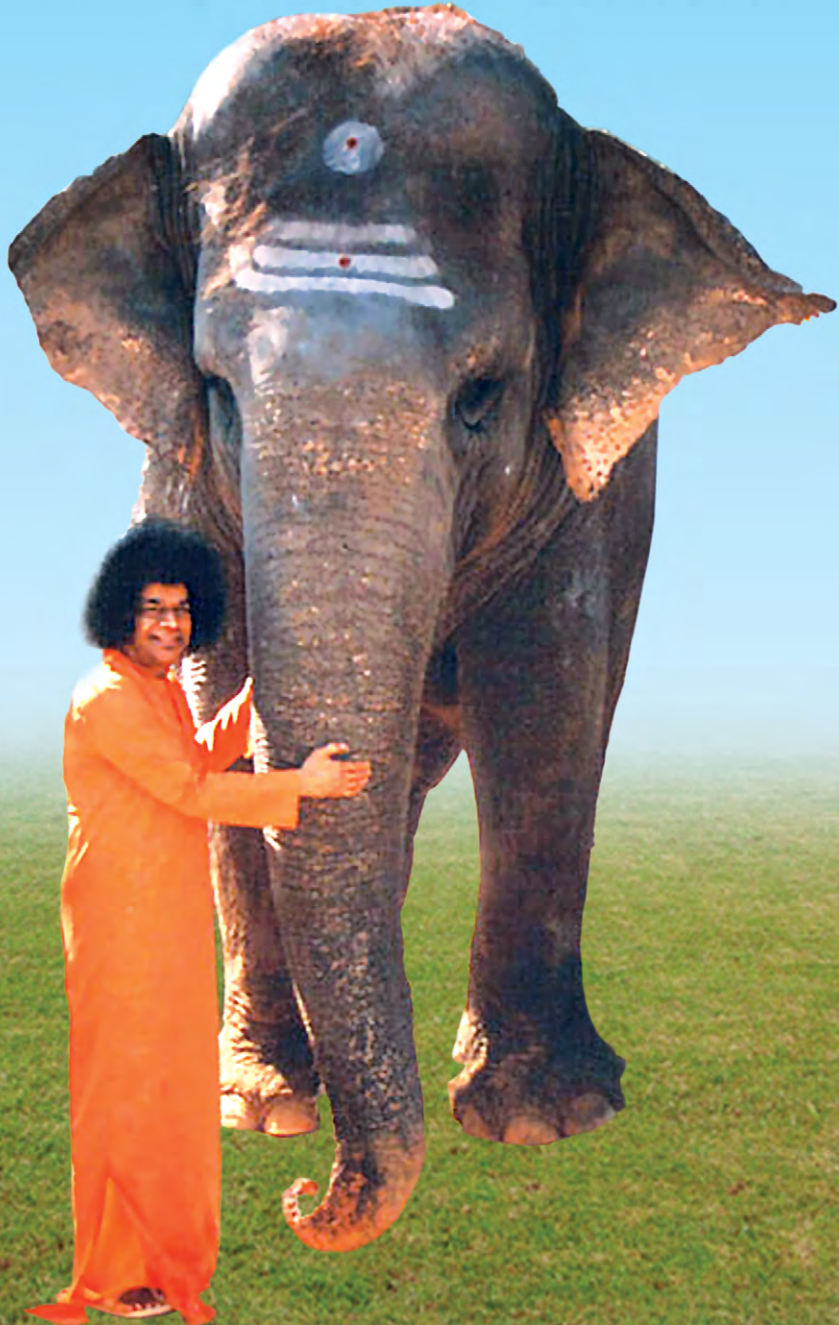




JULY 2014

Sanathana Sarathi



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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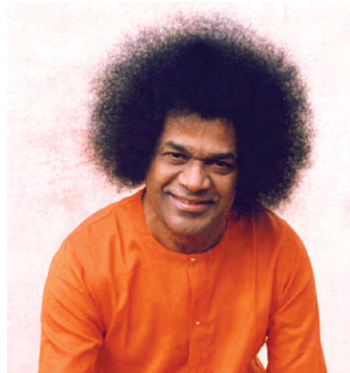
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*"What you need to achieve today is
unity. But, unfortunately, there is
no unity even between the members of
the same family. Similarly, unity is
lacking between neighbours, between
people of one village and another
and one nation and another. What
a misfortune it is! This is a sign of
wickedness."*

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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
30TH AUGUST 1996

DO NOT ALLOW POLITICS TO ENTER VILLAGES

Due to the absence of fear of sin and love for God, humanness has declined in human beings. This is detrimental to universal peace.

(Telugu Poem)

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)

DO NOT OBSERVE DIFFERENCES OF CASTE AND CREED

Embodiments of Love!

W HEREVER YOU SEE
today, the
world is in a

state of turmoil, fear,
unrest and sorrow.

At a time when the
demons of unrest,
impropriety and
unrighteousness
are indulging
in fearful death
dance, it is only
students who are
capable of restoring
peace and security in the
country.

Dear Students!

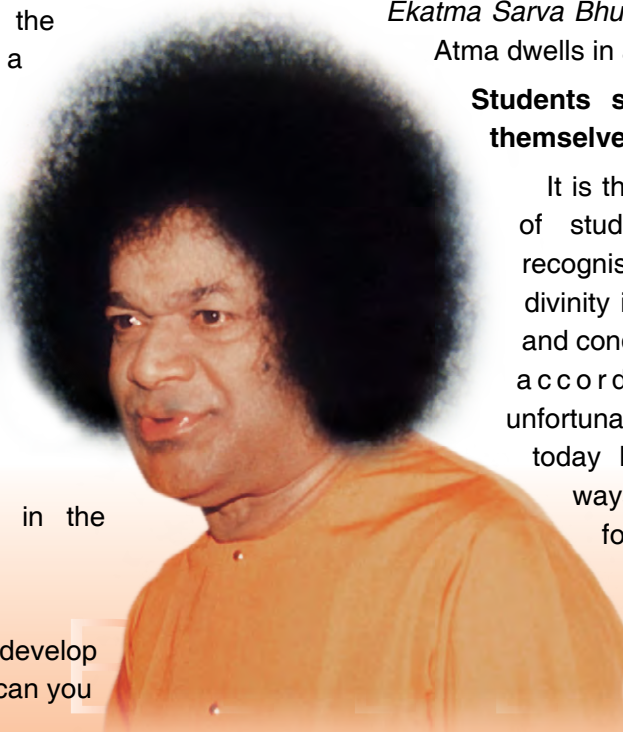
Only when you develop
the spirit of oneness can you

drive away differences, sorrow and unrest
and thus establish peace and security.

Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma (one
Atma dwells in all beings).

**Students should Identify
themselves with Society**

It is the foremost duty
of students today to
recognise the truth that
divinity is present in all,
and conduct themselves
accordingly. But,
unfortunately, students
today have their own
ways and strive
for their own
self-interest.
There is none
who serves
society,



keeping in view the welfare of all. Just as water becomes one with milk, students should identify themselves with society, join hands with everyone with the spirit of unity, forbearance and empathy, and strive for the progress of society. Only then can there be peace in the country.

Students!

The citizens you see and the men of authority whom you follow today were also once students like you. Today's students are tomorrow's citizens and leaders. Therefore, it is your responsibility to set right the deficiencies and disturbances that you find in society.

Embodiments of Love!

As are the roots for a tree, so are the students for a nation. When the roots become weak, the tree falls to the ground. Similarly, when the students become weak-minded, the nation will suffer. Therefore, students should become strong-minded, lead an ideal life and give happiness to society. They should never give room to narrow feelings like I and my family. The happiness of an individual depends on his family and the happiness of the family depends on society. In the same way, the happiness of society depends on the nation. The happiness of a nation, society and family depends on the character and virtues of the individuals.

Students!

People come here from various places and countries, but the same divinity is present in all.

Just because the mother loves her son so dearly, will she be able to take upon herself his suffering? It is totally impossible.

In the same manner, will the hunger of the child be satiated when the mother eats? Everyone earns his own merits and sins.

It is not possible for a mother to share the merits and sins of her son and vice-versa. You can share your property with others, but you cannot share divine grace with them.



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.

Beings are many but breath is one.

Castes are many but humanity is one.

Beings are many but Atma is one.

Flowers are many but worship is one.

Listen, oh, valorous sons of Bharat!

(Telugu Poem)

Since ancient times, the sacred land of Bharat has been bestowing happiness on one and all by propagating the principles of unity and divinity. The Upanishads teach the principle of unity and exhort man to recognise this unity as the goal of life. Due to the defective system of education and the prevalence of selfishness and self-



interest in society, this principle of unity has been destroyed. The educated today are causing unrest in society by observing diversity in unity instead of visualising unity in diversity.

Maintain Unity and Purity of Villages

In ancient times, there was great unity and purity in villages. Whenever there was a marriage function in some house, all the people of the village used to join in a spirit of unity and help the concerned family. They believed in the principle of unity. If there is a marriage in their house today, tomorrow there may be a marriage in your house. If you help others now, tomorrow others will also come to your help. Such broad feelings promoted sacredness in villages.

There was a system of joint families in those days. If there were four brothers, all of them with their spouses and children lived together in the same house like one family. But with the passage of time and change in circumstances, human mind has become perverted, with the result that there are differences even in villages. If there are four members in a family, they have four different opinions. What is the reason? Selfishness and greed are mainly responsible for this situation. The desire for money and power has crossed all limits in today's world. Money comes and goes. How long will it stay with you? What will you do with excess of money? Keep as much as you require; excess of money will spoil your mind. People today do not want to leave their position of authority till their last breath. Politics promotes wicked qualities

and evil intentions in villages. It is politics which is responsible for the degeneration of values in villages.

Dear People of Villages!

Never allow politics to enter your villages. Do not hate anyone. *Adveshta Sarva Bhutanam*, (bear no hatred against anyone). Love all. But if you allow politics in your villages, your Samaj (society) will turn into Samadhi (tomb). People in villages today are allowing such things to happen. Happiness would reign supreme when there is unity between the members of a family. There would be no scope for unrest. All will be free from worries. When differences develop between the members of the family, it will become worse than hell.

Deho Devalaya Proktho Jivo Deva Sanathana (the body is a temple and the indweller is God). There are three persons living in the house of human body, namely, thought, word and deed. Man can enjoy peace and happiness only when there is unity among these three. But the mind of man today goes in one direction and his speech goes in another direction. His actions take a different route altogether. If these three 'persons' go in three different directions, how can there be peace in such a 'house'? There will be neither Santhi (peace) nor Kanthi (light). There will be total darkness and ignorance. In such a situation, what can be the fate of man except misery?

All are the Children of God

Many people appear very calm and quiet outwardly as if they are free from



worries. They put up such appearance due to their ego. But the fact is different. A fig may appear to be very nice from outside, but when you open it, it may be full of insects. Similarly, some people appear to be shining outwardly, but when you observe closely, there will be nothing in them except evil qualities and evil thoughts. There will be no scope for divine feelings in them.

Students!

Understanding the present-day situation, you should follow the right path in your life. Do not observe differences of caste and creed. There is human skin. What is the caste of the skin? Blood circulates in the body from top to toe. What is the caste of blood? Similarly, there are muscles and bones in human body. What is their caste? Atma pervades every cell of human body. What is the caste of the Atma? What is the caste of the five elements, namely, earth, water, fire, air and ether? But, unfortunately, man has developed differences based on caste and creed. This is the greatest ignorance and foolishness of man. In fact, this is a demonic quality. It is these differences of caste and creed that have created so much unrest and misery and plunged society in turmoil today.

All are one and all are the children of God. Therefore, develop the spirit of Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God. There is none who is not the child of God. All are the embodiments of Divinity. *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta*

Nothing belongs to you, not even your body. Then, where is the question of mine and thine? You keep on amassing wealth all your life but at the time of death, you have to leave everything behind and go empty-handed. What did you bring with you at the time of birth? What can you take with you when you leave this world? Once you properly understand this truth, there will be no scope for greed at all.

Sanathana (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). Lord Krishna declared emphatically in the Bhagavadgita, "All of you are an aspect of My being, not of five elements or Nature."

You have been coming to Prasanthi Nilayam since many years and participating in many functions. You have been noting down all the teachings of Swami and have been saying, "How nicely Swami has taught these truths!" But how many of you are following My teachings? What for do you come here? What is the purpose of your coming? If you do not put even one of Swami's teachings into practice, your life will be a waste. In fact, animals are better than you. We have our elephant Sai Geeta. Whatever instructions are given to her, she follows earnestly. How intelligent she is! You call yourselves devotees. What a shame it is if you do not practise even one instruction of Swami in your daily life! Is



there anyone of you who has peace, who is devoid of ego and hatred? On the contrary, your ego is increasing day by day. As ego increases, your Atmic power decreases. Whatever you touch, it turns into ashes. That is the cause of your suffering. That is why mother Nature complains to the Lord.

Why is there so much hostility among men, oh Lord!

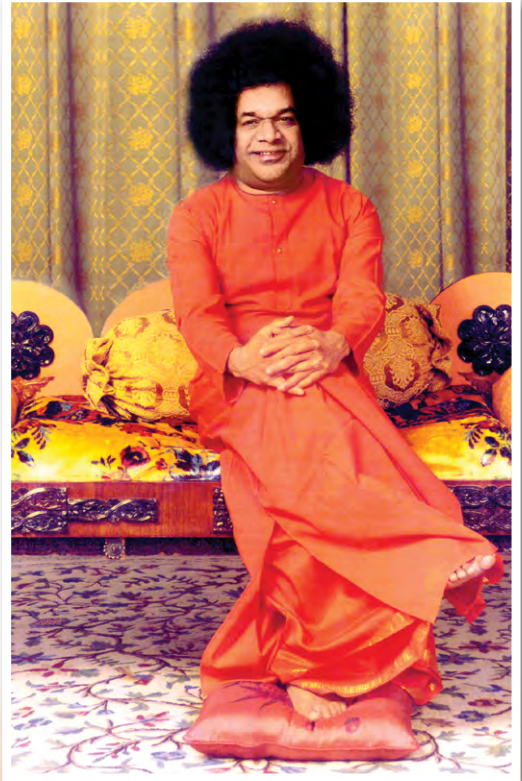
Love has turned into poison,

Mind is totally polluted and man has become a victim of vices. What is the use?
(Telugu Song)

on the Upanishads of the sacred land of Bharat is unparalleled. In 1926, a British philosopher visited India. As India was under British rule at that time, he could move around in the country as per as his will. He was deeply impressed by the unity of the Bharatiyas. When he went back to England, he declared, "What a great spirit of unity the Bharatiyas have! How sacred are the teachings of the Upanishads! All the Bharatiyas are united by the single thread of divinity." He further said, "If I am born again, I would like to be born in the

As are the roots for a tree, so are the students for a nation. When the roots become weak, the tree falls to the ground. Similarly, when the students become weak-minded, the nation will suffer.

Therefore, students should become strong-minded, lead an ideal life and give happiness to society. They should never give room to narrow feelings like I and my family. The happiness of an individual depends on his family and the happiness of the family depends on society.



Prakriti (Nature) and Paramatma (God) have an intimate connection and are inseparable. The philosophy based

sacred land of Bharat and would also like to die in India. There is no country which can match the sacredness of Bharat." The



sacredness of Bharat was acknowledged by many British philosophers. But today the people of other countries have better understanding of Indian culture and philosophy. Many of them are coming to India in search of truth, renouncing all their material comforts. All physical pleasures are momentary.

Everybody has to Go from the World Empty-handed

One should not be proud of youthful state of one's body. What are the physical pleasures and comforts! Truly speaking, there is no happiness in them. That is why Adi Sankara declared in those days itself.

*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.)

All the physical pleasures are momentary. You cannot enjoy true happiness even for a minute. Just as total darkness follows bright lightning, sorrow follows physical happiness. You see only the bright light of the lightning and feel happy without realising that what follows it is total darkness. You feel elated seeing the light of your momentary youth and don't realise that the darkness of old age is about to follow. At that stage, your own children will make fun of you.

Oh man, do not take pride in your beauty, youth and physical strength. Very soon, you will become old. Your hair will turn grey, your skin will develop

wrinkles and your vision will be blurred. Children will make fun of you, calling you an old monkey. You are no better than a leather puppet. Try to understand the mystery behind this puppet show.

(Telugu Song)

Nothing Belongs to you

What you need to achieve today is unity. But, unfortunately, there is no unity even between the members of the same family. Similarly, unity is lacking between neighbours, between people of one village and another and one nation and another. What a misfortune it is! This is a sign of wickedness.

One who aspires for the progress of the nation will not give room to conflicts. There is no dearth of water in Bharat. Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri are big perennial rivers. Why don't people make proper use of water of these rivers? Instead they are fighting with each other, saying, this is mine and that is yours. Why do you fight with each other when your body itself is not yours? When you depart from this world, who will take your body? Nobody will even touch it. All your relatives will follow you only up to the cremation ground. Nothing belongs to you, not even your body. Then, where is the question of mine and thine? You keep on amassing wealth all your life but at the time of death, you have to leave everything behind and go empty-handed. What did you bring with you at the time of birth? What can you take with you when you leave this world? Once you properly understand this truth, there



will be no scope for greed at all. Is there anyone who has brought even a small piece of cloth with him at the time of birth? There is none. All your life, you develop attachment, saying, "My family, my children and my relations." Who is actually yours? At the time of death, can you give them your address where you are going? If they truly belong to you, why don't you give your address to them at the time of departing from the world? Nobody belongs to you. Who belongs to whom? However, you have to discharge your duty so long as you are alive. But in matters relating to God, each one has to follow a separate path of his own.

Every mother loves her child very dearly. When the child is sick and suffering, the mother undergoes ten times more suffering. Just because the mother loves her son so dearly, will she be able to take upon herself his suffering? It is totally impossible. In the same manner, will the hunger of the child be satiated when the mother eats? Everyone earns his own merits and sins. It is not possible for a mother to share the merits and sins of her son and vice-versa. You can share your property with others, but you cannot share divine grace with them. What you do is yours and what they do is theirs. But you should always pray for the welfare of all. That is a noble task. That is why at the end of every Bhajan session, we pray: *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!)

There is human skin. What is the caste of the skin? Blood circulates in the body from top to toe. What is the caste of blood? Similarly, there are muscles and bones in human body. What is their caste? Atma pervades every cell of human body. What is the caste of the Atma? What is the caste of the five elements, namely, earth, water, fire, air and ether? But, unfortunately, man has developed differences based on caste and creed. This is the greatest ignorance and foolishness of man.

Adorn yourself with the Ornaments of Virtues

Embodiments of Love!

Do not turn your small differences into big fights in villages. Who is the ultimate loser in this? If you enquire deeply, you will realise that the entire village has to suffer because of your momentary anger. Therefore, do not give room to differences and conflicts. Be united. At times, you may be angry, but allow your anger to cool down. You should keep in view the welfare of your family and your village. Strive to earn a good name. You should be prepared to sacrifice even your life to uphold your good name. What is it that provides beauty to your hands? A bracelet or a golden bangle? No, no. The real ornament for the hand is charity. *Hastasya Bhushanam Danam*



(charity is the true ornament of the hand). *Sathyam Kanthasya Bhushanam* (truth is the true necklace). It is not the necklace that provides beauty to your neck. Truth is your real ornament. *Srotrasya Bhushanam Sastram* (listening to the sacred texts is the true ornament of the ears). What is the use of ornaments other than these? These are the ornaments that everyone should adorn himself with and earn a good reputation. Speak truth, develop the spirit of sacrifice and listen to sacred teachings. If you possess these three virtues, no god is greater than you. In fact, you are God. God is not separate from you. Constantly remind yourself, *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). When you imbibe such sacred feelings, you will develop divine thoughts. When you think 'I am God', your conscience will guide you to conduct yourself like God.

In order to cultivate such sacred feelings, develop the conviction, "I am God."

*God does not exist in a foreign land,
He is in you.*

*Sin is not elsewhere. It is there where a
wrong action is committed.*

(Telugu Poem)

Neither sin nor merit is present in a foreign land. They are all within you. Likewise, God also is in you. Therefore, put your body to sacred use.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajans, "Hare Rama, Hare Rama..." and "Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam...")

– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 30th August 1996.

Create a Climate of Purity and Sincerity

There is no use in attempting to establish a new system of education or a new social system. By these means the current problems cannot be solved. We have to bring up a generation of pure-hearted boys and girls. To rear such a generation, there should be a climate of purity and sincerity. This calls for the development of morality and devotion to truth. Character and truth lead to the emergence of spirituality in the divine human personality. Hence, spirituality is the basic foundation for producing a generation of pure-hearted boys and girls. Only when we have such pure young persons will the nation experience peace and prosperity. To lead a good life, students will have to give up their selfishness.

- Baba



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF SRIKAKULAM DEVOTEES

MORE THAN 2,000 LADIES devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh and presented a devotional music programme on 7th June 2014. Beginning their presentation with a song dedicated to Lord Ganesh "Siddhi Vinayaka Gananayakam" (Lord Ganesh, the bestower of boons), the ladies singers sang the glories of Lord Sai for nearly one hour. Sung with devout feelings, the songs saturated the entire milieu with devotional fervour, touching the hearts of devotees with the melody of rendition and sweetness of music. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. Meanwhile, the singers were felicitated and clothes were presented to them. The programme which began at 5.30 p.m. came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m.

SUMMER COURSE IN INDIAN CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) organised a Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality from 13th to 15th June 2014 at Prasanthi Nilayam at the commencement of the new academic year to expose the students to rich cultural and spiritual heritage of

Bharat. Students and teachers from all four campuses of the Institute as well Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam (Class XI and Class XII) and Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, Rajahmundry participated.

Day 1 – Friday, 13th June 2014

The morning sessions of the Summer Course were held in Poornachandra Auditorium. On the first day, Dr. T. Ravikumar, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Warden, Brindavan Campus, SSSIHL in his welcome note briefly touched upon the historical background of the Summer Course. After this, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad, Vice Chancellor, SSSIHL, delivered the Inaugural Address in which he emphasised that one had to turn to the spiritual sciences rather than the physical and mental sciences to attain immortality. He also observed that God manifests from time to time on earth to teach mankind this spiritual science.

This was followed by a talk by Sri Nanjunda Dixit, who had the privilege of being the chief priest of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna conducted in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan at Prasanthi Nilayam in August 2006. Speaking on the topic 'Significance of Culture in Human Development', he



stressed that the timeless dictum 'Love All, Serve All' of Bhagavan was the panacea for all the ills plaguing the modern society.

The morning session concluded with an interactive programme of Bhajan Antyakshari, solely based on Bhajans sung at Prasanthi Nilayam. It was conducted by Sri Amey Deshpande, Doctoral Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies and Sri Siddhartha R, Faculty Member, Department of English Language and Literature, SSSIHL. It consisted of different rounds, such as translation, visual interpretation and theme-based Bhajans.

The afternoon session was dedicated to interactive study circle sessions. The students discussed the Divine Discourse

by two students on the sacred texts of the Ramayana and the Bhagavadgita respectively. This was followed by a musical presentation by the students of Brindavan and Muddenahalli Campuses of the Institute.

Day 2 – Saturday, 14th June 2014

The first session in the morning was an Alumni Panel Discussion on the topic "Ideal Sai Students and their Role in Society." Four alumni of the Institute participated. Prof. A. Anantha Raman, Professor, Department of Management Studies, was the moderator. The panel threw light on very pertinent questions like, how has Swami been an anchor in every student's life, and how can present-day students get

closer to Bhagavan without His physical proximity. Deliberating on the question, whether a student needed to have dual nature to survive in the corporate world today, the panelists emphatically stated that if one stuck to the principles



An interactive session of the students during the Summer Course.

delivered by Bhagavan in the Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality on 22nd May 1992, titled "From Knowledge to Wisdom".

The evening session was held in Sai Kulwant Hall. It consisted of talks

of our Beloved Lord at every moment of one's life, there would be nothing in the world which could lead one to the path of unrighteousness.

This was followed by a thought-provoking presentation by Sri S Sai



Giridhar, Doctoral Research Scholar, Department of Chemistry on 'Lessons from the Mahabharata for Modern Society' highlighting the virtues of forbearance and surrender. Ms. Dibba Bhargavi, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, subsequently gave an illuminating talk on 'Lessons from the Ramayana for Modern Society' using the analogy of examinations of students to explain the different tests and hardships faced by the various characters in the Ramayana.

The next session – a quiz on the topic 'Sri Sathya Sai Avatar: His Life and His Mission' – is an eagerly awaited part of the Summer Course. This year, the quiz was conducted by Dr. Subramanian S, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, SSSIHL and his team. It comprised some interesting rounds like Leelas and Mahimas of Bhagavan, Upadesha of Bhagavan, Bhagavan Uvacha, audio round, etc.

The afternoon session had a similar schedule as the previous day. Students participated in study circle sessions and discussed the Divine Discourse delivered by Bhagavan in the Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality on 24th May 1992 entitled – "Rise from Animality to Divinity".

The evening session was held in Sai Kulwant Hall in which two students delivered thought-provoking talks on the Bhagavadgita. This was followed by a musical presentation by the students of Anantapur Campus.

Day 3 – Sunday, 15 June 2014

The first item on the final day's agenda was an interactive session entitled 'Chinna Katha Analysis Exercise'. Each campus came forward and presented a Chinna Katha of Bhagavan Baba and elicited a discussion with the participants to bring out the subtle nuances of the story. They also answered questions from an expert panel comprising senior faculty members.

This was followed by a series of global presentations by students of all campuses and institutions. It was a collective learning of the key moral and life lessons from Bhagavan Baba's Discourses deliberated upon during the study circle sessions on the two previous afternoons.

The Summer Course concluded with a valedictory talk delivered by Dr. Kiron Bala Arora, Associate Professor in Hindi and Warden, Anantapur Campus, who summed up the proceedings of the Summer Course and offered thanks to all those who made it a grand success by their dedicated work and participation.

NECESSARY ACCESSORIES FOR STUDIES TO VILLAGE STUDENTS

Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam has taken up a new project to provide necessary accessories for studies to village students. On 17th June 2014, these accessories were distributed in Sai Kulwant Hall to 1,500 students of nine nearby villages including Puttaparthi.



From our Archives

FAITH GENERATED BY LOVE IS WISDOM

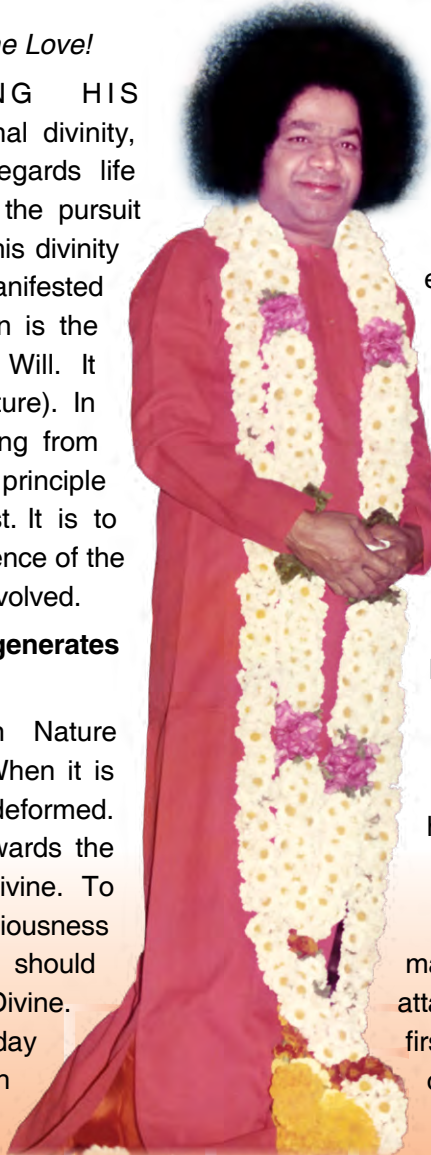
MAN'S VISION HAS LOST THE LIGHT OF LOVE

Embodiments of Divine Love!

FORGETTING HIS inherent eternal divinity, man today regards life as intended only for the pursuit of selfish aims. It is this divinity that should be manifested in man's life. Creation is the projection of Divine Will. It is called Prakriti (Nature). In every object emanating from Nature, the Divine principle exists and must exist. It is to proclaim this immanence of the Divine that man has evolved.

Selfishness Degenerates Man

Consciousness in Nature is not purposeless. When it is filled with ego, it gets deformed. When it is turned towards the Atma, it becomes Divine. To whom is this consciousness to be dedicated? It should be offered to the Divine. However, man today is caught up so much



in selfish pursuits that he has degraded himself to the level of animals and is displaying demonic traits. At every step, he is violating Dharma (righteousness). His every desire is turning into greed. Large-heartedness is on the wane. Man's vision has lost the light of love. Truth is the casualty in man's speech. Spirituality has become a form of ostentation. Qualities like Kama (lust) and Krodha (anger) are having a free reign. Consciousness has become dormant in man. Human relationships have become mechanical and artificial. In fact, humanness has virtually disappeared.

God is the only Guru

In this situation, what is it that man should seek? How can he attain peace and happiness? The first requirement is the cultivation of love for God.

The Divine incarnates to inculcate love in mankind and teach how love should be promoted and practised. Only when such love is developed will man be free from sorrow and trouble; his sins will be wiped out and fear will cease to haunt him.

Where there is love for God, there will be fear of sin. When both of these are present, society will experience morality. Man's primary duty is to foster these three – *Daiva Preeti*, *Papa Bheeti* and *Sangha Neeti* (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society). This has to be done by developing Bhakti (devotion) on the basis of faith and love. Actions have to be performed with devotion. Love is devotion; faith generated by love is Jnana (wisdom). The actions done on the basis of love and faith are Karma. The combination of Jnana and Karma leads to Upasana (worship). Upasana is the combined outcome of Bhakti, Jnana and Karma (devotion, wisdom and action).

In the name of Guru Purnima, you perform some Pujas for some persons and waste your lives. There is only one Guru. He is God. That Guru is within you. You are seeking the Guru all over the world. Your Gunas (qualities) are in you in the form of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara, and can protect you, elevate you. When you act righteously and pursue the right path, they will protect you by their Vishnutva (Divine potency).

Do not Give up God

Sin and merit have no separate existence. Our actions and thoughts

assume the forms of sin or merit as the case may be. Above all, whatever your difficulties, whatever the ordeals you have to undergo, in any situation, do not give up God. Concentrate on the love of God. Although one's mother, father and preceptor are to be adored as divine beings, they are not God. God should be worshipped as mother, father, preceptor, kinsman and friend. Father, mother, and preceptor dwell in their respective abodes. But God dwells in your heart. Love the Lord who resides in your heart. All other objects of love are impermanent. What is the use of education if you have not learnt to worship God?

What does the worship of God mean? Practices like meditation, Japa and penance are all tainted by selfishness. True worship of God consists in seeking union with God by realising one's own divinity. No one should have any doubts about God. The doubting man can achieve nothing. With total faith and total love, you can accomplish anything.

It should be realised that proficiency in fields like music, literature and arts is secured by the grace of the Divine. All fine arts are gifts from God. Nothing can be claimed as one's own achievement. The recipient of God's grace will lack nothing. He will have no troubles and he will commit no wrongs because he has surrendered to God. The person who considers God as his all becomes himself one with God. Hence, direct your mind towards God.

– Excerpted from **Bhagavan's Guru Purnima Discourses.**



WHEN SWAMI BLESSED SACHIN

Prof. A. Prasanna Kumar

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba chose and blessed Sachin Tendulkar on 30th December 1997 to spread joy and peace through his genius. Sachin's domain of 22 yards and dominance for 24 years will now expand, transcending the frontiers of space and time.

“**L**IFE IS A GAME, PLAY IT, A simple yet complicated game, a complicated yet simple game,” famously said Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in a message. The message itself is simple yet profound. When Sunil Gavaskar and Alvin Kallicharan, two ardent devotees of Bhagavan, requested Him to host an international cricket match, Swami was pleased to consider it favourably and He graciously chose the game of cricket to spread the message of unity and oneness.

Sri Sathya Sai Unity Cup Cricket Match

Things began to happen with rapid speed. E.A.S. Prasanna came up with plans to transform the Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium in Puttaparthi into a first class venue. On 30th December 1997, a one day international cricket match for Sri Sathya Sai Unity Cup was hosted between India XI led by Sachin Tendulkar and International XI led by 1996 World Cup Champion side's captain, Arjuna Ranatunga. Sri Sathya Sai Unity Cup



*Sachin and the team with
Sri Sathya Sai Unity Cup.*

Cricket Match, the first of its kind to be held anywhere, became a mega sporting event with the presence and participation of top cricketers, from almost all leading cricket playing countries. Thanks to Andhra Cricket Association Secretary, N. Venkata Rao, I was also privileged to go there to witness the unique event. The previous evening, Venkata Rao and I went to the ground where former India fast bowler G. Kasturirangan, along with Kallicharan, was supervising the ground preparations as per the advice of E.A.S. Prasanna.



As we were chatting, a limousine slid into the stadium. Lo and behold! Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came out of the car and behind Him walked with folded hands Sunil Gavaskar, Arjuna Ranatunga and Sachin Tendulkar. Swami spent ten minutes with the organisers enquiring about details of the preparations, got back into the car along with the three star cricketers and drove away. Suddenly, we noticed the car reversing and stopping at the nearby rest rooms. Swami stepped out of the car and went inside the building to check the upkeep of toilets. We were stunned at the meticulous care Swami was taking of every aspect of arrangements and hospitality.

The next morning at 8.30 a.m., Bhagavan drove in His open car to the stadium led by students carrying flags of 86 countries. Sri I.K. Gujral, the then Prime Minister of India, hoisted Sri Sathya Sai Unity Flag and Swami lit the Unity Torch. Among the guests of honour were Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu, Karnataka Chief Minister, Sri J.H. Patel and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Sri Lakshman Kadirgamar, with Bhagavan seated in the middle, watching the match throughout. During lunch break, a cultural programme was presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School.

For Sachin Tendulkar, the occasion was of utmost importance. Sunil Gavaskar appeared keen, right from the beginning, to see Sachin receiving Swami's blessings. So were Sachin's numerous fans present there. The more we expected Swami to

The hand that soothed the shoulder of one of the greatest wielders of the willow and the words that inspired him to rise to the pinnacle of glory were perhaps not for Sachin Tendulkar only. They were for India and the rising younger generation. What followed is now history inscribed in letters of gold.

turn His gaze on Sachin, the longer we had to wait as Bhagavan 'teased' us by deliberately moving away from Sachin every time he came near Him! Later, Sachin was the proud recipient of the Unity Cup after batting brilliantly and leading India XI to victory over the International XI by a big margin. It was a great moment for Sachin Tendulkar to receive the Unity Cup from Bhagavan's hands. Still we wondered why Swami would not say a word to Sachin. At the presentation ceremony, Bhagavan presented specially made silver cups to invited guests and cricketers which included Clive Lloyd, Hanif Mohammed, Zaheer Abbas and Alvin Kallicharan.

Shower of Divine Grace on Sachin

Then occurred what everyone had been longing for. As the function ended, Swami gently walked towards Sachin, put His hand on Sachin's shoulder and took him for a stroll on the ground. Bhagavan was seen saying something to Sachin though no one could guess what the Divine Message





*Bhagavan's Divine Message
to Sachin.*

was. The hand that soothed the shoulder of one of the greatest wielders of the willow and the words that inspired him to rise to the pinnacle of glory were perhaps not for Sachin Tendulkar only. They were for India and the rising younger generation. What followed is now history inscribed in letters of gold.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message conveyed through this match was ably summed up by Radio Sai e-Magazine of 15th October 2004: It is not only cricket, but in fact everything in this universe has a connection with spirituality.

Five thousand years ago, Lord Krishna declared: "Any good act if lovingly offered to Me becomes sacred. This is the way to transform even ordinary work into worship." Baba reminded man of this timeless message by hinting that even a cricket match became spiritual if it was played entirely for the pleasure of the Lord and offered to Him with love. Sachin Tendulkar upheld the spirit of that message during his illustrious career. In his farewell message to the younger generation, Sachin again conveyed that message when he advised them to focus on the effort without bothering about the outcome. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba chose and blessed Sachin Tendulkar on 30th December 1997 to spread joy and peace through his genius. Sachin's domain of 22 yards and dominance for 24 years will now expand, transcending the frontiers of space and time.

– **The author, Prof. A. Prasanna Kumar, is former member of the Academic Council of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.**

Develop sacred thoughts and lead noble lives. Esteem yourselves as the children of immortality. Divinise your thoughts, words and deeds.

- Baba

Students Corner

BLOSSOMING OF HUMAN EXCELLENCE THROUGH BAL VIKAS

TODAY, I AM GOING TO SPEAK on the topic “Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas – Educare for Loka Vikas.”

First of all, what is Bal Vikas? Bal Vikas is the blossoming of the inherent qualities of a child. Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas is an educational programme created by our Beloved Bhagavan aiming at the blossoming of human excellence. To put it in Swami’s words, “the ideal of Bal Vikas is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean conscience.” In short, the aim of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas is to foster character development and spiritual transformation.

I started attending Bal Vikas classes with one of my cousins who was already attending the classes. Slowly and gradually, I also started attending Sunday Bhajans and taking part in Bal Vikas programme. Luckily, this time I have been given this chance to take part in Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Students and Alumni Meet at Prasanthi Nilayam. Believe me, friends, I joined Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas because of my cousin and now my parents have also become Sai devotees. My father has come with me to Prasanthi Nilayam to attend this Bal Vikas Meet.

Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas has evolved over the years into Education in Human Values, then to 3HV and now to Educare.

Educare aims at putting into practice the five human values, i.e., Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa latent in every human being. Swami says, “Good education is that which teaches the method of achieving world peace, that which destroys narrow mindedness and promotes unity, equality and peaceful co-existence among human beings.” So, Swami’s Bal Vikas is not only for children. It is as much for parents, teachers and the entire world. It is, in fact, Educare for Loka Vikas.

Our Beloved Swami has presented the most beautiful gift to the whole world in the form of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas. It is through this programme that our Gurus help us to bring out our inherent qualities with the help of five teaching techniques of Prayer, Silent Sitting, Group Singing, Story Telling and Group Activities. Through Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas programme, we children get transformed first, then our parents and, of course, our family. Society and the entire world will also be transformed one day through this divine movement of Bal Vikas.

– **From the speech of Velinda from Manipur who spoke on 4th January 2014 in the National Convention of Bal Vikas Alumni and Group 3 students held at Prasanthi Nilayam.**



Swami's Tips to Students

Like the lightning that flashes from clouds, wisdom should shine forth from your education. Deem your heart as the sky. In that sky, your thoughts are the clouds. The mind is the moon, your intellect is the sun. At this young age of yours, dark clouds are likely to gather in your heart. At that moment, the sun and the moon will not be visible. But for how long? Only for a brief period. The clouds are not permanent. If you have forbearance, the clouds will pass and you will be able to see your true Self. Then your mind and intellect will shine brightly. Therefore, cultivate patience and forbearance to experience peace.

Valuable Maxims

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

Follow, master, face, fight, finish, game, challenge, dream, realise, play, share, education, devotion, spirituality.

Follow the Master,

Face the devil,

Fight to the end,

Finish the game.

Life is a game, play it,

Life is a challenge, face it,

Life is a dream, realise it,

Life is love, share it.

Living with God is true education,

Living for God is true devotion,

Living in God is true spirituality.

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

UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES OF OLD MANDIR DAYS

Smt. Vijaya Kumari

WAY BACK IN 1945, MY FATHER who never believed in saints and my mother who had a call to visit Puttaparthi in her dream started their journey from their small village Kuppam to the remote village Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh along with their four sons and three daughters. They boarded a snail train at Bengaluru and reached Penukonda railway station, from where they took a bus to Bukkapatnam and travelled to Puttaparthi in a bullock cart after crossing the river Chitravathi, which was in spate at that time. Happily, they received a warm welcome with much love and affection from a group of people unknown to them. This journey to an unknown territory has since proved that it was our journey to heaven on earth. A strange feeling overwhelmed our hearts and enveloped us in indefinable ecstasy.

Most Beloved Divine Master

We did not know that the handsome lad in the group was the young Sai Baba until we reached the Old Mandir. Though He was nineteen years old, He looked like a lad of twelve, with a slim body and a small waist. His charming face and enchanting smile, filled with fathomless love, found us surrendering to Him unconsciously; it was

really like magic. Without any doubts, any questions or confusion, we accepted Him wholeheartedly as our Most Beloved Divine Master, truly, just by His grace alone. At that moment, we never knew how fortunate the Kuppam family was, never dreaming what else was in store for us.

The Old Mandir, though small and simple, was a feast to the eyes. Young Swami's impish pranks dumbfounded everyone in an unbelievable manner. Especially, His conduct with elderly people was an eye-opener for us. By this, in a simple approach, young Sai taught us youngsters how to respect elders, how to keep them happy and how to regard their advice that evolved out of their decades of experience. Respecting elders is one's prime duty, as our naughty and playful young Sai demonstrated to us.

Music Teacher Par Excellence

It is also our good fortune to have had Swami as our master of music. He taught us many songs with much enthusiasm and delight. Making us sing for hours many times everyday, our Beloved Lord sowed the seeds of devotion deep within our consciousness. When Swami sang Mira Bhajans, extolling the glory of Krishna,



tears of joy and bliss took us to the level of supreme devotion without our being aware of it, then. Only in later years did we realise its importance. Discipline was a priority to our young Sai Master Disciplinarian, and nothing would be missed by His ever-watchful eyes. A small slip while singing or cooking or talking would be promptly corrected by our strict Master. Hours of singing developed the much-elusive concentration, and it was a must for us to be ever watchful to observe His commanding gestures to stop or to continue singing or to indicate what next to sing. Thus, by way of singing the glory of God's all names, He infused and installed devotion and dedication in us silently, without uttering a word of advice; this is really admirable and beyond human perception.

The divine melodies and meaningful verses rocked our senses to sleep; the stomach became numb with rhythm and forgot hunger; the throat danced in delight to the tunes and forgot thirst; the mind danced to the beat and forgot the home, the worries, the future and the worldly desires. Without our knowing it, young Sai led our family deep into the realms of spirituality and taught us the most essential aspect of 'unity in diversity' and revealed to us that there is only one God, in a very simple manner.

Teaching by Example

The Old Mandir was meticulously clean all the time, as young Sai personally took care of its cleanliness, and each item had its own place under His supervision. Speaking softly was a must. Any violation and

His pure love acted like a strong medicine; it cancelled and cured deadly diseases. His selfless love turned bitter-natured people into polite, humble ones. His unsullied love solved intricate problems, to bring about peace and harmony. His elixir of love enlightened many souls and turned them into icons of spirituality, to serve the nation.

Swami would appear from nowhere, like magic. Just one glance with His hands on His hips and the message was conveyed to all those present. Though Mother Chitravathi was close by with abundant water all the time, our dear Lord ensured that no one unnecessarily wasted water. Surprisingly, regardless of the number of unexpected visitors and guests, at the end of the day there would be no wastage in the kitchen. In spite of Swami's busy schedule, He always monitored the supply and usage personally and ensured that not a single grain was wasted. Nothing came into the Old Mandir without His knowledge, and the outflow from the storage room was with His consent only. Swami showed these examples to us at young age, and we watched in astonishment as to how meticulous He could be in every aspect.

Love Personified

We actually came to understand the real meaning of Love, only after coming to young Bhagavan. His selfless, spotless,



unsullied pure Love was displayed in His every action and every deed. That His Life is His Message was proved to us at every step of our life. He always insisted that one should stick to one's own religion and to one's own Guru, with firm belief. Any contemplation to change the Guru according to our worldly needs could be considered as a foolish act, young Sai insisted. There is no need to run hither and thither in search of the Lord, nor is there any need for difficult penance or Japa. Just contemplation of the Lord at all times and chanting the divine glory immerses one in blissful joy. To this very day, we surely know that we are really gifted and blessed to remain under the umbrella of love of our compassionate Sai Bhagavan.

His pure love acted like a strong medicine; it cancelled and cured deadly diseases. His selfless love turned bitter-natured people into polite, humble ones. His unsullied love solved intricate problems, to bring about peace and harmony. His elixir of love enlightened many souls and turned them into icons of spirituality, to serve the nation.

At our tender age, we were drawn to Swami as our young master. We laughed with Him as the greatest entertainer; we played games with Him as a ring master; when He won every game, we considered Him as a super hero – and, when we witnessed His miracles, we fell on our knees and bowed to Him as the Universal Master. When Swami held our hands with intense love and stood by us, like a pillar, in times of crisis, chaos and

commotion, it gave us strength to face all calamities boldly and bravely. This graceful gift allowed us to boldly face every difficult situation, due to the development of firm faith in Him and His teachings. These loving links made us get attached to His form and made us extremely depressed whenever we had to go back to our village. But the memorable thoughts, the habit of singing while doing our daily chores, made us keep Him in our minds and remain close to Him, even though we were far away from the form. Our Lord is nothing but love, love, and love. These lessons not only made us love Him intensely, but also to love even our enemies to bring about a change in them. It developed patience, and, slowly, the meaning of anger and hatred disappeared from our dictionary. These lessons will make anyone cross all the barriers of caste, creed and religion, giving prime importance to the language of the heart. To become one with Him, should be, nay *is* the goal of life.

Giving second life to my father, saving us from many accidents, giving timely advice, loving words of consolation, compassionate care and motherly concern towards all the members of the family, took the shape of an inseparable bond of bountiful joy. Mother Sai and we, His children, became one, purely by His Divine Will.

At every step, transformation took place without our being aware of it. All the families united as one Sai family, and all as the children of Sai, sharing good and



bad together. Loving and helping each other has become part of our everyday life. Like this, Swami made us practise His ideals by putting them into action. Today, spreading His message of pure love to every nook and corner of the world brings us immeasurable joy and satisfaction.

God and His Devotees are Inseparable

During the Old Mandir days, mischievous Sai would disappear. After much shouting and yelling, He would emerge from the nearby bush and surprise us. Sometimes, playful Sai would disappear then suddenly call us from the top of a huge tree or from the top of a hillock.

Now, there is no need to shout for Him, for He is always in our hearts. Over time, the loving call by our names, the enchanting smiles, the numerous Pada Namaskars, the countless interviews slowly disappeared. After many years, the very sight of His form from far away enthralled our hearts. Our prankster Sai, in His delightful game, prepared us to distance ourselves from the physical form and to keep Him ever close to us in our hearts. In the beginning, seeing the enchanting form, we merged in Him. After coming back to our village, through His loving compassionate letters we felt His strong

presence amongst us; we craved for His form. Having seen our plight, once Swami said, "What am I without the devotees?" When we could not understand this, our sweet Lord said, "What is a devotee without the Lord?" Though we did not fully understand then, He made us understand this in a difficult manner, throughout the coming years. Now we know the truth: that He and His devotees are inseparable. The secret is that He has made us realise this truth in a forceful manner; but it is the truth: all humanity is the Radha to Krishna.

It is not without reason that He inspired us to come out with books on supreme devotion and Maya (Maya and the Master). His divine timing is beyond human comprehension. In this period of Kali Yuga, it is very important to know that all are devotees, that with devotion, without any barriers, we can penetrate through the veil of Maya, always having the vision of the Lord, retiring our human eyes to rest permanently, thus to see Him manifested everywhere through the eye of wisdom – all the time, everlastingly.

– **Smt. Vijaya Kumari is the author of the famous book "Anyatha Saranam Nasti" and many other books on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.**

Man is derived from the Divine, is sustained by the Divine and has to merge in the Divine. That is the goal of man. Man is not a petty being, nor is he a weakling or a destitute. He is the most powerful being on earth. You have to take up Sadhana on the strength of this belief.

- Baba

Wish-fulfilling Tree

WALKING IN THE SCORCHING heat of the sun in a forest, a person came across a huge tree on his way and stopped under it to take rest. This was a wish-fulfilling tree, but the traveller was not aware of this fact. As soon as he thought, how nice it would be if he could get some drinking water, he saw a pot full of cold water before him. Getting relief from his fatigue by drinking water, he felt hungry and thought how happy he would be if he could get delicious food also to satiate his hunger! His happiness and surprise became manifold when a sumptuous meal appeared before him. After eating the delicious food to his fill, he felt sleepy and thought how wonderful

it would be if there was a soft bed on which he could sleep happily. At that very moment, a soft bed appeared before him as desired by him. As the wayfarer lay down on the bed, he thought how nice it would have been if his wife was there to press his feet! The very next moment, he found his wife before him.

Extremely surprised to see his wife there, he thought, "My wife lives in the village. It would take her two days to reach here. How could she reach here instantly as I thought of her? Perhaps she is not my wife; rather some goblin has appeared in her form who will now eat me up." The wish-fulfilling tree would give whatever one desired. Hence, a goblin at once appeared there and swallowed him up.


God is also like a wish-fulfilling tree for those who take refuge in Him. Whatever they ask from God, He grants their request and gives the desired thing. Wise people pray to God only for His grace which can give them everything. Those who start asking from God this thing and that thing are foolish. They ultimately ask for something which brings about their disaster. That is why it is said, as is the Mathi (mind), so is the Gathi (destiny).



After eating delicious food, the traveller desired a soft bed, on which he could sleep happily.

Effulgence of Divine Glory

THE TRAFFIC POLICE SUB-INSPECTOR

 ONE OF MY PATIENTS, A retired Deputy Superintendent of Police called Krishnan whom I treated for tuberculosis at the Apollo Hospital, had this true story to relate.

In the 1950s, he had been posted as the Traffic Sub-Inspector at Tirunelveli. Those days, there were no walkie-talkies and the Traffic Sub-Inspector had to be on the road all the time. He heard then that a Swami called Sathya Sai Baba was camping nearby. Being a man of spiritual nature, he decided to go with his friend, offer his respects and a garland to this new Swami and return in time for duty. They went in their jeep but found that Bhajans were on and they couldn't get near Swami. They decided to leave, only to find that the jeep wouldn't start. Another devotee asked them if they had sought Swami's permission to leave. When they replied in the negative, he said, "Well, then the jeep won't start!" They stayed on for the Discourse and lunch and, finally, in the evening they managed to present their by-then-faded garland to Swami, and get His blessings and Vibhuti! The jeep started right away when they were ready to leave now.

When he reached home, his elder brother and father were anxiously waiting.

"Where on earth were you?" they angrily asked. "There were two accidents today; one involving a police jeep and another involving a State transport bus... Where were you?" Krishnan could not sleep all night. He wondered what punishment he would get for such dereliction of duty. Suspension? Show cause notice? Dismissal? Reversion? He prayed to Baba for help!

Next morning, he slowly made his way to the police station. "Oh, sir, what would we have done if you had not been there!" a constable addressed him. He couldn't understand what the fellow was saying; it was all very confusing. He slunk in and sat quietly on his chair and said nothing. Later, he slowly went to the D.S.P's office. He was summoned in. The D.S.P. looked grave. Then he broke the silence. "What a shame that policemen should drink and drive...and that other bus driver... well that was the pedestrian's fault... ah! Anyway, you did whatever you could. Good." Krishnan couldn't believe his ears! Later, putting together all that he heard from here and there, he reconstructed what had 'happened.' 'He' had been there at the site of both accidents, 'he' had booked the culprits, rushed the injured to hospital,

notified the authorities... done the needful promptly and to the best of his abilities,” – as they would say in officialese!

Krishnan rushed back to Baba. He knew it was Baba who had saved him by appearing in his form and acting as the Traffic Sub-Inspector. Compassionate Swami comforted him and blessed him. Krishnan then told Swami that he wanted to resign and serve Swami. Baba said that

he should not do such things; that he had a Karma to finish; that Baba would always be with him. Krishnan was struggling to keep back tears as he related this to me nearly forty years later. Needless to add, his tuberculosis responded well to the treatment.

– Excerpted from “God in our Midst”
by Dr. Hiramalini Seshadri.

Power of Human Mind

When we take food, we think that the food is digested by us and that the food sustains the body. But is it not food that gives us strength and energy. It is the mind that is responsible. When food is consumed, if the mind is not calm and happy, the food may get toxic. It is the mind that raises man from the human to the Divine. Hence, it is essential to ensure purity in thoughts, words and deeds.



Man can achieve nothing without the motive power of the mind. Man gets puffed up with pride on the basis of his wealth, physical strength, scholarship and position. But very few realise whither Ahamkara (ego), which kindles this pride, will lead them.

- Baba

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

INDONESIA

THE SATHYA SAI CENTRE OF Jakarta, Indonesia, observed Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi day on 24th April 2014 by serving food to needy families with elderly people and to orphan children in the village of Semper Timur in northern Jakarta. More than 1,500 families received a total of 15 tonnes of rice, 1.5 tonnes of green lentils, 780 kg of brown sugar, over 7,800 packets of milk



Serving needy children on Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day.

powder and instant noodles. The needy families also received biscuits, bread buns, oranges, Indonesian sweets and water cups, as well as garments. The Sathya Sai Centre hosted a four-hour Bhajan session in the evening, attended by 240 devotees.

U. S. A.

Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day was observed across the U.S.A. by Sathya Sai volunteers who participated in Jyoti



Distribution of food on Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day.

(Light) Meditation and provided food and humanitarian care to thousands of needy people. In the Mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S.A., 40 separate service activities were organised. In Virginia, the Sathya Sai Centres of South Bethesda, Fairfax and Loudoun held a medical camp; Sathya Sai children from the Hampton Road Centre visited the ailing residents of Beacon Shores Nursing Home in Virginia Beach; food supplies were distributed in Norfolk; the Richmond Centre served breakfast to hundreds of needy individuals; and Sathya Sai volunteers in Charlottesville served lunch to the homeless at a Salvation Army shelter. Volunteers cleaned up Jamaica Beach in Queens, New York, near the Atlantic Ocean. Sathya Sai volunteers cleaned a local Centre and distributed food to the needy in Syracuse, New York. An Education in Human Values class was held in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, for local children. In Maine, members from the Scarborough Sathya Sai Centre prepared sandwiches for the Preble Street Homeless



Shelter and visited the Maine Veterans Home to give company to World War II veterans. Food, clothes and toiletries were given to residents of homeless shelters in Orlando, Florida. Food and care packages were distributed in Nashville, Memphis and Chattanooga, Tennessee, as well as in St. Louis, Missouri. Volunteers from Boston, Chelmsford and Northborough in Massachusetts helped clean the Lowell Heritage National Park. In Texas, food was distributed to needy families in rural areas and at a homeless shelter in Houston. Several service projects were carried out in Phoenix, Arizona during April 2014, including the building of a house for a needy family. Sathya Sai children in Arizona entertained the residents of a local nursing home. More than a thousand poor people received food, supplies and toiletry kits from Sathya Sai Centres in Southern California.

CUBA

Over 70 Sathya Sai devotees attended Sivarathri celebrations in Cuba. The event, which commenced on the evening of 28th February 2014 and lasted through the night, included devotional singing, meditation and films about Bhagavan. The Indian Ambassador to Cuba, accompanied by his family, attended the event.

RUSSIA

Volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Kaliningrad hold medical camps twice a year for the impoverished residents of North-West Russia, where there is a lack



Medical camp in a remote village in Russia.

of doctors and medical care facilities due to its remote location. On 5th April 2014, eight Sathya Sai volunteers, including a gynaecologist, an endocrinologist, a psychologist, a medical assistant and two nurses, organised a medical camp in the village of Lublino, where 83 patients received medical care.

HONG KONG

Ten Sathya Sai volunteers visited 33 elderly residents of a senior citizens home on 22nd April 2014. A short talk was given on the life and teachings of Swami, and a few Bhajans were sung in Hindi and Chinese, followed by a game. A guided Light Meditation was conducted in Chinese, and the senior citizens were served light refreshments.

On Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day, 14 Sathya Sai volunteers served brunch to 130 people at Mother Teresa's Home of Love. In the afternoon of the same day, 13 Sathya Sai volunteers served 10 needy families who live in poorly maintained structures called "cage homes," as well





Serving food to senior citizens.

as 60 seniors and single-parent families. Each recipient was given a 4-kg rice bag, cooking oil, salt, biscuits and noodles. On the same day, about 350 Sathya Sai devotees attended evening Bhajans at the Hong Kong Centre, where the new website, "Sathya Sai Universe," was unveiled.

BRAZIL

On 18th and 19th April 2014, the Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Brazil held its



Tenth national congress, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Brazil.

10th national congress at its headquarters in Ribeirão Preto. About 150 educators from five Sathya Sai schools around the country and others attended the meeting, titled

"Human Values for an Integral Education." The Education Secretary of the municipality opened the congress, together with the Institute's President, and 18 papers and five workshops were presented on Sathya Sai educational activities in Brazil. Since its inception in 2000, the Institute has offered more than 100 courses, workshops and talks in support of both academic and character development.

TAIWAN

Sathya Sai volunteers observed Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi day in Taiwan by serving food, interacting with and distributing small gifts to residents of



Helping physically and mentally challenged children in Taiwan.

a home for the physically and mentally challenged in Pali. Students of Sri Sathya Sai Kindergarten along with their teachers visited two senior citizens' homes in Taipei City, where the students sang Human Values songs, offered massage to the elderly and distributed food lovingly. The seniors requested that the teachers bring the children back in the future.



In the afternoon, a Bhajan session was followed by Light Meditation at the Chinese Centre, and it was decided that meditation would be conducted henceforth after every Chinese Bhajan session. Bhajans were also held at the Tienmou Sathya Sai Centre.

FRANCE

Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day was observed on 24th April 2014 at the Sathya Sai Centre of Paris, by more than 40 members, with a devotional programme, the reading of a Discourse on Jyoti Meditation and a video Bhajan of Swami. Five Sathya Sai volunteers served food



Serving homeless people living in tents in France.

and hot coffee to 15 homeless people living in tents in the woods. In addition, about 10 Sathya Sai volunteers separately distributed food, clothing, blankets, towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps and other items to the homeless, as part of their monthly activities. The volunteers also provided hot coffee and conversed with the destitute people being served.

THAILAND

On 20th April 2014, Sathya Sai volunteers from Sai Prashanti and Rajdamneo Centres visited the disadvantaged community of Jajurat. The volunteers



Serving destitute children in Thailand.

provided milk and snacks to about 40 needy children, taught them Human Values songs in Thai and distributed 45-kg bags of rice to 300 needy families. The two Sathya Sai Centres also served lunch to about 60 children and adults from local orphanages.

Easwaramma Day was celebrated on 3rd May with a Human Values drama about the exemplary lives of Lakshmi Bai, Helen Keller and Florence Nightingale – all of whom showed courage, determination and spirit of service. About 360 guests attended the programme, where a Thai dance by Sathya Sai school children was also presented and all 55 participating students received medals. On 6th May, Sathya Sai volunteers served 176 packets containing Puris, fried potatoes, sweets and cakes to prisoners at a local jail.



NEW ZEALAND

About eight Sathya Sai volunteers in New Zealand operate a community programme to assist needy children on an ongoing basis. The children are helped with school work, provided breakfast and entertained with music, games and sports. On 10th May 2014, about 20 children from Burmese families and 10 children from Pacific Island families attended the community programme at Rongomai, South Auckland, where they received tuition as well as food, and played games and sports. The Burmese children are part of a "Study-care Programme" at the St. Mary's Church in Glen Innes, which has helped school children with their homework since 2000.

ITALY

The Sathya Sai International Organisation of Italy participated in the 104th staging of the festival, "The World I Would Like," near Milan, from 24th April to 4th May 2014. Hundreds of visitors



Human Values workshop in Italy.

attended the festival, which covered nature, environment, organic food, wellness and natural lifestyles. Twenty-five Sathya Sai volunteers helped to organise Education in Human Values workshops for children, a book stand, a photo exhibition and several conferences on human values. Children created masks, sang songs and organised plays on human values. Visitors showed an avid interest in the human values programme, and many parents asked to be contacted for future workshops and seminars.

SPAIN

The National Sathya Sai retreat in Spain, titled "His Life our Inspiration, His Message our Challenge," was held during Easter, 18th to 20th April 2014 in Madrid. Seventy-five Sathya Sai members, including senior organisation leaders from Italy, participated in the event, which focused on service and how to become exemplars of His universal message of love and unity. Several workshops were



National Sathya Sai retreat in Spain.

held and participants shared experiences and reflections. Inspiring speeches were given by Sathya Sai members who work in professional fields, on the practical application of Swami's message in society and how spirituality can unite all. Sathya Sai youth organised a Human Values "treasure hunt," which provided fun and education.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

BHARAT

Gujarat: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Surat organised Mass Upanayanam at Surat on 4th May 2014, wherein 18 boys were initiated amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by 12 priests, and all the rituals were conducted in a systematic manner.



Mass Upanayanam at Surat.

The boys were given three pairs of clothes and the parents were also given clothes which they wore during the ceremony. The ceremony which started at 7.30 a.m. concluded at 5.30 p.m. The founder chairman of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi,

Surat, Sri Agnihotri Nilkanthbhai Shastri blessed all the boys and explained to them the meaning and inner significance of chanting Gayatri Mantra. 20 relatives were invited from each family to attend the ceremony. Towards the end, boys and their parents were given gifts and sweets. All the priests were honoured. Similarly, 12 boys in Ahmedabad participated in Mass Upanayanam which was also conducted in a systematic manner.

Haryana and Chandigarh: A State-level Inter School Declamation Contest was organised during Easwaramma week celebrations for creating awareness in school and college students about their social responsibilities, environmental care and importance of values in life. Initially, the competitions were organised at district level on 10th May 2014. 180 students from over 80 schools participated. The winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes from each district qualified for the State-level competition which was organised on 17th May 2014 at Yamuna Nagar. In all, 21 contestants from eight districts participated. The final winners were awarded prizes and certificates by the State President. The particulars of all the contestants were uploaded on the state website, www.saihry.com. They were also enrolled as members of State literary club.

Maharashtra and Goa: Dharmakshetra was agog with happiness and festivity when five differently-abled couples took the solemn vow of lifetime togetherness in the holy precincts of Shanti Deep in Dharmakshetra on Sri Rama Navami Day,



8th April 2014. Organised by Borivili Samithi in association with a blind uplift charitable trust, these five couples were married at the Divine Abode of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Mumbai amidst auspicious sounds of Mantras and blessings from all including their relatives.

Rajasthan: Sri Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsava was celebrated across the State of Rajasthan for the whole week from 21st to 27th April 2014. At Jodhpur, a special Bhajan Sandhya was organised for the general public on 24th April, while the devotees of Jaipur Samithi organised Mass Narayana Seva and blood donation camp on this occasion. Udaipur Sai Samithi distributed school bags to needy children and performed Gayatri Yajna. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Ajmer, on this occasion, organised a special public programme which started with Omkaram and Bhajans followed by screening of a video show which depicted unfolding of Swami's medicare mission leading to the construction of two super speciality hospitals at Prasanthigram and Whitefield (Bengaluru). This was followed by an offering of musical tribute to Bhagavan by the renowned artiste Sri Sathyanarayanan Nair, who presented popular Sai Bhajans, keeping the audience mesmerised for nearly one-and-a-half hours.

Easwaramma's Day was celebrated across the State of Rajasthan on 6th May 2014. On this occasion, a special "Bal

Vikas Rally" was organised at Ajmer, in which children and adults, while singing Bhajans, walked down the streets carrying in their hands placards depicting Swami's universal teaching to mankind. After one hour, the rally culminated at Samithi Centre. A cultural programme was organised in the evening in which children gave their colourful presentation. On this day, a devotional musical presentation entitled "Suno Sai Ki Sundar Kahani" was organised at Jaipur. This programme presented the entire life story of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in 50 minutes.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Ajmer organised free distribution of food and water on 7th May 2014 to thousands of



Distribution of food at Ajmer.

pilgrims who came to Ajmer to pay their homage at the world famous shrine of Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisty during weeklong Urs celebration at Ajmer.





About SSSSTPD

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

The Publications Division (SSSSTPD) caters to:

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

and conferences on spirituality, religion, education, and human values.

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

Other Books By SSSSTPD (In English)

1. Sai Sathya Sakha
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3. Satyopanisad I
4. Satyopanisad II
5. Gurudev
6. Namasmarana
7. Bhakthi And Health
8. Life Is Love, Enjoy It!
9. Life Is A Challenge, Meet It!
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11. Bhagawan And Bhakta
12. Body And Mind
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— *Baba*

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