **CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI**

### **NILAYAM**

## **GRAND GUJARATI NEW YEAR**

## **FUNCTION**

GUJARATI NEW YEAR was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd October 2006 with great devotion and enthusiasm in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall, which was beautifully decorated for this festive occasion.

On the morning of 23rd October 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.15 a.m. amidst chanting of sacred Vedic Mantras by the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Bal Vikas students of Gujarat stood on both sides of the passage of Bhagavan with Poornakumbham to offer their reverential welcome to Him. Meanwhile, ladies devotees of Gujarat welcomed Bhagavan by singing a welcome song expressing earnest feelings of devotion of the people of Gujarat for Bhagavan. After arriving at the dais, Bhagavan graciously inaugurated the programme at 8.25 a.m. by lighting the sacred lamp.

### **Garbha Dance**

The first item of the programme was a delightful Garbha dance performed by the Bal Vikas students of Gujarat in their colourful costumes. The first part of the dance was performed in slow motion with children having lighted lamps on their palms. The second part showed vigorous synchronised movements of the children to the tune of fast and sweet music. The children earned the appreciation of one and all by their scintillating performance.

### **Divyananda – A Drama**

Soon after this, Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth of Gujarat presented a very educative and impressive drama entitled “Divyananda” (divine bliss) showing the path of selfless service to modern youth for attaining true happiness in life. The drama realistically presented how Bhagavan’s teachings and humanitarian projects were becoming a source of inspiration for the modern youth to take to the path of selfless service. The drama portrayed the life of one such youth who ultimately joined Sri Sathya Sai Seva Dal and found Divyananda when he served a sick person selflessly and lovingly during Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva organised by the Sai Organisation of the area.

Embellished with beautiful devotional songs and sweet music, the drama made a mark as a realistic story of thousands of modern youth who are taking to the path of selfless service to society by the inspiring example provided by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

### **Inspiring Talks**

Three very illuminating talks formed an important part of these celebrations. The first talk was delivered by Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on the eve of the Gujarati New Year Day on 22nd October 2006. Sri Giri first spoke in English and then switched over to Telugu for the benefit of a large number of Telugu knowing devotees present in the Hall. Greeting the devotees of Gujarat on this auspicious occasion, Sri Giri referred to the festivals and celebrations held at Prasanthi Nilayam and said that Bhagavan’s Discourses on these occasions gave the essence of the teachings of the Vedas and provided opportunities to man to assimilate this divine wisdom by putting it into practice in his life. Referring to the chanting of Vedic hymns in perfect intonation and rhythm by four students from overseas countries who were called to the dais by Bhagavan to chant Vedic Mantras in the middle of Sri Giri’s talk, the learned speaker remarked that these students not only took part in Veda chanting but participated in all other activities of the Institute also with great enthusiasm and devotion. The second talk was given by Sri Y. Sriranganatha Raju, an M.B.A. student of the Institute, on the afternoon of 23rd October 2006. Speaking on the importance of devotion for God-realisation, Sri Raju observed that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has incarnated to sow the seeds of love and devotion in the heart of man. This, he said, was

the rare opportunity for devotees to redeem their life when God Himself was showing to them the path of God-realisation. Another illuminating talk was delivered after this, and the speaker was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Referring to Bhagavan as the Supreme Divine Mother of the universe, the learned speaker narrated a few incidents from his life when Bhagavan showered the love of a thousand mothers on him. Bhagavan, he added, has incarnated to teach man the lessons of love and compassion, by practising which he can redeem his life.

#### **Love in Action is Seva – A Drama**

This excellent drama was presented by the Bal Vikas students of Gujarat on the afternoon of 23rd October 2006 which provided a perfect finale to the celebrations of Gujarati New Year.

The drama presented the story of a college youth who took to bad ways due to the effect of bad company, but was put on the path of righteousness and selfless service by the help and good advice of a Sai Youth. Set in the backdrop of Surat floods, the drama highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and brought forth the value of selfless service to mankind as the surest path of self-realisation. Excellent acting of the children, perfect choreography and beautiful songs related to the theme of the play made the drama an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan blessed the children at the end of the drama and posed for photographs with them. With this excellent drama, Gujarati New Year celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam came to a happy conclusion.

### **ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA** **DIVINE DISCOURSE: 4**

## **KEEP YOUR MIND ALWAYS FOCUSED ON GOD**

*The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish sooner or later, but the indweller has neither birth nor death. The indweller has no attachment whatsoever and is the eternal witness. Truly speaking, the indweller who is in the form of the Atma, is verily God Himself.*

**(Telugu Poem)**

THE BODY is like an iron safe which encases the precious jewel of the Atma and values like Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema (truth, righteousness, peace and love). If there are no jewels inside, what is the value of the iron safe? It has value only when there are jewels in it.

#### **Safeguard the Precious Jewels of Values**

Sathya is one of the most important and precious jewels. Dharma is another valuable jewel like a diamond. Peace is essential for every human being. Even when a millionaire comes to Swami, he tells, “Swami, I have everything but I have no peace.” There can be

no happiness in life without peace. Only a person who imbibes the qualities of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema can lead a life of detachment and renunciation. Who is a true renunciant? One who renounces the fruits of his desires and actions can be called a true renunciant. There lies true peace. So long as one has desires, one cannot have true peace.

*Bereft of truth, righteousness, peace and love,  
the value of all your education is zero;*

*Bereft of truth, righteousness, peace and love,  
the benefit of all your acts of charity and kindness is zero;*

*Bereft of truth, righteousness, peace and love,  
the utility of all your positions of power is zero;*

*Bereft of truth, righteousness, peace and love  
the result of all your good deeds is zero.*

(Telugu Poem)

The precious jewels of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema are there in every human being. They are the very foundation of man's life. It is the duty of every human being to safeguard them. Without these values, the body is like an empty iron safe which has no value. What is Sathya? Sathya is that which does not change with the passage of time, and is eternal. Everyone knows what Sathya is, yet people try to bypass it. Man resorts to untruth in order to escape from difficulties. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharmah* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). What is Dharma? Dharma truly is the very foundation of the mansion of life. You may build a multi-storeyed building but without a strong foundation, it will not last long. So, Dharma is the very basis of man's life. Dharma is of two types: Laukik (worldly) and Adhyatmic (spiritual). Laukik Dharma is subject to change, but Adhyatmic Dharma is eternal. When the foundation is weak, the walls of the mansion will collapse in a short time. Dharma is therefore the true path for everyone to follow. Prema is the roof of this mansion and Santhi, the light. Man cannot live in a house without a roof. Nor can he lead his life in darkness. Unfortunately, nowadays Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema seem to have been completely neglected. Today even a wealthy person lacks the spirit of sacrifice. The life of such a person is like a roofless house that will be exposed to sun and rain. Therefore, it is necessary for man to have a proper roof. It is love that sustains man's life. Right from the time of birth, a child loves its mother and the mother loves the child. It is difficult to describe in words the depth of love between a mother and her child.

During the war for the liberation of Rangoon, a mother and her son somehow escaped from the area of war and managed to reach Kolkata. They had no shelter or food. The mother would go begging for alms from house to house, give most of it to her son and partake of whatever little was left. When she did not get enough, she would give the entire quantity of food to her son and would herself go without food. Consequently, she became weak day by day. One day the son, unable to see her suffering, told her, "Mother, from today, you take rest and I will fetch food for both of us." From that day, he would go begging from house to house, give most of it to his mother and partake of whatever little was left. Sometimes, he would lie to his mother that he had already taken his food. Consequently, he too became very weak. The son had no strength to look after his mother nor did the mother have any strength to protect her son.

One day, he stood in front of the house of an officer and begged for alms. The officer was relaxing in an easy chair in the verandah, reading a newspaper. He took pity on the boy,

went inside and brought some food on a plantain leaf. He told him to sit and eat it there itself. But the boy said that he would take it home. The officer said, "I don't think you are really hungry, otherwise why should you take it home?" When the officer was uttering these harsh words, the boy felt giddy and fell down. The officer heard him mumble the words, "First to my mother, to my mother..." in a faint voice. Saying so, he breathed his last. When this sad news reached the mother, she was immersed in grief. Unable to bear the grief of the tragic death of her dear son, the mother also breathed her last. Both the mother and her son sacrificed their lives out of love for each other.

This was the depth of love between the mother and the child in those days. Today, due to selfishness, there is a decline in love even between the mother and the child! A life without love is not worth living. Love is life. The mother should love her children and the children should love their mother. In this manner, the mutual love between the mother and her children should grow. Even a monkey carries its offspring wherever it goes. Love is necessary for life. This precious jewel of love is present in the iron safe of the body. Where there is love, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is non-violence. Contentment is peace.

### **Too many Desires Ruin Man's Life**

Buddha renounced his kingdom, left his wife and son and propagated the principle of non-violence. He set the ideal, *Ahimsa Paramo Dharma* (Ahimsa is the highest Dharma). We should develop Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa which are like the five life-breaths of man. One can be called a human being only if one has these five values. Man should undertake all such activities which foster these five values in him. Yajnas, Yagas (sacrificial rites), Japa (recitation of God's name), Tapa (penance), etc., are meant only to develop these values in man. One who possesses these five values is a man of merit and his life is redeemed. One's life is a waste if he lacks even one of them. First of all, man should lead a life of truth and follow the path of righteousness to achieve progress on the path of spirituality.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Today wherever we go, we find only craze for money. Even old people who are nearing the end of their life are crazy for money. Man today has too many desires. This is not Kali Yuga but Kalaha Yuga (Age of conflict). Money is the root cause of all this. We give too much importance to the body which is like an iron safe. Instead, we should give more importance to the precious jewels of human values within. Values should be the prime concern of human life. Without values, human life does not serve any purpose. Birds and animals have love in them, but they have no desires. They are contented when their hunger is satiated. But man is not like that. He wants anything and everything. Even if he owns five buildings, he wants ten more. Why does he require so many houses? Is one house not enough for him to live comfortably? He is deceived by his own limitless desires. Today man has excessive desires. He has to reduce his desires. *Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure*. Here, we are doing a lot of work for others, but we do not desire anything from anybody. I don't own even a single house. Wherever I go, I stay in the houses of devotees. People should reduce their desires in the same manner. Once you control your desires, you can live in peace. But never reduce your love for God. Develop more and more love for God. When you have love for God, you will have everything.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Today you have listened to the talks given by many elders. All that you have heard, you should put into practice. Install the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema in your heart permanently. If you have peace and love, you can achieve anything in life. If you ask our students, you will find that all of them have full control over their desires. All these boys are highly qualified. They have postgraduate degrees like M.A., M.B.A., M.Sc. and Ph.D. They have no desire to go to their home even. If they go out, they can earn a very high salary. An M.B.A. boy can earn a salary of one to two lakhs per month. But they do not want to go. “What can money give us? Can it give us happiness?”, they ask. They want to work here. They consider work as worship and duty as God. They are highly duty conscious. The students should have such strong faith. Wherever you see, you find people full of desires. What do they achieve by having too many desires? Ultimately, they ruin their life. So, it is necessary for you to control your desires. With heavy luggage on your head, how far can you walk? Reduce your luggage to make the journey of your life more comfortable. As a bachelor, how happy and carefree you are! When you get married, you have virtually four legs. When you want to go out, you will be worried that your wife is alone at home. After a year, you will have a son. Now you have six legs instead of four. As the number of legs increases, the journey of life will become more and more slow. Thus, the pace of your life’s journey will be slowed down.

### **Strive to Earn a Good Name**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Treasure love in your heart. Love all. But do not unduly burden yourself with too many responsibilities. This will add to your worries and difficulties. Our teachers know pretty well what these difficulties are. You can lead a happy life only if you reduce your burden. Then there will be less scope for difficulties and suffering. Dakshinamoorthy also gave the message of sacrifice to drive home this truth. Dakshinamoorthy imparted his teachings through silence. He always had a smiling face. The reason was that he had no worries and responsibilities.

Death is certain some day or the other. You have the body today, but you may not have it tomorrow. Therefore, earn a good name even at the cost of your life. Consider good name as your very life-breath. Good name will remain even after one departs from this world. Therefore, you should earn a good name in society. There is no point in becoming a great man in life; it is enough if you earn a good name. A millionaire may be considered great, but he also eats grains and cereals in his food and not gold. So long as you are alive, you have to depend upon food to nourish your body. At the same time, reduce your body attachment. Share your love with everyone. Do not limit your love to your family only, leading a selfish life. Even a fish is better than a selfish person. A fish moves freely and happily in water and leads a comfortable life. On the other hand, man has burdened himself with too many responsibilities and attachments. Because of this heavy load, he has sunk so low. Therefore, you should reduce your burden and spend more and more time in the contemplation of God. When you develop love for Paramatma (God), you can experience the joy of Prakriti (Nature).

*Duty is God. Work is worship.* Follow these twin principles in life. Do not put undue burden of responsibilities on yourself. God is there to shoulder the responsibility of everyone (*loud applause*). Where is the cause for worry when God is there to take care of

us? We keep on worrying because our understanding of this truth is only theoretical. We should not be like that. Once we surrender everything to God, we should be free from worries. You can experience peace only when you are free from worries. You may perform any number of Yajnas and Yagas and undertake any number of spiritual practices, but all these are useless if the inner meaning is not understood. You may forget anything in this world, but never forget God. Keep your mind always focused on God. This is My message for you today (*loud prolonged applause*).

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the song, “*Bhaja Govindam, Bhaja Govindam, Govindam Bhaja Moodha Mathe ...*” )

- **From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 12th August 2006 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.**

## **INTERVIEW**

# **WATCH AND BE HAPPY**

*“When He looks into your eyes, this process begins, when He touches you physically, when He speaks to you, when He takes a letter from you, when He walks close to you, something begins to happen”, says Sri James Sinclair in reply to a question of Dr. G. Venkataraman during a very interesting and revealing interview, describing his experiences of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s Divinity.*

*WE have the pleasure of having in our studio Sri James Sinclair. He is a devotee who is seen very often but is heard hardly ever. That is because he is by disposition and choice a very silent person. The depth of his silence is the measure of his devotion to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I have deep personal regard for him. I am eager to know how one should be devoted to Bhagavan seriously, in an intense manner, totally and yet be immersed in the activities of the world. Welcome sir, before we get on to what I say deep spirituality, may I begin by requesting you to tell us something about how you came to Bhagavan? Of course, I had some glimpses of it when once I heard your talk in Trayee Brindavan. But I think the world also needs to know. May be, you can start with Shirdi Sai Baba disappearing into the wall or the experience of Baby Krishna if I have got the sequence right.*

You have some of the stories certainly. Let me start with the first question and slowly work my way. Not that I found Sai, but rather Sai found me. The business of business and the business of life are one and the same. To bring the infinite possibility out of an individual is extremely simple. It is an understanding that (i) an infinite possibility exists within you, and (ii) discovering a way in which that infinite possibility can emerge. Now how Sai found me, it is quite simple. As a Christian young man of 20, I drove down the West Side Drive, New York to go to the offices as a market maker, as a person who actually created the market and securities for 35 different companies. I used to pray on my rosary beads but felt very cheated that Christ lived 2,000 years ago and here I am

feeling lost: I don't know where You are, I don't know who You are, but I know You are. I can't find You. So, You better find me. And, in fact, my prayers were answered.

*Which year was that roughly?*

In the late 50's. There are many experiences as you have noted, the most dramatic of all was actually seeing Swami in my home in Connecticut. And Swami was in His person. You have to understand, if you have never seen Swami before, and if you are a Westerner without a great deal of knowledge of Eastern philosophy and culture, then it would be a shock when you first saw Swami in your home. After having seen Swami a second time in my meditation room, as I did meditate, and this time Swami allowed me to touch Him, and He was as close as I see you now sitting across the table, I was now on a mission to find who He was, not knowing even His name.

*Can I interrupt you, how many years after your West Side Drive prayers was this?*

Well, I was in my 50's, that was thirty years later.

*And you were praying all these thirty years?*

I was, yes. To find God.

*And the second time you actually touched Him?*

Yes, I did. He made a motion for me to touch His Feet, and I did. Then began the campaign of trying to find out who He was. That campaign led me to a store in New York which at that time was the centre of all texts dealing with spiritual matters and probably with texts dealing with unusual matters. So, I asked the attendant of the store by describing how this person looked like. He said, "one moment", walked back and came with a book, "The Holy Man and the Psychiatrist" with a bag of Vibhuti and told me that he was a devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

*"The Holy Man and the Psychiatrist" by Samuel Sandweiss?*

Correct. That was the beginning and eventually I found my way to India, not really having the courage to come because I had not travelled in this area. I was on business with a partner in London when I became overcome with the desire to go to India. I left my partner and my wife as I was going to return from the trip, waved goodbye and told them that I was on my way to India. And the end result was that I showed up over here in my stylish American dress with all my jewellery on. I wore a winter blue blazer with a pink shirt, polka-dot tie, grey slacks and winter shoes. It was terribly warm, I was carrying an overcoat and dragging a bag behind which was leaking. Somebody said, I should bring some water. So, clearly coming into an Ashram like this, I must have looked like most classic lost soul on earth.

*And the year was?*

That was 1985. And that was the beginning because what I have learnt here is not anything intellectual but quietude. What I have learnt is not from Swami's Discourses, although there is much to be learnt, but from the glances from His eyes, from simply breathing the same air, being in His proximity and finding out that His Life is, in fact, His Message, knowing without a doubt that the business of life and the business of business, the business of family and the business of time are all the same.



*Can I ask you a question? You say that you learnt a lot just by observing. There are millions who are here more often than you are. And, in fact, I live here. We see Him. How come we missed it! You must tell us the trick.*

I don't know the trick. All I know is that in most things in the human experience, people can be too close to the object of observation to really observe.

*What is it that you observe?*

It is not so much what I observe. When He looks into your eyes, this process begins, when He touches you physically, when He speaks to you, when He takes a letter from you, when He walks close to you, something begins to happen.

*Can I say that unless the individual is properly prepared, he will miss this experience?*

But Swami gives very simple instructions for that preparation.

*What is that?*

“Watch” and “be happy”. In fact, it is so simple that it must be divine because humans make things complex.

*That's true.*

When Swami says “watch”, I take it literally. If the word is not contained in the dictionary of the language He is speaking in, He will define that word so that you will understand. So, He gives the instruction, “watch”. That is why many times He gives the gift of a watch. Because it is a living instruction of observation to stand back and simply watch – words, actions, thoughts, character, heart; all aspects of humanity. Then he says, “be happy.” But He defines one word in all that, ‘happy’ – unity with Divinity. Now we look up the meaning in a dictionary and see what the word ‘be’ means; it simply means ‘isness’. So, if one would simply watch, then something would occur which would result in unity with Divinity.

*I want to ask you a practical question. You are a man of business and if I am not mistaken you are actively involved in business. Now business has its ups and downs. It is easy for an individual to be happy, possibly in a worldly sense when there is success. What happens when there is a problem or even failure? How is one to be happy?*

Well, failure can be an opportunity because very simply when everything goes along positively, abundantly, we tend to forget what we are trying to build. When you have a problem, don't you cry, don't you hang on to the Feet of the Lord? So, if a person wants to have a more even life, if that is possible, then wouldn't it make a great deal of sense to hang on to His Feet when things are good? Then the purpose of fear, the purpose of lack, the purpose of pain, the purpose of separation becomes less necessary in the human experience which only has one purpose, and the purpose of humanity is union with Divinity according to Baba. The message is extraordinarily simple. Yes, I am very much involved in business, but I firmly believe that success in the business environment is not a product of what you do, but a product of what you are. And the product of what you are is a product of “watch” and “be happy”. So, I see a great simplicity, and I also firmly believe that every single event in my life is a gift. I don't have the ability to define for you what that gift means. Some of it hurts terribly, some of it pleases, but every single event in my life to this point, and I find some shocking events, has done nothing to me but has done something for me. So, why should I change? I believe in treating my employees like family. But even a father loving his family has a duty at times to be stern,

to make decisions, to make corrections. So, if one were to reward production and punish non-production, wouldn't he be a good father? The business of business and the business of life are one. Success has nothing to do with how we strategise. Success is like air, it is abundant, you can breathe it in. I don't believe in recessions or depressions unless they are in your mind because if you approach life in the manner of instruction you receive here in absolute simplicity, then I firmly believe that every listener here would reach the highest possible destiny that he can.

*Talking of success and failure, I am tempted to ask another question which is very important and pertinent. I would really appreciate your thoughts on the subject because it consists tragedies. Many people have suffered tragedies and I have faced them too. That was before I came to Swami and at that time it looked tragic. Supposing an unforeseen tragic event befalls a devotee, at that time his faith is shaken.*

His body is shaken, his faith need not be shaken.

*But sometimes people cry, "Why did Swami do this to me? What wrong did I do?" And things like that.*

It is a wrong understanding.

*Okay, now the question is: What would you say to persons of that disposition because there are many out there and they are clamouring for an answer?*

I would give them compassion because you cannot teach a person an experience.

*No. It is somebody next to the person who can give compassion. But, what about the person himself or herself?*

That person has an opportunity that he can either succeed or fail, and the opportunity is to recognise that Divinity knows better than humanity. Divinity never hurts. Those who believe that Swami is hard don't realise that Swami drives you here when you most need it and carries you through every single event, be it a tragedy or a success, because the greatest tragedy on earth can be success if you become lost in the effect of success. So, we judge, what a tragedy is. I have not had a tragedy in my life, but I had events which people might consider to be tragic. I know that Divinity knows a lot better than what I know. So, I don't judge events.

*Swami puts it very simply, "Everything is good for me." That is what you are saying essentially.*

I have experienced what some people may call a tragedy even recently, and let me tell you, it is all good. Now the body will falter because we all carry this human aspect of what we are. Tears will come to the eyes and the body will be shaking, but there is a quiet deep down inside. If you can hold on to it, even the worst of times will become the best of times. It will be an opportunity to grow, an opportunity in strength. In tragedies that I have had, I have lost nothing, but I have gained everything because in the silence of His eyes, His Life is His Message. Inside you grows a silence that becomes a partner, that will in every single event rise to the circumstances as long as you cease stopping it from happening. Watch, don't participate in the thought. Be in the now, don't fool around with the past. We heard that in Swami's Discourse two days ago, "Past is past, future is not our business. Our business is now and in the now, only watch." That is the gift which is here, that is the gift you can live with. Don't try and intellectualise. Don't take it in parts, in little bits and pieces. Feel it, know it, marry it, be it, worship it, but don't try and

understand it, because understanding is what blocks and stops acceptance. A gift is being handed to you, don't argue with the gift, don't try and make Swami teach some fact or word, Mantra, prayer or exercise or whatever. Just keep quiet. This is a place of pilgrimage for many, for myself. When I come here, I don't have any questions because who am I to speak to Him? If you have the opportunity of an interview, the opportunity to hand over a letter, the simple opportunity of eye contact or simply seeing Him, just be open. I don't come here for socialising although there are wonderful people here. I come here because my best friend is here and if I cannot understand anything else about Swami, I do know He is my best friend who has my interest at heart and He knows what my interest is. In gratitude to that, why not simply follow the instructions given? Swami's Discourses and teachings are extraordinarily simple and practical.

*You are a businessman and I presume a successful one, and success in business also means a lot of things that come along with success, wealth for example. Now I want to ask a very pertinent question. How does a successful businessman not allow wealth and those paraphernalia to cling to him or how does he stop being attached to them? That seems to be one of the problems; they get attached and want more of the same and it keeps on growing endlessly.*

It is because of the madness.

*How did you avoid that madness?*

The madness is because a person with 200 million US dollars, if he loses one million, you have to take him to the hospital and give him oxygen. It is very simple, give it away. And if you do, you are always vibrant, you are always young because you have to make it again. My wife was recently deceased; she gave to her children their inheritance in her lifetime. That's the trick. I don't have material needs. I do my business because Swami told me to do the business. It is not my business, it is His business. I do have a duty to perform, a task, the results of which are not in my hands, but the work is. And Swami is kind enough, Divinity is kind enough that I actually like what I do. So, I play a game, but how the game works out is not up to me. But what is up to me is to do the most excellent possible job, to treat everyone with highest possible ethics, to discipline wrong doing and to fight evil wherever I see. Evil is very clear, it is hurting others. So, my way of doing business, I don't believe, buys me anything. But it just pleases me to do it that way. I firmly believe that success is not a product of the strategy and application. But it is the way the people act that will attract to them the greatest support for whatever they are able to accomplish or if not accomplished, the courage to be able to face whatever difficulties develop. Listening to Swami's Discourses has really made me what I am.

When I listen to Swami, I try and stay empty because very few people understand what the word 'listen' means. Listen means mentally shut up. You can't listen if you are thinking about what you are going to say. So, the practice of listening is really something that develops, in a sense, by contemplation, by meditation a bit, by slowing down thoughts, by relaxation of the voice of the mind. But if you can listen a little, then something starts to happen. If you are willing to listen, be open to receive, not to argue, not to try and understand, not to try and be a devotee. Just be open, then something starts to happen. So, I believe Swami starts the process that moves as if it was almost automatic. Business does not interfere with that; business is simply life. If business becomes your divinity, then you are going to become very much like what you see in the

world, driven by greed and avarice. But that is stupidity. All I need to do is do whatever my duty is.

*You know, unconsciously you have given a wonderful paraphrase of the Bhagavadgita. As you were speaking, all those things which Krishna told Arjuna came alive. That is what essentially He keeps saying: You have been put by Me in this world to play a role and I choose actors according to their capabilities and their previous bank balance and earnings of merit. You just do it for Me without being attached or without letting that cling to you. Do it well without any bad intentions.*

Simple, enjoy whatever it is. And understand that most times when tragedy strikes, hold on to the feet of whatever represents to you – Divinity.

*You started off by talking about your strong faith in Jesus Christ and you were wondering why you were not there when he was there, and you are 2,000 years too late. Looking back, do you feel whether there is any difficulty in your being a good Christian and yet having perfect faith in Swami?*

No, I don't find any difficulty in that at all because if one were to look at the teachings of Jesus Christ and compare them with the teachings of Swami, it is easy to recognise that there are many religions but they all lead to the same destination. How can there be any contradiction when the message is love. So, I find no problem whatsoever, but if you ask me whether I am a religious man, I tell you that I seek to be totally open, totally silent, able to listen and I don't find that in any ritual or practice. So, ritual and practice is defined as religious. I don't know what the word spiritual means. Then let us say, I am the one with the deepest possible respect for those who practise ritual because that is what got me here.

*In fact, Swami says rituals are a stepping stone to a higher realisation. When rituals fall apart, wither away and you are left alone with your consciousness and face to face with God, you become a witness.*

But realisation, enlightenment and witness, we as humans fantasise everything. This is not something we do, but something that happens naturally. A lot of silence that develops within an individual, if he does not resist it, opens and may, in fact, be the way. That is what I find here. That is why I make the pilgrimage. If I have the ability to hear Swami's words, then I assure you, definitely I will do nothing else. Swami does not speak in abstruse language although many of us look into the deeper and more complex meanings. He is absolutely simple, absolutely straightforward. All that Swami does is to prevent pain and suffering. Even if they do occur, as they do in everyone's life, understand, even if you have no idea, mentally, intellectually or otherwise. When I say understand, what I mean is accept. What other choice do you have? What can I do to make something undone? I can't. But understand, there is no second chance in life. So, tell the people you love that you love them. Not by words necessarily, although that is nice; by thoughts and actions, because you may not get a second chance. Treat people equally, and treat all people as if they were your family. If you have a contract, don't look at it as the beginning of a war, but as an agreement of honour. And if that agreement of honour costs you money, pay the money. Don't resort to law, resort to talking it out. Make an agreement with your partner that benefits your partner. The secret of my success is that I made everybody else richer than myself. I had reversals in business with people. But even with the greatest reversals I ever had, I remember the good times I had with that person. I

wouldn't do business with him any more. But I would certainly look forward to breaking bread at a meal because I had some very good time with him.

*Supposing there is somebody in America, who has not heard about Swami and who is not obviously a devotee, were to ask you, "Tell me who is this Sai Baba whom you go to see very often." What would you say to that person?*

If you have an interest in knowing the answer to this question, I am not exactly the right person to ask. Our job is only to welcome those whom Swami calls. But, how can I explain to some other person what Swami is when I don't have the slightest idea. If I was to write a book on everything I know about Swami, it would be 1000 blank pages. Because I can only listen. So, the answer is simple, if you are interested in knowing who and what Swami is, the answer is plain, "Go, taste and see." The only job that we would have, if there is any job, I am not sure if there is, would be to be welcoming and assisting. Swami doesn't need us for anything. In the history of all the Avatars, who ever took such a deep interest in the little lives that we live? Divinity is walking among us, comforting us, guiding us, teaching us, and finally saying, "There is no difference between you and I except one, I know who I am and you can find out who you are." This is something that is so real, so ethical, so upfront that if you simply won't make a great human miscalculation and simply accept what is standing in front of your eyes, you have everything to gain and absolutely nothing to lose.

*Some years ago, Swami was in Bangalore, and He visited a Sai Centre and gave a Discourse. I was present there, fortunate to be present because He revealed a great secret. He said, "God does not need anything because everything is already His. God incarnates so that people start remembering God, otherwise they forget God. I come in order to give opportunities to you to become a better person and redeem your life. That is the only reason."*

He comes and gives us everything we need until we get to the point of openness to accept what He has come to give us.

*So, I would like to let you say the last word. What is the last thing you would like to say to our listeners before we sign off?*

Everything that can be conceptualised lies within the human experience. And therefore less words, more silence; less looking, more acceptance.

*Silence of the mind.*

Silence of the mind can start with silence of the mouth.

*That's true.*

Do what you can do. Simply start by watching your words. Start some work. Start wherever you are and let the rest take care of itself. In business, in life, in what you might call religion, what you might call spirituality, don't waste the whole lot of time seeking to change yourself. I am 63 years old, I have been trying to change myself for the longest period of time. I am exactly the same person. Recognise that something here which is the treasure. Recognise that you don't have to be here to receive it. But it is wonderful to be here. Recognise that this is the place of pilgrimage that you come to and you leave; and when you leave, you are going to leave it better. If you come here loving Jesus Christ, you can leave loving him more. And all religions and all persuasions, that is the gift of

Swami. But even more than that, the answer is here. But it is not intellectual. If you are seeking an answer, then I strongly recommend that you come here and seek silence.

*Courtesy : Radio Sai Global Harmony*

### From Our Archives

## WHO IS SAI?

GOD is inscrutable. He cannot be realised in the outer objective world; He is in the very heart of every being. Gemstones have to be sought deep underground; they do not float in mid-air. Seek God in the depths of your self, not in the tantalising, kaleidoscopic Nature. The body is granted to you for this high purpose; but you are now misusing it, like the person who cooked his daily food in the gem-studded gold vase that came into his hands as an heirloom.

Man extols God as omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent, but he ignores His Presence in himself! Of course, many venture to describe the attributes of God and proclaim Him to be such and such; but these are their own guesses and the reflections of their own predilections and preferences.

Who can affirm that God is this or that? Who can affirm that God is not of this form or with this attribute? Each one can acquire from the vast expanse of the ocean only as much as can be contained in the vessel he carries to its shore. From that quantity, they can grasp but little of that immensity.

Each religion defines God within the limits it demarcates and then claims to have grasped Him. Like the seven blind men who spoke of the elephant as a pillar, a fan, a rope or a wall, because they contacted but a part and could not comprehend the entire animal. So, too, religions speak of a part and assert that their vision is full and total.

Each religion forgets that God is all forms and all names, all attributes and all assertions. The religion of humanity is the sum and substance of all these partial faiths; for, there is only one religion and that is the religion of love. The various limbs of the elephant that seemed separate and distinct to the eyeless seekers of its truth were all fostered and activated by one single stream of blood; the various religions and faiths that feel separate and distinct are all fostered by a single stream of love.

The optical sense cannot visualise the truth. It gives only false and barren information. For example, there are many who observe My actions and start declaring that My nature is such and such. They are unable to gauge the sanctity, the majesty and the eternal reality that is Me. The power of Sai is limitless; It manifests for ever. All forms of power are resident in this Sai palm.

Those who profess to have understood Me – the scholars, the Yogis, the Pandits (scholars), the Jnanis (men of wisdom) – all of them are aware only of the least important, the casual, external manifestation of an infinitesimal part of that power, namely, the miracles! They have not desired to contact the source of all power and all wisdom that is available here at Brindavan. They are satisfied when they secure a chance to exhibit their book learning and parade their scholarship in Vedic lore, not realising that the Person from whom the Vedas emanated is in their midst, for their sake.

This has been the case in all ages. People may be very near (physically) to the Avatar, but they live out their lives unaware of their fortune, exaggerating the role of miracles, which are as trivial when compared to My glory and majesty, as a mosquito is in size and strength to the elephant upon which it squats. Therefore, when you speak about these miracles, I laugh within Myself out of pity that you allow yourself so easily to lose the precious awareness of My reality.

My power is immeasurable; My truth is inexplicable, unfathomable. I am announcing this about Me, for, the need has arisen. But, what I am doing now is only the gift of a 'Visiting Card'! Let Me tell you that such emphatic declarations of truth were made so clearly and so unmistakably only by Krishna. In spite of these declarations, you will notice in the career of the same Krishna that He underwent defeat in His efforts and endeavours on a few occasions, though you must also note that those defeats too were part of the drama which He had planned and which He Himself directed.

When many kings pleaded with Him to avert the war with the Kauravas, He confessed that His Mission to the Kaurava court for ensuring peace had 'failed'! But He had not willed that it should succeed. He had decided that the war would be waged. His Mission was intended to publicise the greed and iniquity of the Kauravas and to condemn them before the whole world.

But I must tell you that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for even such 'drama' with scenes of failures and defeats! What I Will, must take place; what I plan, must succeed. I am Truth; and Truth has no need to hesitate or fear or bend.

'Willing' is superfluous for Me. For, My grace is ever available to devotees who have steady love and faith. Since I move among them, talking and singing, even intellectuals are unable to grasp My truth, My power, My glory, or My real task as Avatar. I can solve any problem however knotty. I am beyond the reach of the most intensive enquiry and the most meticulous measurement. Only those who have recognised My love and experienced that love can assert that they have glimpsed My reality, for, the path of love is the royal road that leads mankind to Me.

Do not attempt to know Me through the external eyes. When you go to a temple and stand before the image of God, you pray with closed eyes, don't you? Why? Because you feel that the inner eye of wisdom alone can reveal Him to you. Therefore, do not crave from Me trivial material objects; but crave for Me, and you would be rewarded. Not that you should not receive whatever objects I give as sign of grace out of the fullness of love. I shall tell you why I give these rings, talismans, rosaries, etc. It is to mark the bond between Me and those to whom they are given. When calamity befalls them, the article comes to Me in a flash and returns in a flash taking from Me the remedial grace of protection. That grace is available to all who call on Me in any name or form, not merely to those who wear these gifts. Love is the bond that wins grace.

Consider the meaning of the name, Sai Baba. *Sa* means 'Divine'; *ai* or *ayi* means 'mother' and *Baba* means 'father'. The Name indicates the Divine Mother and Father, just as Sambasiva, which also means the Divine Mother and Father (Sa-amba Siva). Your physical parents might cultivate love with a dose of selfishness; but this Sai "Mother and Father" showers affection or reprimands only for leading you towards victory in the struggle for self-realisation. For, this Sai has come in order to achieve the supreme task of uniting as one family the entire mankind through the bond of brotherhood, of affirming

and illumining the Atmic reality of each being in order to reveal the Divine which is the basis on which the entire cosmos rests, and of instructing all to recognise the common divine heritage that binds man to man, so that man can rid himself of the animal, and rise to Divinity which is his goal.

I am the embodiment of love; love is My instrument. There is no creature without love; the lowest loves itself, at least. And its Self is God. So, there are no atheists, though some might dislike Him or refuse Him, as malarial patients dislike sweets or diabetic patients refuse to have anything to do with sweets! Those who preen themselves as atheists will one day, when their illness is gone, relish God and revere Him.

I had to tell you so much about My Truth, for, I desire that you should contemplate on this and derive joy therefrom, so that you may be inspired to observe the disciplines laid down and progress towards the goal of self-realisation, the realisation of the Sai that shines in your hearts.

– *From Bhagavan's Discourse*  
*19th June 1974*

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **SIERRA LEONE**

SIERRA LEONE was the seat of education and administration for British West Africa during the colonial days. In recent times, however, the country lost its importance and direction due to ten years of civil war which witnessed rampant destruction of human lives and infrastructure and the presence of the largest known U.N. Peace Keeping Force. Why was this? The underlying causes were many, but prominent among them was the absence of the practice of human values in the lives of people as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The spread of the noble Sai ideals through the Sathya Sai International Organisation is up to now alien to the people of Sierra Leone. There are no Sai devotees and no Sai Organisation.

A breakthrough was made recently when the Sathya Sai Organisation donated 550 wheelchairs to Alhaji Dr. Mohammed Tejan Kaba, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone for the benefit of the people who had lost their legs and arms during the conflict. The formal presentation of the wheelchairs to the President was made on 19th September 2006 in the Sate Lodge in the presence of the Attorney General, Ambassadors, the Ministers of Health, Social Welfare, Gender and Child Development and high officials of these ministries.

On behalf of the Sathya Sai International Organisation, the Central Coordinator for Africa thanked the President for accepting the donation which was in recognition of his eminent statesmanship, good governance and the needs of his people. The nature and role of the Sathya Sai International Organisation as defined by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba were explained to the esteemed audience and an assurance of the Organisation's willingness to participate in the tasks of the country's reconstruction and nation building was given.

In his reply, the President thanked the Sai Organisation for the much needed donation and welcomed it to Sierra Leone. He suggested that the office of the Central Coordinator for



Africa be set up in the country. The presentation was widely reported in the National Television and Radio. A medical camp and distribution of three thousand (3,000) Sai Nets to Yoni Chieftdom are being organised by the U.K. Sai Medical Doctors and the Nairobi Sai Net Directorate later in December 2006.

## **INDONESIA**

About 1,300 people live in the village of Cipanjalu, West Java, Indonesia. For the past three years, over 1,100 have lost their jobs as farm workers. This has resulted in widespread hunger and starvation. On 6th August 2006, and then again on 17th August 2006, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia rose to the occasion in order to alleviate the difficulties faced by the villagers, and promptly distributed large quantities of essential food items. The initial food distribution inspired many Sai devotees to continue the Narayana Seva. On 17th September 2006, about 100 Sai devotees distributed four tonnes of food and 1,000 clothing items and shawls to 500 families. One of the most inspiring aspects of this Narayana Seva was that it was carried out by Sai devotees who performed a long journey in the early morning hours in seven trucks from Jakarta to Bandung. The people of Cipanjalu were grateful to Bhagavan for the timely aid and support with love.

In another part of Indonesia, the Sadhana of providing humanitarian services by Sai devotees continued. Devotees visited Sei Serahpur village in North Sumatra on 4th July 2006. It took them a three-hour bus and boat ride each way. They carried with them and distributed over two tonnes of rice, and other essential food items to 400 families. Despite large-scale flooding in lands and mounting odds, the food distribution was conducted from the boat as there was not sufficient land in the small village to organise a food camp.

In addition, two medical camps were conducted on 23rd July 2006 and 10th September 2006. The first was in Martubung, North Sumatra in which 39 Sai volunteers served 332 patients in one day. The second was in Kuala Langkat, also in North Sumatra, in which 295 patients were seen. In both medical camps, patients were given a general health check-up and screening for diabetes, hypertension and dental health. In addition, health education consultations were given for personal hygiene, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and infectious gastroenteritis. In conjunction with the medical camp on 10th September one tonne food items were distributed to over 400 families in Kuala Langkat. As a reminder of the importance of preventive health, a vitamin bottle was given to every child in the village.

## **U. S. A.**

Sathya Sai Centres in the northeast region of the U.S.A. participated in a Regional Seva Day in unity and love on 8th April 2006. Sai Centres of Norwalk, Shelton and Silvermine in Connecticut joined together for cleaning the kitchen, sorting of food and clothes, painting the dorms, corridors, and common hall of the Norwalk emergency shelter with 95 beds and served delicious lunch for 200 people. Sai Centres of Central Connecticut joined forces to host a reading awards ceremony for the children of an inner city school in Hartford. About 80 children from lower income families attended the event. Each child received his or her certificate from the Mayor of the city of Hartford.

The Sai Centre at Essex Junction in Vermont volunteered at the local emergency free food shelf. Seva tasks included organising the food items collected, assisting the

recipients in picking the food items of their choice, transportation, repacking and organising the shelves.

Four Boston area Sai Centres joined together in planning and implementing two primary activities in a local shelter and a nursing home. Shelter residents were given personal care items, and a hot lunch was served to them. The fourth floor of the shelter was refurbished. Posters were prepared with Swami's quotes and displayed on the walls. At the nursing home, the Bal Vikas students and teachers prepared handmade greeting cards for the residents and conducted a music programme. The Buffalo Sai Centre devotees helped renovate a house. Although inexperienced in building construction, the group of multidisciplinary professionals did a marvellous job of insulating, painting and dry wall installation. The site supervisor was thrilled at the amount of work accomplished by the group in just four hours. He lauded how quickly the Sai volunteers acquired and excelled in the needed skills. Sai volunteers of Wappingers Falls Centre provided general health-related information and health screening to residents in inner-city Poughkeepsie in New York. A total of 46 patients were seen during the day. Devotees at the Ithaca Sai Centre brought some groceries for the cupboard of "Friendship Centre" and made sandwiches for serving the homeless and others in need. Devotees at the Syracuse Sai Centre in New York State visited a local nursing home where there were at least 30 residents with disabilities requiring wheelchairs. Sai children performed a music programme and then distributed flowers, cookies and personalised cards to each of the residents.

The devotees at the Southern Maine Sai Centre interacted with 30 world war veterans in a local nursing home, many of them over 80 years of age. The members spent time by singing Bhajans, songs and sharing Swami's teachings. A devotee played the piano and shared some of the world's best Veteran's songs. The elders enjoyed the programme and the Sai members' visit. They commented that they had never seen a performance and sharing of love like this in several years. They requested that Sai members come back more frequently. Devotees at the Rhode Island Sai Centre prepared hot food for a local homeless shelter. Parents and SSE children went to a nursing home and sang songs to entertain the people living there. Also they passed out "Happy Spring" Cards that the SSE children had made. Such outpouring of love across an entire region in a single country was truly a testimony to the immense inspiration of Bhagavan's Divine Love.

### **HUNGARY**

The historic city of Budapest is the capital of Hungary and is located on the river Danube. On 10th September 2006, the Hungarian Sathya Sai Organisation held a successful EHV programme for adults as well as first SSE programme for children. About 125 adults attended the programme along with children aged 6-12. The adult programme was filled with lectures and workshops during the day and ended with an hour-long devotional singing session. There were several presentations on the five human values. The children were first oriented to their new teacher. The group then spoke about the importance of Sri Sathya Sai Human Values and the role of God in their lives. Playful workshops were conducted to highlight positive and negative human characteristics. In the afternoon, the children had a spiritual storytelling session, arts and crafts session. All participants were spiritually uplifted by the two programmes.

### **LATIN AMERICA**

A concerted effort to instil SSEHV in the underprivileged children in Latin America has been going on in countries such as Peru, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Brazil and Argentina. This project began in 1995 and, initially, the SSEHV classes had to be held under trees and any available space in school or community buildings. Nestled in the rugged Andes Mountains and washed by the mighty Amazon, Bolivia has been economically disadvantaged by years of internal strife. Poverty-stricken children are often settled in temporary dwellings at the outskirts of large cities. The local Sathya Sai Centre young adults aged 16-20 years from respective cities have taken up the rewarding task of going to the homes or settlements of these families and spending time talking to their children teaching Sathya Sai Human Values, narrating stories, playing and organising community projects jointly with them. Sai Youth together with local residents have helped clean up some of the communities. The community of Maria Auxiliadora in Cochabamba, Bolivia, for example, consists of impoverished women and children whose families have been ravaged by violence. In this community, five to seven Sai Youth began their service by donating clothes about a year ago. This eventually developed into a full SSEHV project bringing joy, spirituality and human values to about 40 children and their families. Such weekly visits have not only created a trusting milieu for the Sai Youth and the other children, but have remarkably improved the relationship of these children with their families. In some places, the Sai Organisation has built community centres where the children can meet, and in some cases the parents have also been included in classes for self help such as sewing and reading and writing skills.

### **M I D D L E   E A S T**

From 9th - 20th August 2006, the Sathya Sai Centre of Abu Dhabi had a special devotional programme. The event was attended by the Indian Ambassador to the U.A.E. He later spoke to the 200 daily participants about the transformation that Sri Sathya Sai Baba was bringing about in the world by His example and His message. He also noted the importance of keeping good company and the significance of spiritual pursuits. A medical camp was conducted on 25th August 2006 at the Indian Embassy premises in Abu Dhabi. During this camp, 127 patients were seen for minor ailments and free medications given for 15 days. In addition, health screening was conducted for diabetes and hypertension. Patients were provided with light refreshments and a video of 'His Work' was screened in the embassy lounge.

In the capital city of Muscat, Sai Youth conduct a quarterly prescription glasses camp where, with the help of an optometrist, they test the vision of patients and fit them with corrective lenses free of charge. In the most recent camp, 36 people were tested and 33 of them were found to have visual impairment requiring glasses. The joyful experience of this camp has inspired the youth to hold such camps on a regular basis.

– **Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation**

### **B H A R A T**

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** Another milestone was achieved by the Mahila Vibhag (women's wing) of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Guwahati (Assam) on the occasion of Sakthi Swarupini Day on 19th September 2006 when Mahilas in large numbers from a rural area assembled in the local school premises at village Ulani to

observe this day. It was for the first time that such a function was held in a remote place about 45 km away from Guwahati Sai Centre and was joined by the Mahilas of the neighbouring villages. Local school teachers along with the students also showed keen interest when they came to know about the Divine Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His teachings. This created an awareness about the responsibility of women in giving shape to society based on human values and spirituality.

To spread the message of love of Bhagavan Baba and to create an awareness of the Divine Mission in respect of the global need for value-based education, Bal Vikas Day was observed by the Guwahati Samithi in a rural busy area along the national highway on 10th September 2006. A rally comprising Bal Vikas students and Gurus with placards displaying Bhagavan's message of love was taken out. It moved along the local village road and was joined by other school students of the locality. This was followed by a devotees meet in which local people also took part. In this meet, Bal Vikas students took part in Bhajan, extempore speech, etc.

Coinciding with the celebrations of golden jubilee of Diphu Government Higher Secondary School, Sai Samithi of Diphu organised a tree plantation programme on 25th September 2006. In all, 160 saplings of different varieties were planted in and around the school compound.

**Gujarat:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Gandhinagar donated wheelchairs to Gandhinagar railway station on 1st August 2006. It also arranged cold drinking water for passengers.

On Purnima (full moon day) of Bhadrapada (a month in Indian calendar), people from all over India come to Ambaji Temple on foot. On this occasion, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Visnagar organised a free medical camp on the highway for 24 hours, from 1st September to 4th September 2006, wherein 17,600 patients were treated. 10 doctors and 20 Seva Dal members gave their services in rotation.

**Kerala:** New campus of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Alwaye was inaugurated by Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations on 25th August 2006. He also handed over the keys of two new houses constructed by the Sai Organisation of Kerala to two needy families on 26th August 2006. On 27th August 2006, Sri Srinivasan interacted with over two thousand active workers and office bearers of the Kerala State Sai Organisation.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** On receiving an urgent call from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for blood required urgently for Dengue patients, Sai Youth of Sri Sathya Sai Samithi, Noida came forward for the good cause. Canvassing was done through TV, pamphlets and by personal contacts and a blood donation camp was organised on 15th October 2006 in which 100 units of blood were donated by ladies and gents. Next day, this event was well covered by the leading newspapers.

A five-hour Yajna was organised through the efforts of Seva Dal and devotees of village Kasingawa in Kanpur Dehat. Oblations were offered in the sacred fire amidst chanting of hymns of the Vedas. Great enthusiasm was noticed in the villagers who participated in large numbers. The whole area vibrated with Sai's Name.

To celebrate Bhagavan's 81st Birthday, an 81-hour Bhajan session was organised from 12th October 2006 to 15th October 2006, in which a large number of devotees from Allahabad and other parts of Uttar Pradesh participated. A highlight of the event was that

a 6-year-old Bal Vikas girl sang 81 Bhajans during the whole programme. The programme was well covered by the media.

## **CHINNA KATHA**

### **WHEN SHOULD ONE START CONTEMPLATING ON GOD?**

ONCE there was a housewife who used to chant God's Name using a Japamala (rosary) whenever she found time in between her household duties of the day. She performed all her actions with faith in God. Seeing her engaged in the worship of God, her husband would remark, "What is this foolishness? How can you fulfil your worldly responsibilities if you keep on chanting God's Name all the time? After becoming free from our worldly responsibilities, we can peacefully contemplate on God in old age." But his wife did not agree with him. She counselled him, "One has the opportunity to undertake spiritual practices while one's body is strong and healthy in young age. One should therefore strive to earn the grace of God right from now onwards. In old age, when the body becomes decrepit and the mind, unsteady, contemplation of God is not possible. Therefore, engage yourself in prayer and worship of God at least from this day."

One day, finding her husband in a cheerful mood, the wife pleaded with him, "My dear! We can't say how long we are destined to live. We do not know when this water bubble of the body will burst. There is, therefore, no wisdom in postponing the worship of God until your old age. You should chant any name of God like Rama, Krishna, Govinda whenever you get time." But the husband argued, "Oh foolish woman! How can we run the family if we keep contemplating on God? How to fill the belly? Who will give us food? Who will talk to us if we do not have wealth and property? One has to make efforts to acquire all that is necessary for life. If you merely sit and chant God's Name, will God place ready-made food in your hands?"

But these arguments could not silence the wife who had full faith in God. She said, "One who sows the plant, will he not water it? Will God not give us food when He has created us? It is not proper to spend all our time for the sake of food. We should strive to attain the grace of God." At last, these words of wisdom of the wife convinced her husband. But he still persisted in his arguments, "What you say is true. I do not say no to it. But see how many responsibilities do we have? We have to provide education to our children, arrange their marriages and establish them in life. We should also hand over some property and wealth to them. After doing all this, I will surely engage myself in the worship of God. Don't think that I have no devotion to God. I do have devotion. After fulfilling all my responsibilities and getting retirement from my job, I will spend all my time in the service of God. Do not worry about me in this matter."

After a few days, the husband fell ill all of a sudden. Both the husband and the wife faithfully acted on the advice of the doctor for curing the disease. At that time, the wife said to her husband, "My dear, at least now you should chant the Name of God. There is no greater medicine than this. After taking the medicine of God's Name, consume the medicine prescribed by the doctor. Then the disease will subside and you will get well

soon.” But the husband had more faith in doctors. So, he pressurised her to call several eminent doctors.

Once a doctor examined the husband and gave a bottle of medicine to his wife with the instructions to give to her husband three ounces of medicine three times a day. The husband also saw the doctor giving the bottle of medicine in the hands of his wife. The wife put the bottle of medicine in a cupboard; she did not give to her husband the required doses of medicine in the morning, noon and evening as prescribed by the doctor. Two days passed like this. When on the third day also she did not give the medicine to him, the husband flew into a rage and shouted at her, “What is your objective? The medicine given by the doctor is to be consumed or to be hidden inside? How will I be cured of my disease?”

Finding an opportune time, the wife said to her husband, “It is not like that. I have kept away this medicine so that you can drink it all at once when you get time. Why now?” The husband replied, “What? How will the disease be cured when one does not take the medicine when one is sick? What purpose will be served by taking it later?” The wife said, “What you say is true. We are afflicted with Bhavaroga (the disease of worldliness) from our very birth. Therefore, we should take the medicine of God’s Name for its cure. No purpose will be served if the medicine is taken after the disease has aggravated and the end is near. One should take the medicine when one is afflicted with ailment. In the same way, the medicine of the contemplation of God is necessary for curing the disease of Bhavaroga.” This opened the eyes of the husband and he started the contemplation of God from that very moment. By repeating the Name of God with heart full of earnest devotion, very soon the husband became well again and regained his health.

So, do not wait for the old age to contemplate on God. Start the practice early.

## **BACK COVER MATTER**

### *The Way of Love*

*Love and faith are the cardinal principles for redeeming human life. My Life is My Message. I love everyone; that is My very nature. All are Mine whether they call Me by this name or any other name or even by no name! Divinity is the primal source of universal love. Faith in Divinity is the key to develop such love. The way of love alone can transform man and hence the world.*

*- Baba*

**DECEMBER 2006**

## **BHAGAVAN'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE**

# **YOUR SERVICE TO SOCIETY WILL MAKE SWAMI HAPPY**

**When man emerges from the womb of his mother, one does not find any garland around his neck. There are no jewels made of pearls nor are there glittering gold ornaments. There are no necklaces studded with precious stones like emeralds and diamonds. But there is one garland around his neck. Brahma strings together the consequences of his past deeds into a heavy garland and puts it around his neck at the time of his birth.**

*(Telugu Poem)*

*Embodiments of Love, Students – Boys and Girls!*

IT is not possible to describe how fortunate a human being is. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Man is not able to realise the value of humanness and is deluded by seeing the ephemeral and transitory objects of the world.

### **Develop the Feeling of Oneness of Mankind**

The basis of man's life is not the transitory and ephemeral world. His life on earth is a synthesis of moral, ethical and spiritual values. Man, in fact, is the image of divinity. All of you are a part of Myself; you are not different from Me. All your learning and your strenuous efforts should be directed towards realising this truth. You don't need anything else after realising this fundamental truth. Unable to realise the value of his humanness, man becomes a victim of many delusions. All the material possessions of this world are a cause of bondage for man. So long as man is in bondage, he has to suffer. Therefore, man should try to achieve freedom from bondage. He should get rid of the feeling of attachment. Nothing is mine or thine; everything is one. Develop the feeling in your heart that all are one. Only then can you experience truth, peace and bliss.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Your life is full of ambitions and desires. You have to enquire whether you are making appropriate efforts to attain fulfilment in life. First search your heart to know what your thoughts and feelings are – whether they are pure, steady and selfless or they are tainted with desires. Desires are like luggage which is a heavy burden in the journey of life. *Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure*. Therefore, gradually reduce your desires. If you have less luggage, you will be more peaceful. On the contrary, man today is increasing his luggage of desires instead of reducing it.

Thousands of people have assembled here. Heads are many, but the feeling is one. *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings). Because of your body attachment, you are subjected to too many troubles. Today you are a single person. After completing your studies and securing a good job, you will try to get married. Then you

become two. When one wears one bangle, no sound is produced. Sound is produced only when one wears two bangles. After marriage, you are inclined towards worldly acquisitions. You will have children and your family will expand. With this type of 'progress', how can you have peace? All these worldly attachments are the result of your deluded thinking. There is no reality in them. When your thoughts and feelings are not in the right direction, you are bound to suffer.

Instead of getting entangled in worldly life, you should engage yourself in the service of society. Once you take to the path of service, your problems will gradually decrease. *Love All, Serve All*. Do not consider anybody as other person. Develop the feeling that he and you are one. The entire mankind is one. What you see in this world is only the reaction, reflection and resound of the reality that is one. Once you understand this truth, you will be peaceful. Only then will your mind be steady and one-pointed in the pursuit of your study and profession. Therefore, first and foremost, engage yourself in the service of society. What is society? Society is your own reflection. Therefore, do not distance yourself from society. Keep yourself always engaged in the service of society. Why has God given you hands? They are not given to scribble something on paper. They should be fully engaged in the service of God. *Work is worship. Duty is God*. Do your duty.

### **Easwaramma was a High-souled Person**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Once the mother of this body, Easwaramma, went to a well to fetch water. Suddenly, she felt giddy and heard an ethereal voice, "I am entering your body." She was fear-stricken and was at a loss to know what was entering her body, whether it was a ghost, a spirit or an angel. She heard the voice again, "I am entering your body for the welfare of the world."

Easwaramma was not the name given to the mother of this body at the time of her birth. This name was given to her by Kondama Raju, the grandfather of this body. He was a noble soul who had realised My Divinity even when I was a child. Realising that she was the mother of Easwara, he changed her name to Easwaramma (mother of God). Easwaramma was not an ordinary woman; she was a high-souled person who was loved and admired by one and all. Wherever she went, people greeted her with great love.

Humanness is the main quality of a human being. Mother Easwaramma was fully endowed with humanness. All her thoughts were always focused on Swami. The Summer Course was going on at Brindavan. Easwaramma had her breakfast and coffee. After that, she was chewing betel. Suddenly, she shouted, "Swami, Swami, Swami" three times. I said, "I am coming, I am coming, I am coming." I came down immediately and she breathed her last. She had an easy death without any suffering at all. Body has value so long as there is life in it. Once the life goes out of it, it is just like a log of wood. The body of Easwaramma was taken to Puttaparthi according to My instructions and the final rites were performed. Many people said that I should also go. But I did not go. I do not have any body attachment. Body attachment is a big bondage. Once you surrender your body to God, your wayward senses will also lose their power and you will be free from bondage. There may be some ups and downs in life, but once you have surrendered to God, nothing will disturb you.

Karanam Subbamma was one of great virtues. She had a highly respectable position in the village. As time passed, there was great transformation in her. She prepared food for



all the devotees who came for My Darshan. Whatever she made, she made it for the sake of Swami. Those days, I did not stay at home most of the time. I moved about in the adjoining hills and valleys. Subbamma made many dishes, put them in a tiffin box and went searching for Me wherever I was. Her love for Swami was great. In Dwapar Yuga, it was Devaki who gave birth to Krishna, but Yashoda had the great good fortune of being called the mother of Krishna. Similarly, Subbamma had such great good fortune in this age.

Once Karanam Subbamma performed Sathyanarayana Vrata (worship to please Lord Narayana). She invited Easwaramma also to participate in it. As I was born after Easwaramma partook of the Prasadam (sanctified food) of Sathyanarayana Vrata, I was given the name of Sathyanarayana. Right from My birth, people did not consider Me as an ordinary person; they always considered Me as a Transcendental Being endowed with great Divine powers.

When I was a child, all the children of the village used to surround Me. I used to ask every one of them what he wanted. Each one of them wanted to have something or the other like a pencil, a pen, a sweet or a peppermint. Whatever they asked, I used to take it out from My empty bag. I did not have even a single paisa with Me. On receiving the items they asked for, they used to wonder how I was able to give them all those things. There was no possibility of My mother giving them because she too had no money. One day, I left My bag and went inside. Finding this as an opportune moment, the boys searched the bag all over. They were not ordinary boys. They wanted to make sure if there was anything hidden in the bag. After making a thorough search, they could not find even a single pin. Then they realised that all these things were coming from some unknown source. They were wonderstruck. In this manner, I was always surrounded by boys right from My childhood.

### **Never Give up Truth**

Gradually, My name spread far and wide. This created jealousy in some people. In spite of the jealousy of people, My name and fame spread to all corners of the world. People from many countries of the world representing various faiths started coming to Prasanthi Nilayam in large numbers and started celebrating their festivals here. Now December is coming and Christmas is approaching. Christians from all parts of the world will assemble here and celebrate this festival. Likewise, Mohammedans also came to Prasanthi Nilayam and prayed for My permission to celebrate their festivals. People belonging to all faiths have been coming to Prasanthi Nilayam to celebrate their festivals here. As I have always been telling you, all are one.

*Religions are many, but goal is one.*

*Clothes are many, but yarn is one.*

*Jewels are many, but gold is one.*

(Telugu Poem)

Likewise, there are many beings, but the indwelling Atma in them is the same. However, there are certain people who are creating differences. As the name and fame of Swami is spreading, many people have developed jealousy and they are making false propaganda. Recently, a meeting was held in London in which Air Chief Marshal (retd.) Suri repudiated all such false propaganda. There he told the critics that they should go to Sathya Sai Baba, observe and experience the truth personally and then only make any

comments. He further asked them not to listen to all sorts of gossip and start talking about it. What would one gain by listening to others? Those who spread rumours had themselves not seen or experienced anything. But they started false propaganda and it spread to many countries; it reached India also. Without ascertaining the facts, some Indian papers also published these false articles, imitating the foreign ones. In fact, these critics don't have faith in what they themselves say. Then, why should they believe in what others say? Their only intention is to defame Swami by foul means. But it is not possible for anyone to defame Swami. Not only now, but for all times to come, nobody can tarnish Swami's name.

Everybody has to surrender to Swami's love one day or the other (*loud applause*). The name of Sai is eternal and changeless. One can speak whatever one likes. Boneless tongue can be twisted in any way. Stones are hurled only on a fruit-laden tree. Like a fruit-bearing tree, all noble people are subjected to many ordeals and difficulties. But when one firmly adheres to truth, nothing can shake one. Let any number of people fight against truth; they can never win. Therefore, hold on to truth firmly, come what may. One who stands by truth is bound to be victorious. Therefore, never give up truth. Who is God? Truth is God. Truth is unshakeable. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). It is Dharma that leads man to peace. Without peace, man cannot live. Saint Thyagaraja said, "One cannot have happiness without peace." When you attain peace, you will experience love and bliss. Truth is the origin of bliss. Non-violence also emerges from truth. A man of love will not entertain any thought of violence. Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) are like the five life-breaths of man. These are the prime qualities of a human being. The need of the hour is to develop these human values. Only when these values are developed can there be peace in the country.

### **Peace and Happiness Lie in Spirituality**

Wherever you see today, you find limitless desires in people. Take any area of human endeavour, man's desires have no limit. There is no limit even in reading of books. People keep reading books all the time. This reading of all sorts of books is a mere waste of time. What is the use of reading if it does not give you self-satisfaction? Your bookish knowledge can help you only in earning a living. Bharatiya culture emphasises the inculcation of morality, ethics and spirituality. But our modern authors are ignoring these three principles. That is why in spite of widespread academic learning, there is no real progress.

*Oh man! Do not feel proud of your education. If you do not offer your salutations to God and do not think of Him with devotion, all your education becomes useless.*  
(Telugu Poem)

Therefore, man should develop love for God. If you have love for God, you will have everything. Without love for God, everything will come to nothing. Love for God is like the main switch. If the main switch is put off, no other switch can function and there will be no light. Once the main switch is on, you will get light by pressing any switch.

*Dear Students!*

You are now young and all your limbs are healthy and strong. First is the body. Next come the senses. Higher than the senses is the mind, and the intellect is higher than the mind. The Atma is the highest. When you understand and contemplate on the principle of

the Atma, you will be free from all suffering and bondage. It is the perversion of the mind that is the cause of all your sufferings and bondages.

Study whatever you are expected to study. Earn a good name in society. Your parents have high expectations from you. You should satisfy their aspirations. *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). When you make your mother, father, preceptor and guest happy, then God will give you more happiness. All your learning is useless without love for God. You are all young. You should study well and earn a good name in society. This is what I expect from you. I do not want you to acquire merely high academic qualifications. There are many highly educated people in the world. But, what good have they done for the world? You should work hard and make others happy. You will have fulfilment in life only when you make society happy. Kalam is highly educated and is devoted to the service of society. Render all possible service to society. That alone will make Swami happy.

Yesterday, Ram Setty said that he did not want to go back to America and wanted to spend the rest of his life here in the service of Swami. His son is as worthy as his father. He is also a doctor. He told his father that he did not want to come in the way of his father's wish. This stadium is built by the munificence of Ram Setty, his wife, son and daughter. He sold all his property and donated the entire money for the construction of this stadium. He is a man of great sacrifice. He has donated 40 crore rupees for the construction of this stadium. How many will have the spirit of sacrifice of such a high order? In modern age when people turn away even a beggar without giving him anything, this family has made such a great sacrifice. He has a son and a daughter. Both his son and daughter are not interested in worldly enjoyments. Their only objective is to obey Swami.

Peace and happiness lie in spirituality and in nothing else. You may study, get married, have children and lead a happy life. There is nothing wrong in it. But never forget God. Without forgetting God, you may follow any path. This is My blessing to you. Spread the Divine Name in every nook and corner of the world. That will lead to manifestation of divinity within everyone. The closer you come to Swami, the divinity within you should become more pronounced. Then your life will be sanctified. Worldly pleasures are no pleasures in the real sense of the term. Today you may have pleasure, tomorrow you may experience pain. You may be happy when a son is born, but you will be grief-stricken when some mishap occurs to the son and he dies. One day you smile, another day you cry. There is only a little gap between happiness and sorrow. Everything in man's life is transient and temporary. *Ma Kuru Dhana Jana Yauvana Garvam, Harathi Nimeshath Kalah Sarvam* (do not be proud of your wealth, progeny and youth; the tide of time may destroy them in a moment).

*Students!*

May you live long and lead a happy life! Serve society. Consider service to society as service to God. Service to society alone can confer peace on you.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

- **From Bhagavan's Birthday Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd November 2006.**

## **Lead an Exemplary Life**

The sweetness in the fruit the tree yields is the sweetness of character. Pursue your studies, not for the sake of a job alone, but for living a good and happy life. That is to say, you must, even from now, cultivate faith in God, keep virtuous company, nourish discipline and cherish ideals of service. Control the senses; avoid seeing evil, hearing evil and relishing evil sights, words and news. Bad thoughts breed bad character and drag you down into the beast. Those whom we now adore for their exemplary lives have been boys and young men like you; they did not neglect during their youth the development of their moral fibre and qualities of sympathy and service. You too should not neglect these.

– Baba

# **BHAGAVAN'S 81st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

A sea of humanity converged at Prasanthi Nilayam from all parts of the world to offer their obeisance to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the auspicious occasion of His 81st Birthday. Beginning with Akhanda Bhajan on 11th November 2006, a large number of programmes of cultural, social and spiritual significance were held at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of 81st Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

### **Akhanda Bhajan**

A new dimension was added to Bhajan singing as a spiritual practice when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba started it as part of daily programme at Old Mandir in Puttaparthi in early 1940's. With the spread of Sai Organisations in all parts of the world in the last 5-6 decades, Bhajan singing has assumed the form of one of the greatest spiritual movements of the world today. With Sai Centres in all corners of the world holding regular Bhajans, it is transforming the lives of millions of people through Namasmara which is considered as the most potent means of man's redemption in this Kali Age.

An important feature of this movement is the annual Akhanda Bhajan (continuous singing) for 24 hours held simultaneously at the global level in which millions of people all over the world sing the glory of Lord with unity, purity and devotion. At Prasanthi Nilayam, Akhanda Bhajan has a special significance since Bhagavan Himself inaugurates it and blesses the devotees by His Divine Presence. This year also Bhagavan inaugurated the Akhanda Bhajan at Prasanthi Nilayam by lighting the sacred lamp in the Bhajan Mandir at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 11th November 2006.

Soulful Bhajans then started in the Bhajan Mandir which were led by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. A huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall enjoyed the bliss of singing them in chorus with deep devotional fervour. Besides the girls students of Anantapur Campus

and the boys students of Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam Campuses of the Institute, several groups of devotees, Ashram staff and hospital staff led the Bhajans. The Akhanda Bhajan continued all through the night of 11th November and up to 6.00 p.m. on 12th November when it was brought to a happy conclusion in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at the conclusion of the Akhanda Bhajan. Prasadam was distributed to all the devotees after its conclusion.

### **Bhagavan's Gifts of Grace**

On the eve of His 81st Birthday, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba distributed 81 bicycles to needy girls students studying in schools and colleges in Anantapur. The girls coming from villages in Anantapur district had to travel long distances everyday to reach their school or college. This gift of grace of Bhagavan would therefore immensely benefit them by saving them their time and effort which they could devote to their studies to come up in life.

The programme began at 9.00 a.m. in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam after Bhagavan's morning Darshan on 16th November 2006. The girls came one by one before Bhagavan, paid their obeisance to Him and received the bicycle. The programme was organised by the Anantapur Campus staff and students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning as part of celebration of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday.

The joy of the occasion was enhanced by a grand display of band music by the brass band of the Anantapur Campus of the Institute. Starting with a prayer to Lord Ganesh, the band presented sweet devotional melodies to the joy of a huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall for about 15 minutes.

### **Rathotsavam**

The ceremonial celebration of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 81st Birthday started with the sacred function of Rathotsavam on the morning of 18th November 2006. Nadaswaram musicians heralded the auspicious day with sweet music early in the morning. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan on the huge gathering of devotees amidst sacred chanting of Vedic hymns by the Institute students and sweet notes of Nadaswaram musicians. Finely caparisoned Sai Geeta, Bhagavan's dear elephant, was waiting for the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall. On His arrival in the Hall, Bhagavan lovingly caressed it and fed it with fruits. After completing His round of Darshan in the Hall, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Mandir where two exquisitely bedecked palanquins with idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman and Venugopal were ready to be taken out for Rathotsavam, and the Veda chanting group of students were chanting sacred Vedic Mantras. With the blessings of Bhagavan, the two palanquins were brought out of the Mandir followed by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. The decorated Ratha (chariot) was ready outside the Gopuram gate where idol of Venugopal was placed on it. The procession then started from the Gopuram gate at 8.15 a.m. It was led by Nadaswaram musicians and followed by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. Winding its way through the streets of Puttaparthi, it reached Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam. On the way, people of Puttaparthi came out of their houses in large numbers and watched the procession. Many of them offered worship to the idols, broke coconuts before the chariot and waved Arati before the idols. The procession returned to Sai Kulwant Hall with the palanquin of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman at 9.05 a.m., marking the conclusion of the sacred ceremony of Rathotsavam.

### **Russian Folk Music**

The devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall had a fine treat of Russian folk music when Russian devotees of Bhagavan presented an excellent music programme on the afternoon of 18th November 2006. The programme began at 4.10 p.m. and enthralled the audience for nearly 45 minutes with folk group songs and solo presentations of folk songs and instrumental music. Besides the traditional folk songs of Russia, the musicians rendered some Hindi devotional songs, like Sai Narayana, Om Sri Sai Ram in an exceptionally beautiful manner sending the devotees into raptures. This superb music programme came to a close at 4.50 p.m. At its conclusion, Bhagavan blessed the participants and posed for photographs with them.

### **Ladies Day Celebrations**

Ladies Day was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2006 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Kulwant Hall was aesthetically bedecked with fresh floral decorations for this occasion. A beautiful portrait of Mother Easwaramma, the shining example of ideal womanhood, adorned the dais amidst an exquisite array of flowers.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.00 a.m. in a grand procession led by Sri Sathya Sai Primary School girls bagpipes band and Veda chanting group of senior girls students holding plates with lamps. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais and inaugurated the programme by lighting the sacred lamp at 8.15 a.m. After an introductory speech by Ms. Chethana Raju, Managing Trustee of Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, a group of girls dressed in different costumes, carrying flags of various countries and representing women from all over the world paid homage to Bhagavan. Thereafter, the girls of the bagpipes band gave a scintillating musical performance, which was followed by a medley of English devotional songs by the U.K. Sai Youth Choir (ladies).

Two speakers, both long-time devotees of Bhagavan, were then invited to the dais to share their experiences with the audience. The first speaker was Smt. Vasumathi Bhaskar Rao who spoke in Telugu, paying glowing tributes to Mother Easwaramma whose entire life was an ideal for all women to follow. She expressed her gratitude to Bhagavan for showing to mankind the path of selfless service and for teaching human values to one and all. The next speaker, Ms. Ronne Marantz of the U.S.A., referred to Bhagavan's concept of educare which was transforming the students by bringing the light of divinity and spirituality into their lives. She praised the noble activities of Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust for the benefit of disadvantaged women. At the conclusion of the speeches, there were Bhajans led by the Youth Choir. Thereafter, Prasadam was distributed. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.15 a.m.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.10 p.m. and distributed Saris with His Divine Hands to a large number of ladies for full one hour. Next came twenty minutes of a beautifully choreographed dance performance by Sri Sathya Sai Primary School girls, who wore shining, brightly-coloured costumes. Bhagavan blessed the children at the end and posed for photographs with them. After this, Priya Sisters started their concert. The dulcet Carnatic vocals of Shanmukhapriya and Haripriya enthralled the audience for nearly one hour and their selection of devotional songs was superb. Bhagavan blessed the pair profusely after the concert and the Ladies Day function came to a joyful conclusion. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 6.00 p.m. and Prasadam was distributed to all.

### **Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust Programmes**

Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust (EWWT) organised a function on 20th November 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall as part of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday celebrations. Out of more than 2,000 cases

registered under “The Mother and Child Project” of the Trust, around 1000 village women came from the surrounding villages to express their gratitude to Bhagavan.

Bhagavan was offered welcome by rhythmic traditional drumming when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.45 p.m. He was visibly happy to see so many rural women gathered in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme began with distribution of bicycles by Bhagavan to rural women currently working under Easwaramma Women’s Welfare Project. Many of them had been walking long distances everyday during the past year to come to the Project facility inside the Ashram. Their joy was evident on their faces as each one bowed to Bhagavan in gratitude and received His blessings.

Two folk dance performances then followed. The first, called Chekkabhajana, was presented by a group of tribal girls to the accompaniment of simple musical instruments. The charm and simplicity of the music, the melody of the accompanying songs and the rhythmical movements of the dancers held the viewers spellbound. The second folk dance, the Goravayya, was performed by adult male folk dancers in their colourful tribal dress. They played the flute with one hand as they danced, with a percussion instrument held in the other. Impromptu talks were then given by four rural women, one of them being a Muslim. They represented the whole congregation of villagers gathered in the Hall. These simple ladies poured out their hearts to Bhagavan, in song as well as speech, for setting up this Trust which touches the lives of thousands of rural women by making them economically independent and which takes much-needed medical care to their doorstep. Bhagavan’s generosity was showered on the village women as He Himself started the distribution of 9 sets of water filters and 9 gift bags containing items of daily use. The remaining items were then handed out by a set of volunteers to the rest of the rural women who came from 18 villages of Sathya Sai Mandal. Mementoes were also received from the Divine Hands by the doctors participating in “The Mother and Child Project” and by the staff members of EWWT.

The programme concluded with a film show ‘The One – Sri Sathya Sai’, produced by Ms. Chethana Raju. A giant screen was set up in the centre of Sai Kulwant Hall for screening it. The film portrayed the story of creation and showed how the various forms of life emerged from the sound vibrations created by the divine syllable ‘AUM’. As the film progressed, it showed harmony between Nature and living beings which later man started disturbing with disastrous effects. It powerfully conveyed the message of Bhagavan Baba that man should learn to live on earth in harmony with Nature, following the path of morality and spirituality. Embellished with sweet devotional songs, the film revealed the creative talent of the film makers who showcased many innovative depictions. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.20 p.m.

#### **Cultural Programme by Institute Students**

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented a cultural programme on the afternoon of 20th November 2006. It started with a dance performance devoted to the worship of Lord Vishnu. Performed to the accompaniment of Stotras in praise of Lord Vishnu and set to solemn music, the dance created an ambience of devotion and spirituality. The second item of the programme was Yaksha Gana dance, Karnataka’s famous folk art. It depicted a few episodes from the life of Lord Krishna in its unique style, earning the appreciation and applause of one and all. The last item of this programme was the depiction of ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu which the students performed with aplomb. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance, blessed the students at the end of the programme and gave them the rare opportunity of group photographs with Him.

#### **Bhagavan’s 81st Birthday Function**

The entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with decorations of various kinds for celebrating the 81st Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Bhagavan's residence presented an enchanting look at night with trees of light and other decorative lights. The Birthday function was held in fabulously decorated and brilliantly lit Sai Kulwant Hall on the morning of 23rd November 2006.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.10 a.m. in His sparkling white robe and was led in a grand procession comprising Anantapur girls band, Primary School girls bagpipes band, Primary School boys Veda group, Primary School boys band, Institute brass band and Institute Veda group with Poornakumbham.

The mammoth gathering of devotees in and around Sai Kulwant Hall felt a wave of bliss when they got a glimpse of Bhagavan while He took full round of the Hall, blessing one and all. The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the first to offer salutations to Bhagavan when He reached the portico of the Bhajan Mandir. After this, Bhagavan blessed him and other dignitaries present in the portico. Bhagavan conversed with Dr. Kalam for a short time after he occupied his seat near the chair of Bhagavan. Meanwhile, Institute band played joyous tunes and the Veda group chanted Rudram. On the auspicious occasion of Bhagavan's Birthday, Dr. Kalam made a brief speech. Dr. Kalam observed that Bhagavan has been giving a unique gift to mankind on His Birthdays, and this time He has chosen to give the beautiful indoor sports stadium which was built in a record time of about four months. Dr. Kalam said that he had composed a poem in Tamil in honour of Bhagavan for this festive day and got it translated into Telugu. Sri Anil Kumar volunteered to recite this Telugu poem to the joy of the entire congregation. After this, Dr. Kalam took leave of Bhagavan. Bhagavan then blessed the huge gathering of devotees with His Birthday Message and exhorted the devotees to realise the unity of mankind by knowing their divine identity. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. The morning programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.20 p.m.

#### **Badminton and Basketball Matches in Indoor Stadium**

The afternoon programme on 23rd November 2006 was held in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports. Bhagavan arrived at the venue at 4.15 p.m. in a resplendent yellow robe. The first item of the programme was a doubles badminton match between India and Indonesia. As soon as Bhagavan arrived in the badminton court, the players of both the teams were introduced to Him. There was much excitement when the match progressed. India lost the first game but recovered subsequently to clinch the match by two games to one.

After this, Bhagavan came to the basketball court where a friendly match was to be played between Harlem Globetrotters and New York Nationals. The proceedings opened with the entertaining antics of mascot Globie who had the globe of earth as his head. He charmed and entertained the audience with his pranks and there was fun and mirth in the entire stadium. He also arranged a musical chair contest with primary school boys and made everybody laugh. The basketball teams then entered the court to play the friendly demonstration match. First of all, Harlem Globetrotters displayed their talent and skill by dancing and playing with the ball as if it was glued to their hands and obeyed their every command. Harlem Globetrotters are a band of highly talented basketball players who tour the world as ambassadors of goodwill. As the match began, both the sides were cheered by the spectators whenever they scored a point. During the time-outs, the players generated much fun by inviting a few primary school children and playing with them. The players provided much entertainment by involving the referee also in humorous interludes. The match which started at about 5.30 p.m. came to a close at



6.30 p.m., filling the entire one hour with fun and mirth, and spreading cheer all around. Bhagavan blessed both the teams at the end and distributed watches to all the participants in the two matches. During this period, the Institute band entertained the spectators with sweet music.

#### **Music Programme in Sai Kulwant Hall**

A sweet musical treat awaited the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall when they came back from the indoor stadium after the conclusion of friendly badminton and basketball matches there. Well-known Hindustani music artiste Smt. Parveen Sultana filled each heart with deep devotion when she presented Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs in her melodious voice. Thereafter, Mandolin U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh accompanied by renowned percussionist Anandan Sivamani made a scintillating musical presentation providing a befitting finale to Bhagavan's 81st Birthday Celebrations. The programme concluded at 8.20 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

#### **Sai Symphony Orchestra**

The devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall had a taste of divine music when Sai Symphony Orchestra presented a soulful music concert on the afternoon of 24th November 2006 as part of 81st Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Presented in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan, the programme comprised prized compositions of renowned musicians of the world devoted to soul-elevating themes like purity of thought, word and deed, beauty of Nature, faith, surrender, determination, etc. 45 musicians from 16 countries of the world formed the orchestra. The programme which started with a beautiful tune of a Sanskrit devotional song enthralled the audience for nearly one hour. At the end of the concert, Bhagavan blessed the musicians and posed for photographs with them.

#### **Unity in Diversity - A Dance Drama**

This beautiful dance drama was presented by the Sathya Sai Central Council of Italy with the participation of Argentinian devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 25th November 2006. The drama highlighted the similarity between the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Dante Alighieri's immortal work "The Divine Comedy". As described in the beautiful pamphlet distributed by the organisers before the start of the drama, parallelism with Bhagavan's universal teachings explains the spiritual message of "The Divine Comedy". Superb acting of the cast, excellent choreography and sweet music justifiably matched the exalted theme of the play and created a lasting effect on the audience. The drama which started at 5.30 p.m. came to a close at 6.15 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the cast at the conclusion of the drama.

### **SRI SATHYA SAI GURUKULAM ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, Rajahmundry - 533 101, Andhra Pradesh (Affiliated to C.I.S.C.E., New Delhi)**

Applications on plain paper in candidate's own handwriting containing complete Bio-data inclusive of the detailed academic particulars and work experience (if any) along with copies of relevant documents and a recent passport size photograph, are invited from *Trained Candidates* fluent in English for appointment as Teacher in Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, Rajahmundry - 533 101, in the following post.

#### **1. Chemistry Teacher (TGT) – 1**

**Qualifications Required:**

a) Candidates must preferably hold a first class Graduation Degree by taking Chemistry subject as an elective

OR

Second Class Postgraduation degree in Chemistry subject

b) Teachers Training Degree with relevant methodology.

**Scale of Pay:** Rs 7,200-16,195 + D.A. and H.R.A.

Last date for the receipt of applications is 21-1-2007. Selected candidates have to appear for an interview at their own expense at short notice.

*Correspondent*

**BHAGAVAN'S BENEDICTORY ADDRESS:**

**25th CONVOCATION OF SSSIHL**

**PUT HUMAN VALUES  
INTO PRACTICE**

MAN today feels proud that he has mastered many branches of knowledge and studied a number of texts. But he does not try to understand the essence of education. Nowadays, learning is limited only to physical and worldly aspects; moral, ethical and spiritual aspects are left out.

**A Test of Intelligence**

Today the parents make strenuous efforts to provide education to their children. But nobody is trying to know the real meaning of education. People think that those who can speak eloquently and have studied a number of books are highly educated. But the fact is that it shows just the knowledge of the alphabet and nothing else. Mere knowledge of the alphabet cannot be called education. Besides knowing the letters, one has to know the meaning of the words and the sentences constituted by them. Having realised this truth, King Krishnadevaraya convened a big assembly. He posed a question to all the assembled poets and scholars. Also present in this assembly were eight renowned poets of his court known as Ashta Diggajas (eight eminent scholars). They were: Allasani Peddana, Nandi Thimmana, Madayyagari Mallana, Dhurjati, Ayyalaraju Ramabhadru, Pingali Surana, Ramarajabhushanudu and Tenali Ramakrishna. Krishnadevaraya wanted to know who among them was the best. He wanted them to frame a meaningful sentence consisting of five words, each word having the same meaning in five different languages. "Whoever comes out with an answer to this question by tomorrow morning will be suitably rewarded", he declared.

Since his house was far away, Tenali Ramakrishna decided to spend the night in his brother-in-law's house. When he was provided with a comfortable bed for the night, Ramakrishna refused to sleep on it. He said, "I have to think of an answer to a question put by the king by tomorrow morning. A bed like this is sure to put me to sleep in no time. So, provide a cot for me in the cowshed." As he was lying on the cot, at one o'clock in the night, one of the cows in the shed gave birth to a calf. Ramakrishna called out to inform his brother-in-law about this. His brother-in-law wanted to know which cow it was since he had given different names to his cows like Lakshmi, Saraswati, Radha, etc. He asked Ramakrishna, "Ye Aav Ra Bava" (Oh brother-in-law! Which cow is that?). When Ramakrishna heard this, his joy knew no bounds since he had found an answer to the king's question. So, he repeated the phrase again and again. His brother-in-law thought that Ramakrishna was behaving in this strange manner due to lack of sleep.

Next morning, Ramakrishna went to the royal court and found that no one else had the answer to the question. All others were convinced that it was not possible to frame such a sentence. "Ye Aav Ra Ba Va. This is the answer", he said. Everyone was intrigued. Then he explained, 'Ye' in Marathi, 'Aav' in Hindi, 'Ra' in Telugu, 'Ba' in Kannada and 'Va' in Tamil convey the same meaning, i.e., 'come'. All the five languages were represented in this sentence.

In this manner, one should know the meaning of every letter. People today read many books without knowing the real meaning of the words. But in ancient times, people knew the meaning of every letter that they studied. Pleased with the answer of Tenali Ramakrishna, Krishnadevaraya presented a bundle of gold coins and precious diamonds to him. Ramakrishna was happy to receive the precious gift from the king, but he was worried how he should safeguard it. Therefore, he requested the king to provide him with two bodyguards to enable him to carry the bundle safely to his house. Accompanied by the bodyguards, he carried the bundle safely to his house. On reaching there, the thought of keeping the bundle safe in the house caused him a lot of worry since he did not have any iron safe. His wife came near him and saw the bundle. At that time, Tenali Ramakrishna noticed two thieves who had followed him all the way and were now hiding in the backyard of his house. Then he told his wife that he was going to drop the bundle of gold coins and precious gems into the well in the backyard of his house for its safety. He spoke loudly so that the thieves could overhear him. Instead of putting the bundle of precious gems in the well, he actually put a bag of stones in it. All through the night, the thieves kept on drawing water out of the well in expectation of getting the bundle of gold coins and precious gems. All their attempts proved futile. They left the place at daybreak. Tenali Ramakrishna was happy that he could save the precious bundle from the clutches of thieves and in the process his garden was adequately irrigated.

One who knows the meaning of every letter, every word and every sentence is a true poet. Tenali Ramakrishna was one such great poet.

*Kavim Puranamanushasitaram Anoraniyansamanusmaredya,*

*Sarvasya Dhataramachintyarupam Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat.*

(He who contemplates on the all-wise, ageless Being, the ruler of all, subtler than the subtle, the universal sustainer, possessing a form beyond human conception, refulgent like the sun and far beyond the darkness of ignorance, he reaches verily that supreme divine Purusha (God).

### **Acquire the Knowledge that Makes one Immortal**

Today people try to know the meaning of sentences without trying to know the meaning of letters and words that constitute the sentences. Even the preceptors today give only the worldly meaning of the sentences, but none gives the moral, ethical and spiritual import of the sentences. It is the responsibility of teachers to disseminate the knowledge pertaining to moral, ethical and spiritual principles. That is true education. Today the students pursue their studies, but if you ask them what they are doing, they reply, “Chaduvu-Kontunnamu”, which also means, “We are buying education”. That is no education at all. We have to know the meaning of every letter, every word and every sentence and act accordingly. Despite acquiring all this worldly knowledge, one has to meet one’s end which is inevitable. One should acquire that knowledge which makes one immortal. It is the knowledge of five human values, namely, Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa.

The first one is Sathya (truth). Truth is deathless. Truth is one, not two. Dharma (righteousness) is eternal. Santhi (peace) is the source of bliss. Next is Prema (love). Right from a child to an old person at the verge of death, everyone is endowed with love. But love has no death. The last, but not the least, is Ahimsa (non-violence). Where is the death for Ahimsa? Buddha propagated this principle. He declared: *Ahimsa Paramo Dharma* (non-violence is the highest Dharma). Knowledge and practice of these five principles is real education. Speak truth, follow the path of righteousness and experience peace. Share your love happily with all and lead your life with non-violence. This is the essence of education. These are the five main human values which should be propagated in the world. They are eternal and immortal. Today we run after all that is perishable, ignoring that which is immortal. The President of India has told you many important things. You can achieve great heights if you put his teachings into practice. Every human being is endowed with these five human values. If we promote these five human values, we become God. The Vedas declare: *Tat Twam Asi* (That Thou Art). This profound statement of the Vedas contains the essence of all knowledge. Therefore, these five human values have to be inculcated in everyone right from childhood.

When you rely on truth, you can achieve anything in life. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in human form). God is not separate from man. All are the embodiments of divinity. The same principle of the Atma is present in all. But it assumes many names. Develop self-confidence. Face all difficulties with self-confidence. Whomsoever you see, consider him as your own reflection. God is beyond all attributes and actions. Develop the spirit of sacrifice. *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). You should be prepared to make any sacrifice. Have the firm conviction that you are God and God is not separate from you. Wherever you see, God is there. There is nothing else except God. Names and forms may be different, but the same principle of the Atma is present in all.

### **Practice of Human Values Promotes Unity and Harmony**

All that man experiences is the result of his actions. It is already very late now. I do not want to cause inconvenience to you by speaking at length. It is enough if you know these five principles and put them into practice in your daily life. It is only by practising these five principles that you can know them, not merely by reading or writing about them.

Any knowledge that is not put into practice is no knowledge at all. Put into practice at least one or two principles in your life out of all that you have learnt. Then only will your life be redeemed and you will acquire merit. Then you would have followed the right path. You have heard many things from Me and Kalam. What is the use of all your listening if you do not put anything into practice? It is your rare fortune that you have got the opportunity of listening to such sacred talks. Make the best use of the opportunity and attain the goal of your life.

Lord Krishna declared in the Bhagavadgita, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). You are all sparks of divinity. You are not mere mortals. You are not separate from Me. Being an aspect of My Divinity, you should conduct yourself accordingly. Do not waste your time in vain gossip. These five values have originated from God. Wherever you see, there is the principle of unity. You and I are one. Many people ask Me about My true identity. I tell them, “You and I are one. You are not separate from Me.” Consider all your fellowmen as your brothers and sisters and strengthen the bond of love with them. You should all stand united. Never give room for evil qualities like anger, hatred and jealousy. These qualities will create only differences. We should develop the five human values which will promote harmony and unity in the world. We should develop those qualities which will bring us closer to each other and not the ones which will distance us from each other. Leave the burden of all your responsibilities to God. This is My message to you today.

– **From Bhagavan’s Benedictory Address in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports, Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2006.**

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI** **Exhibition on “Journey with Sai”**

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of “Sanathana Sarathi” around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in “Sanathana Sarathi” and other relevant records. Copies of publications/records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required. It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P.). Email: [editor@sssbpt.org](mailto:editor@sssbpt.org)

*Convener*

Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

**25th Convocation of SSSIHL**

## **SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING: ANOTHER PEAK OF GLORY**

THE 25th Annual Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, a deemed university instituted in 1981, was held in a glittering function held on 22nd November 2006 in the newly-built Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports, the biggest indoor sports stadium of India which envisages to provide sports facilities of international standard to sportspersons. The Chief Guest of the Convocation was Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India. Other dignitaries who came to participate in this grand function included Sri Rameshwar Thakur, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri T.N. Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka and Sri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

### **President Inaugurates Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports**

The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba arrived at the venue at 3.30 p.m. accompanied by the Chief Guest of the Convocation, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The Chief Guest, Dr. Kalam first inaugurated the Institute's Commemorative Building which displayed the exhibits depicting the main events of its 25 glorious years. After taking a full round of the Commemorative Building along with Bhagavan, the Chief Guest came to the entrance of Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports and performed its inaugural ceremony.

On entering the indoor stadium, the Chief Guest and Bhagavan were greeted by the devotees and students seated in the stadium with a thunderous applause. As they took a full round of the stadium, the Institute brass band played joyous tunes. In the stadium, distinguished sportspersons and players of the teams participating in the inaugural function were introduced to them. They included cricket legend Kapil Dev, Olympic silver medalist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, former badminton champion, Prakash Padukone, the basketball, badminton and volleyball teams and officials. After this, the ceremonial convocation procession of distinguished educationists and dignitaries joined the Revered Chancellor and the Chief Guest. The inaugural function of the sports stadium began with the singing of National Anthem by the entire gathering.

At the outset, the Chief Guest was welcomed by the Registrar with a garland and by the Vice Chancellor of the Institute by offering him a bouquet of flowers. A special welcome was offered to Dr. Ram Setty and Smt. Usha Setty by whose munificence this world-class indoor stadium had become a reality. Thereafter, the master of ceremonies, Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute extended a warm welcome to all and expressed gratitude to the Revered Chancellor for providing to the students and sportspersons international standard sports facilities by building this indoor stadium. The Vice Chancellor of the Institute praised the spirit of sacrifice of Dr. Setty and his family and remarked that it was an act of their worship for Bhagavan. Dr. Setty, in his speech, expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for the Divine grace He had been showering on his family and also for giving his family this opportunity to play a small part in His Divine Mission. After this, Sri Kapil Dev

offered a bouquet to Bhagavan and Sri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore to the Chief Guest, Dr. Kalam. Sharing his thoughts with the huge gathering, Sri Kapil Dev said, "As a sportsman, I have only a few words. What I see here is a paradise for sportspersons." He hoped that with this facility of a world-class indoor stadium, sports would blossom in the country and sportspersons of India would break many records with the grace of Bhagavan. Before the programme of sports, a short video film, "Life is a Game" was shown on the giant screen, which underlined the importance of the spirit of sportsmanship in the game of life. The sports events began with a short gymnastics display by Greek and Swiss athletes on Roman Rings and Trampoline, and a presentation of rhythmic gymnastics by two women gymnasts. What followed next was an exciting volleyball match between India and Sri Lanka. India convincingly won the match in two straight games.

### **Introductory Speech of the Vice Chancellor**

The proceedings of the 25th Convocation of the Institute began at 5.35 p.m. with Vedic chants by a group of Institute students. The Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak gave his introductory speech after the Convocation was declared open by the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. At the outset, Sri Gokak extended a warm welcome to Dr. Abdul Kalam, the Chief Guest of the Convocation and thanked him for inaugurating the indoor stadium. Sri Gokak pointed out that this Institute had been acknowledged the world over as the model of value-based education. He expressed gratitude to Bhagavan, the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, for giving to the world this system of education which transformed students into persons of sterling character devoted to the service of mankind.

After the introductory speech of the Vice Chancellor, the graduands were presented to the Revered Chancellor, the customary oath was administered to them and degrees were conferred on them. Meritorious students were then awarded gold medals by the Revered Chancellor.

### **Convocation Address by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

In his Convocation Address, the Chief Guest of the Convocation, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stressed the need for combining education with spirituality, value system and social responsibility. Quoting from a message of Bhagavan Baba, he said that national unity and social harmony were founded on spirituality. Dr. Kalam congratulated the students of the Institute for their great good fortune that they were receiving such an ideal education under the Divine direction of Bhagavan Baba. He added, "When I see you all, how fortunate you are, getting full-fledged education with two components: the combination of learning which will make you a lifelong learner and value system derived from Prasanthi Nilayam presided over by Sri Sathya Sai Baba."

The distinguished speaker narrated the success story of three alumni of the Institute how their grounding in the value system imbibed in the Institute helped them to surmount all difficult situations in their professional life. "These examples", he said, "illustrate how the Prasanthi Nilayam environment has inculcated self-confidence in the students that wherever they go, they uphold human values."

Dr. Kalam narrated the story of the life of Imam Ghazali which his father had told him when he was a high school student to tell the graduating students how they could win the divine goodness when they were faced with temptations of the world.

The learned speaker advised the students to hear the voice of their conscience. He said, "Conscience is the light of the soul that burns within the chambers of our psychological heart. It is as real as life is. It raises the voice in protest whenever anything is thought of or done contrary to righteousness." He also advised the students to keep away from sinful acts and corrupting thoughts which destroy the conscience of man.

In conclusion, Dr. Kalam referred to the Divine Mission of Bhagavan Baba which was an ideal for all to follow. He said, "Giving drinking water to millions of people in hundreds of villages, conducting 15,000 open heart surgeries successfully, giving higher level of education with value system, and above all removing the pain of people psychologically and physiologically with heavenly blessing and modern medicine is indeed a divine mission."

As soon as Dr. Kalam was seated in his chair after delivering his Convocation Address, Bhagavan materialised a gold ring with nine gems and gave it to him.

#### **Benedictory Message of the Revered Chancellor**

After the Convocation Address of Dr. Kalam, the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba gave His Benedictory Message reiterating His assurance that He would take care of all the burdens of man if he surrendered to Him. (Full text of Bhagavan's Benedictory Message has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

In the end, there was a brief programme of fusion music presented by renowned artistes Mandolin U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh to the accompaniment of the distinguished percussionist Sri Anandan Sivamani. The grand Convocation function of the Institute came to a conclusion at 7.55 p.m. with the singing of National Anthem by the entire gathering.

## **NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES**

### **P O L A N D**

THE Dubeninki and Zytkejm regions of Poland bordering Russia are economically disadvantaged regions in the country. The efforts of the Sathya Sai devotees to help these people through a free medical camp last year was rewarded manifold this year when devotees sought to conduct a similar medical camp again. Last year, 30 Sai volunteers including three doctors saw 210 patients and at the same time renovated a house, ran a Bal Vikas programme, conducted a workshop for women and organised a beautiful Christmas programme for 200 impoverished people. In response, this year the local authorities provided the Sai devotees with a school bus to transport patients from nearby villages and gave them an entire school building to conduct the camp. From 5th – 9th July 2006, 90 Sai volunteers from Poland, Germany and Ukraine combined their efforts to see 400 patients in five days. During the camp, Sai young adults looked after 90 local



children, teaching them EHV. In addition, a group of volunteers undertook the task of building a home for one of the poorest families. As the home was being built, the family including a five-year-old child helped the Sai volunteers. At the end of the day, the family had tears of joy and appreciation as they were able to provide a home for themselves and for their ailing patriarch who was transported from a nearby hospital. Many villagers said: "We thought that God had forgotten us, but He sent us angels."

### **A R G E N T I N A**

For the first time in Argentina, a one-day seminar was organised for public health professionals on 9th August 2006. The seminar covering the topic of loving, compassionate healthcare and quality of life was organised by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation and co-sponsored by the Institute of Neurobiology and the Secretary of Science and Technology. The meeting was attended by 70 health professionals. In his opening remarks, the Director of the Institute of Neurobiology observed that this was the first time such an approach to modern medicine was being taken and he thanked the leadership of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation for it. Other speakers reiterated that paying attention to the mind and spirit of the patient complements the role of modern medicine and helps the patient. The example of such pioneering work in healthcare by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in India was cited. This was followed by a description of the work done by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation in Argentina with particular reference to weekly medical camps run in villages. All participants expressed a sense of gratitude to the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation for the renewed approach to healthcare with attention to the body, mind and spirit.

### **U. S. A.**

In Southern California, devotees from the Sathya Sai Centres of Arcadia, Glendale, Hollywood, Los Angeles, Lakewood, Lomita, Torrance and Upland gathered together on 9th September 2006 at the Dockweiler Beach to share the love of Sai with over 60 children with physical and mental disabilities. This annual loving service provides memorable joy not only to the children but also to their parents.

Each year, among the Sai volunteers, young adults constitute a major working group who, with their energy, charm and devotion to Bhagavan, are easily able to bring a smile to the children. This year, the day began with a special welcome to all the children with a garland for each. They were then escorted to the picnic site. Children and Sai devotees shared in activities like swimming, building sand castles, collecting sea shells, playing beach volleyball and baseball. A delicious lunch and dessert was followed by a music programme in a tent in which everyone participated. At the end of the day, the children were safely sent off to their homes in a bus. The children felt the love and joy of Bhagavan percolating through the devotees' words and actions. It is in selfless service to

the needy that Bhagavan's presence is often felt and surely on that day, everyone felt the omnipresent grace of Bhagavan.

A free medical camp was conducted in Pineland, Texas on 15th July 2006. The camp was conducted in the Harvest Way Church by 120 Sai volunteers including nine physicians. During the day, 263 patients were seen. The small town was ravaged by Hurricane Rita and to surmount logistical difficulties, several Sai volunteers travelled to Pineland the day before the camp to set up the facility. The Seva began with a universal prayer chanted by the pastor of the church. In addition to routine health exam, patients were directed to separate booths where health screening for diabetes, hypertension, obesity, vision, dental health, scoliosis and mammograms were used for breast cancer screening. Health education was provided on diet, physical activity, meditation and emotional and developmental disorders. Some other volunteers visited local nursing homes where they talked and gave company to the elderly. Both the volunteers and the patients felt a sense of peace that they were in the hands of the Lord.

#### **C A N A D A**

A public meeting was held in Toronto on 26th May 2006 on the topic of "Science and Spirituality." The meeting was addressed by Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, and attended by about 600 people. In his talk, Sri Anil Kumar quoted Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and said that while science was conditioned and limited to the senses, spirituality rose above the physical senses. Science, he said, was regarded as an experiment while spirituality was an experience and urged the scientists to understand the full significance of human life. On 27th May 2006, Sri Anil Kumar performed the ground breaking ceremony of the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Scarborough. The ceremony began at 6.00 a.m. with prayer to Bhagavan. About 1,000 people attended the event including Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care and Hon. Derek Lee, Member of Parliament and Sri Bal Balkisson, Member of Provincial Parliament. All four dignitaries addressed the audience on this occasion. In his keynote address, Sri Anil Kumar noted the significance of loving service and said that the Sai Centre would be a beacon of Service, Adoration and Illumination. Hon. George Smitherman said that he was confident that with so much love among the devotees, the Sai Centre would form a strong support for the Province of Ontario. In a separate address to the youths on 24th May 2006, Sri Anil Kumar extolled the virtues of an inspiring teacher and observed that he provided the avenues for lifelong learning by integrating human values with education. He said that Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the teacher of teachers and His Life is His Message. About 320 youths from Canada attended the meeting. The talks were well received, providing a clear message to live a life guided by human values.

On 3rd June 2006, the Sai Centre of Edmonton embarked on a city beautification programme. Two sets of flower beds and 600 trees were planted along a ravine near the Sathya Sai Centre. The trees were provided by the city while the flowers, labour and love were from the Sai devotees.

## **U Z B E K I S T A N**

Tashkent, widely regarded as one of the oldest and most beautiful cities of Central Asia, is the capital of Uzbekistan. British Blues singer Dana Gillespie who is a Sai devotee visited Tashkent from 5th to 9th October 2006. During this time, she visited an orphanage in Tashkent, participated in two public appearances and paid homage to the tomb of Prophet Daniel in Samarkand. On 6th October 2006, a public meeting was held at the Guzari Café. About 80 people attended this meeting. The keynote speaker was Sri Steen Piculell. He spoke on the Divine message of the Sai Avatar and His mission. He also elaborated on the importance of human values. On 7th October 2006, a concert was held at the Music Palace in Tashkent. The concert hall with a capacity of 450 was nearly full. The melodious songs in the concert were interspersed with recapitulation of Dana's experiences with Bhagavan and her love for Sai. At the end of the concert, the Director of the Music Palace was stunned by the performance and love for Swami. Many people in the audience who were not familiar with Swami showed interest in knowing more about Bhagavan.

## **U. A. E.**

On 22nd September 2006, the Abu Dhabi Sai Centre conducted their second annual workshop on SSEHV in the auditorium of Zayed University. A total of 190 teaching faculty from 10 schools, three colleges and two universities took part in this workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Sri C.M. Bhandari, Indian Ambassador to the U.A.E. Professor Reynolds McPherson, Chancellor of the Abu Dhabi University, awarded the speakers and participants with the graduation certificates. The one-day workshop included discussions on topics such as tradition and family values, human values in education and society, dynamic parenting with human values and integration of human values with undergraduate level curriculum. Human values theme songs were written and sung by SSE students. The programme was regarded as a success with the universities inviting the Sathya Sai Organisation for future workshops in their campuses.

**– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation**

## **B H A R A T**

**Andhra Pradesh:** As part of Grama Seva, Ranga Reddy district renovated the Hanuman temple in Rukumpally village, distributed Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to 15 poor families, distributed new clothes to 85 persons, and dresses to 108 Bal Vikas children. The district presented one DVD player, one mega phone and two sewing machines to the

Kerel Community Centre. This district conducted a veterinary camp in Thummalapally village, treating 788 cattle for different ailments. It conducted a medical camp, treating 500 patients and distributed biscuit packets and Sai Protein food to 90 students on 15th and 16th October 2006 in Thummalapally village.

Kadapa district started giving midday meals to selected 10 people on permanent basis at Vainpally town.

Vijayanagaram district conducts Narayana Seva for 200 poor people on every first Sunday of the month in Kothavalasa village. It serves midday meals to 12 selected helpless people daily in Kothavalasa village. It also provides 10 kg rice and 1 kg Dhal to 65 selected people every month in this village. The district conducted a free medical camp in Srungavarapu Kota village, treating 189 patients. It also conducted a veterinary camp, treating 254 cattle and 157 goats in Veerabhadra Peta village on 18th October 2006.

West Godavari district gave new clothes to 36 Blind Home Children, new dress and fireworks to 250 children in Juvenile Home on the occasion of Deepavali festival at Eluru and carried out Narayana Seva during Dasara in many units.

As part of Grama Seva, Srikakulam district carried out village sanitation, chlorination of wells and homoeo medical camps in 9 villages. The district came to the rescue of fire victims of Rushikudda village by giving utensils, 10 kg rice and new clothes to each of the 22 families affected by the accident. The district conducted free medical camps in a tribal village, Polla treating 346 patients, in Vatapayan village, treating 265 patients, in Amudalavalasa, treating 318 patients, and in Rama Rai, treating 195 patients.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** The spacious Marar Park of Nagaon in Central Assam teemed with activity where 978 boys and girls from 48 schools, their parents and teachers assembled on the morning of Sunday, 5th November 2006 to participate in the on-the-spot painting competition organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Nagaon. In keeping with Swami's ideals, no entry fee was charged and art papers were provided to all the participants. The park was tastefully decorated with Bhagavan's messages hanging from trees. An unmistakable aura of Swami's love permeated the cool November morning's atmosphere. Started in 1997 with just 8 participants, this endeavour of Nagaon Sai Samithi to attract youngsters to wholesome pursuits in the fields of art and culture and reach out to diverse sections of the people with Swami's message has indeed made great strides.

As part of Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi of Agartala organised its 4th Gita Recitation Contest, 2006 for children (Class I to Class X) on 16th August 2006 at the ONGC Auditorium. 298 students from different schools of Agartala took part in this contest. Winners were awarded trophies and merit certificates. In the

evening, a beautiful cultural programme on the life of Krishna was presented by Bal Vikas students. A special Bhajan was also organised till midnight.

Bal Vikas Day, 2006 was organised on 10th September 2006 at the historic Kangla Hall, Kangla, Imphal by the Imphal West district Samithi in collaboration with Khurai Samithi and Mantripukhri Samithi. More than 400 devotees including Bal Vikas children, Bal Vikas Gurus and invitees attended the function. The celebration started at 10.30 a.m. It concluded at 3.30 p.m. with the presentation of gifts and mementoes to Bal Vikas children.

**Gujarat:** Bal Vikas is a unique gift of Bhagavan. It is bringing about spiritual awareness in children and their parents. Keeping this in mind, a programme was carved out for a period of seven days from 1st November throughout the State. Many programmes were organised during this period.

An elocution competition was organised for Bal Vikas children. More than 200 children participated in it. Subjects such as “Importance of Namasmaraṇa”, “My Favourite Saint”, “God is Love, Live in Love”, “How I Get Inspiration from Prasanthi Nilayam”, “Importance of Discipline in Life”, etc., were chosen on the basis of Bal Vikas groups. Some districts arranged Veda chanting competitions to create awareness in students. About 50 students participated in this event. In all units, children who had good voice were encouraged to lead Bhajans in the Bhajan Hall on Thursdays. More than 200 children participated in spiritual games competition. These games develop power of discrimination so as to know what is good and what is bad.

Bal Vikas rallies were held on 5th November 2006 in all districts. Duly decorated floats carried children with placards, on which Bhagavan’s messages were painted in attractive colours and background. The parents of participating children also joined the procession from beginning to end. Sai Bhajans and Veda chanting were carried out in the rally by the children and parents which surcharged the atmosphere and attracted the attention of the public.

A Vedic mathematics scholar offered his services to teach Bal Vikas children for six days. In addition to elementary knowledge of Vedic mathematics, he taught how to do three or four digit multiplication in three to four seconds. More than 150 children in various age-groups and their parents took advantage of this unique opportunity.

A team of six doctors performed dental check-up of Bal Vikas children and their parents. More than 160 children and their parents benefited from this service.

**Kerala:** A three-day centralised camp on Veda teaching was held at Thiruvananthapuram on 15th, 16th, 17th September 2006. 54 trainers, who are engaged in teaching the Vedas in the Sai Organisation, attended the camp and formulated uniform policy. Sri Sathya Sai Veda Pathasalas have already started teaching the Vedas.

Mahila Vibhag (ladies wing) is concentrating on the 'Mother and Child' programme. They are also arranging parenting sessions. They have now adopted visually challenged girls students in colleges to help them in their studies.

In Ernakulam district, Sai Youth have been serving HIV positive patients for the last one year. Medical camps, counselling, distribution of Sai protein, Sadhana camps, Bhajans are some of the other activities undertaken by the Sai Youth.

**Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh:** Gora Kanhari and Jalda are two villages inhabited by the tribals of Bega community. A team of nine prominent doctors and two paramedicals came from Jabalpur to hold medical camps with the help of two local doctors and six local paramedicals and 30 Seva Dal volunteers (22 gents and 8 ladies) in these villages. Patients were examined and free medicines, proteins and vitamins were distributed. A total of 3,150 villagers benefited from these camps. Besides 1,000 blankets and 750 sweaters were distributed to the expectant mothers and other deserving persons. The Collector and local medical authorities extended help by providing three ambulances for bringing the patients from distant places. Narayana Seva was also performed for over 3,000 persons at both the places after they were medically examined and given the medicines. The medicines were provided through the good offices of Sri Sathya Sai State Trust.

Salua is a small village with a population of 700 persons in Kanhiwara tehsil, Seoni district. The village is situated at a plateau on the bank of a small stream which lies much below the level of the village. There are about 150 acres of land owned by 40 agriculturist families. There is only one Kharif crop during the year dependent on the rains only. 75% of the village population are tribal labourers who are always in search for employment.

A few devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Samithi of Kanhiwara thought of making a small irrigation project so that the land which is otherwise quite fertile can get water, which will bring more crops and give employment to the labourers also.

The project was started on 12th October 2005. A stop dam and an intake well on the stream were constructed and water was lifted with the help of an electric motor. A non-return valve was also provided. 3,000 ft long pipeline was laid, with the help of which the water was transported from the well to the other end of the village where a small canal already existed. Through the canal, the water could flow by force of gravity to irrigate the fields. A 300 feet road was also constructed. Nearly 250 villagers, men, women and children worked day and night to complete the project, which was inaugurated by the State President on 30th January 2006. A small pump house and a small Ganesh temple were constructed on the style of Prasanthi Nilayam architecture. Nearly 7,000 villagers from surrounding villages participated in the inaugural ceremony. All of them were served food. The whole atmosphere was surcharged with festivity. A regular Bhajan

Mandali now exists in the village. The villagers are confident that with the blessings of Bhagavan, they will be able to lead a happy life.

**Orissa:** In order to supply safe drinking water to people, 76 water samples were collected from adopted villages and Sri Sathya Sai schools, and these were tested in Orissa State Public Health Laboratory. Presence of fluoride was detected in five samples and accordingly steps are taken to install water purifiers at these places. 431 plastic filters have been supplied and five online connections will be installed in different districts of the State. In the adopted village Tumkela of Rourkela Samithi in Sundergarh district, a permanent safe drinking water tank is under construction.

A grand programme of Seva was conducted for 41 days at Ambodala, Rayagada district from 9th August 2006 to 15th September 2006. During these 41 days, as many as 41 service activities were carried out which included medical camps, Bhajans, programmes for Bal Vikas students and Gurus, Narayana Seva, distribution of clothes, tree plantation and Veda chanting.

Sai Youth and other members of Bhubaneswar, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Cuttack served the flood-affected people of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts by reaching villages even by walking miles with the load of food and other materials on their head in neck deep flood water. Flood victims numbering 2,033 benefited from this Seva. Service to affected people was provided from 2nd September 2006 to 18th September 2006. Medical camps and veterinary camps were organised in flood-affected areas of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts.

Seva is the manifestation of love. The expression of love is seen in the adoption of three slums by Rourkela Samithi in Sundergarh district where 500 leprosy patients have been rehabilitated. They stay with their family members in a happy and healthy atmosphere. Sai devotee doctors and doctors of I.G.H., Rourkela dress the wounds of patients, feed them medicine and provide health education tips. Apart from treatment and care, safe drinking water on regular basis, dresses, blankets and food packets are given to them with love on festive occasions. 15 Sai active workers (ladies and gents) have been trained by doctors to clean and dress the wounds of leprosy patients and they have lovingly taken up the sacred Seva.

Sickle cell anaemia and thallasaemia are genetic diseases that cripple thousands in western Orissa. On 17th September 2006, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Orissa inaugurated a centre for identification, counselling and treatment of people affected by the above two main diseases, to which 7 specialist doctors are attached. The district health administration has also assured needed help for the patients through blood bank.

After the State-level Conference of Sai devotee doctors on 23rd April 2006, 81 doctors so far have given written consent to form a network of holistic helpline of doctors throughout the State which is proposed to be launched in December 2006 under the fold of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Orissa.

A seminar on “Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Universal Teacher and His Message – Educare” was held on 8th September 2006 in the premises of Purusottam Engineering College, Rourkela of Sundergarh district, in which 450 engineering students, all faculty members, Principal of the college and Vice President of the Institute participated. They were thrilled to learn the message of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

A Seminar on “Seva Experience” was conducted by the Sai Youth of Cuttack on 25th October 2006 for the students of three leading colleges of Cuttack city and Youth members of villages who actively participated in the multifaceted service and cultural module programme, Barnali. In all, 239 youth joined the seminar. This seminar was highly inspiring for youth. It focused on academic, behaviour and personality excellence.

**Tamil Nadu:** The festival of Ramzan was celebrated in Chennai on Tuesday, 25th October 2006. Muslim brothers and sisters assembled in large numbers in mosques and other popular places in the morning and broke their fast after Namaz. Island grounds in Chennai is one such popular place, where special arrangements were made for Namaz. About 2,000 Muslim brothers assembled at this place and offered their prayers. Sai Youth of Chennai Metro (north and south districts) offered soft drinks to Muslim brothers to end their fast. The Sai Youth also exchanged Eid Mubarak greetings by wishing and embracing the Muslim brothers. Similar Seva activity was undertaken in a mosque in K.K. Nagar, Chennai by Sai Youth of Chennai Metro West district. 15 members participated in this Seva and distributed orange juice to around 1,000 Muslim brothers. This unique Seva is being performed over a decade in Chennai.

Sai Youth of Chennai Metro (north, south and west) districts distributed 1,500 blankets to old people living on the streets in and around Chennai and a few old age homes as a part of Seva on the occasion of Bhagavan’s 81st Birthday. Sai Youth went round the city in batches during night hours and gave the blankets to those who were sleeping without proper clothes on the footpaths or the streets, irrespective of their caste, creed or community. These people were informed that the blankets were Bhagavan’s Birthday gift to them. Each and every recipient was surprised by this unexpected and most appropriate gift as it was the need of the hour. They expressed their delight and gratitude in their own way. They were all emotionally moved. Sai Youth who participated in this Seva experienced boundless bliss. They profusely thanked Bhagavan for giving them this noble opportunity of rendering the Seva of blanket distribution. Blankets were also distributed to the inmates of three old age homes.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

With the blessings of Bhagavan, the Board of Directors of Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation has been expanded as follows:

- |                           |   |                       |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1) Dr. Michael Goldstein  | - | Chairman and Director |
| 2) Sri H.J. Dora          | - | Director              |
| 3) Sri Anil Gokak         | - | Director              |
| 4) Sri A. Ramakrishna     | - | Director              |
| 5) Dr. Narendranath Reddy | - | Director              |

*- Dr. Michael Goldstein*

## Chinna Katha

### HOW STRANGE THIS WORLD IS

A young man, in his effort to acquire the knowledge of many spiritual subjects, used to meet everyday his Guru who lived outside the village. One day, he kept listening to the talk of his Guru on some important spiritual questions for a long time. Meanwhile, it became dark. So, the Guru asked his disciple to stay that night in the Ashram. But the disciple said, "Oh revered Guru! I must reach my house at night. My mother, my father and my wife will be very much worried by my absence. All of them love me very much. If anything untoward happens to me, they will end their life. Therefore, I have to go."

The Guru heard all this and sent him home, saying, "Oh dear son! Take this pill. After reaching home, put it in your mouth and drink some water. You will become like a dead man for some time, but you will be able to hear all that transpires around you. Then you yourself can know who is saying what."

The young man came home and did as instructed by the Guru. Seeing him lying unconscious, all the inmates of the house started crying loudly, considering him dead. Their neighbours also came there to sympathise with them. After some time, the Guru also entered their house on the pretext of coming this side for some work. After hearing everything, the Guru said, "I will bring him back to life. But do what I say." All the people in the house told the Guru, "Swami! We will surely do what you ask us to do." Then the Guru said, "See! In order to bring him back to life, one of you should be prepared to die. After chanting a Mantra (incantation), I will sprinkle water on him from my Kamandalu (a water pot) and he will get up." Saying this, the Guru first asked the mother of the young man, "Amma! Are you prepared to die for your son?" The mother

replied, “Swami! I have other children to look after. Who will take care of them when I die? What will happen to them when I am no more?” Then the Guru put the same question to the young man’s father. He said, “I have the responsibility for the maintenance of the entire family. Isn’t it? How can I die?” Thereafter, the Guru asked the young man’s wife. “Dear daughter! For a wife, her husband is everything. Isn’t it? I think, you will have no objection to die for his sake.” The wife said, “I am the only daughter of my parents. They will be very sad if I die.”

Meanwhile, the young man’s father said to the Guru, “Oh revered Guru! My son was so very dear to you. Isn’t it? Why don’t you die? We will construct a good Samadhi (tomb) for you and will worship you with great devotion and dedication.” All this talk opened the eyes of the young man. He got up immediately and said to his Guru, “Swami! Now I have understood the real import of Samsara (worldly life). I will go with you to the Ashram and spend the remaining part of my life there.”

### *Qualities of an Educated Person*

*The educated man must be able to distinguish between the momentary and the momentous, the effervescent and the lasting. He must not run after glitter and glamour but seek instead the good and golden. He must know how to keep the body in good trim, the senses under strict control, the mind well within check, the intellect sharp and clear, unhampered by prejudices and hatred, and the feelings untouched by egoism.*

*— Baba*