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"Pots are many, but clay is one; jewels
are many, but gold is one. Similarly,
God is one but He manifests
Himself in various forms. Ekam
Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti
(truth is one, but the wise refer to it
by various names). People call God
by many names like Allah, Jesus,
Buddha, Zoroastra, Rama, Hari
and Hara. But God is one."

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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
8TH SEPTEMBER 1996

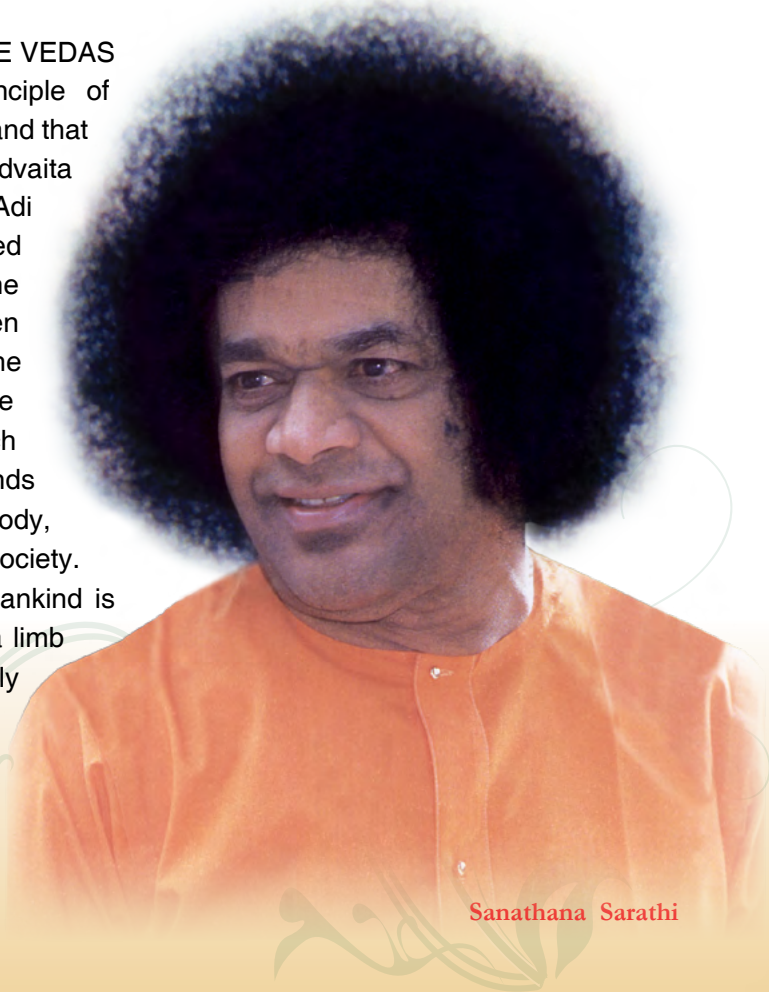
ATTAIN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ATMIC KINGDOM

*One may have mastered the Vedas and Vedangas,
One may have the expertise to compose prose and poetry,
But if one lacks purity of heart, one will ruin oneself.
Never forget these words of wisdom.*

(Telugu Poem)

LOVE IS THE REMEDY FOR ALL PROBLEMS OF MAN

THE TEACHINGS OF THE VEDAS are based on the principle of Dvaita (dualism) and that of Vedanta on the principle of Advaita (non-dualism). This is what Adi Sankara preached and propagated through various examples. The relationship that exists between Vedanta and the Vedas is the same as that exists between the body and its various limbs such as eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands and feet. As are the limbs to the body, so are the human beings to society. Society is a limb of mankind, mankind is a limb of Nature and Nature is a limb of God. When you enquire deeply into these relationships, you will find the underlying principle of Advaita in the creation.



Desire is the Root Cause of Dualism

In the assembly of scholars at Kasi (Varanasi), scholars started indulging in argumentation due to differences of opinion on philosophical subjects. Amused at this spectacle, Sankara said, *Vade Vade Vajrate Vairam* (argumentation will lead to conflicts). Such vain argumentation will lead only to enmity; it will not bring peace. No problem can be solved by indulging in futile argumentation.

To overcome worries in life is the main problem of man. In fact, the entire life of man is full of worries. There is not a single moment in man's life when he is free from worries.

To be born is a worry, to be on the earth is a worry; world is a cause of worry and death too; entire childhood is a worry and so is the old age; life is a worry, failure is a worry; all actions and difficulties cause worry; even happiness too is a mysterious worry. Devotion to Swami alone will put an end to all your worries. Oh people! Develop such devotion and love.

(Telugu Poem)

It is only through love for God that you can get rid of worries in life. Love is the remedy for all problems of man. Where there is love, there can be no hatred, no jealousy and no differences. Love has all the power to develop equality and harmony. But the Vedas speak of this principle of love only to a small extent.

Many Vedic scholars use the knowledge of the Vedas to fulfil their desires and not

Experience of oneness gives bliss. That is why Sankara propagated the principle of Advaita. However, it is not that easy to experience the principle of Advaita. You have to conduct proper enquiry and undergo the process of Samskara (refinement). When you reach the ripe stage of Samskara, you can easily realise the principle of oneness. How fortunate is such a person who realises the principle of oneness!



to gain the experience of Divinity. They chant the Vedas from dawn to dusk and propagate the teachings of the Vedas but do not practise them themselves. The Chamakam part of "Rudra Prasna" deals with the fulfilment of man's desires. In these Mantras, Cha Mey is repeated again and again which means 'I want this, I want that'. Desire is the root cause of dualism. The desire for a particular thing arises because you think it is separate from you. Here there are two entities, one, the person who desires and two, the object desired. The principle of Advaita emphasises on the unity of the person who desires and the object of desire. A person observes the principle of Dvaita when he considers himself different from the object of desire. Here is a handkerchief. You say, I want handkerchief because handkerchief is different from you. This is dualism. But there is an underlying principle of Advaita in handkerchief also which can be easily



demonstrated. This is a cloth; but when you analyse deeply, you will realise that it is not a cloth but a bundle of threads. On further enquiry, you will say that these are not threads but cotton. In fact, cotton, threads and cloth are one and the same. Here you have to enquire into two aspects – Pratyaksha (direct experience) and Paroksha (indirect experience). Even after having the direct experience of something, sometimes it is not possible to describe it in words. For example, a dumb person cannot describe the taste of the food items that he consumes. Similarly, the bliss of Advaita cannot be described in words. It can only be experienced but cannot be explained to people. Here direct experience is of little consequence when it comes to explaining it to others. But, unfortunately, people give importance to only direct experience; they attach no significance to indirect evidence.

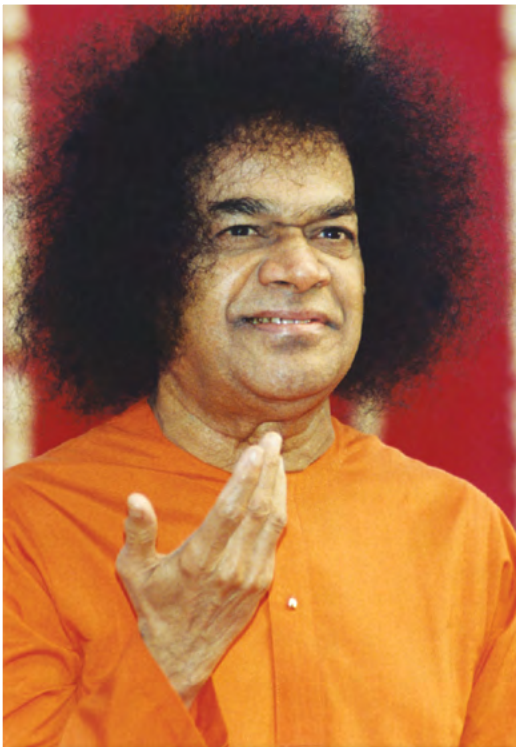
Divinity is Present in all

Here is a small example. There is an ice cube. What is the basis of the ice cube? It is water. Ice cube is the Pratyaksha Pramana (direct evidence) while water is the Paroksha Pramana (indirect evidence). Without water, there can be no ice cube. What is of primary importance – ice cube or water? It is water, the Paroksha which is the basis of the ice cube. In the same way, it is the unseen Divinity which is the basis of this visible world. But man is not able to realise this truth because he is merely chanting the Vedic Mantras and trying to experience the teachings of the Vedas without actually putting them into

practice. He is leading a worldly life and is following the path of Pravritti (worldliness) in this transient Prakriti (Nature). The path of Nivritti (spirituality) is totally opposite to Pravritti. Pravritti leads to worldliness while Nivritti leads to Divinity.

In the face of all challenges, Sankara strived hard to propagate the principle of Divinity which is the fundamental basis of this creation. His Guru Gaudapada provided him all support and encouragement. Though Sankara was young in age, he was steadfast in his resolve to propagate Advaita. If Sankara at the young age of sixteen could conduct debates with great scholars and convince them of the validity of the principle of Advaita, it was only by the power of Divinity which was his driving force. Advaita is the basis for everything. What is meant by Advaita? It is the oneness of everything. Some vendors in the market sell sugar candy in the forms of various animals like cat, elephant, dog, etc., to attract children. Innocent children see only the form and demand, I want cat, I want elephant... Names and forms like cat and elephant are different but the basis of all of them is sugar. When you eat any part of these animals like ears, tail, they all taste sweet. In fact, their entire form is full of sweetness. In the same manner, Divinity pervades the entire world. *Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma* (verily all this is Brahman), *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam* (the entire universe is permeated by God), *Iswara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). Sankara realised this truth and propagated to the





The Atma pervades everyone from top to toe. Only those who do not know the presence of the immortal Self in the body aspire for the poison of worldliness.

Once you taste this divine ambrosia, you will not have taste for worldly matters. Therefore, you should make efforts to have the experience of the Atma.

entire world. But some devotees attribute a particular name and form to God and consider their form of worship superior to other forms of God which is the cause of all differences.

A rich man had great love and devotion for Lord Krishna. He wanted to get an idol of Krishna made of gold, perform Puja (worship) and Abhishekam (ceremonial bath) everyday and partake of the sanctified water. He went to a goldsmith, gave him twenty gold coins and asked him to make an idol of Krishna. He gave another twenty coins and asked him to prepare the idol of a cow to be placed behind Krishna, and a similar amount for an idol of a peacock to be placed near the idol of Krishna. He also got a cup made of twenty gold coins for performing Abhishekam everyday. Everyday he used to perform Abhishekam to the Krishna idol and drink the sanctified water. But the flow of time will not be the same always. Nobody can say when one has to undergo difficulties in one's life. Happiness and sorrow are like two pots hung on each side of a Kavadi (a pole with a sling attached to both sides to hang pots on each side). How can anyone know what would happen in the next moment? *Ksheene Punye Martyalokam Vishanti* (once the accrued merit is exhausted, one has to come to the mortal world). The financial position of the rich man became worse day by day. As he was finding it difficult to make both ends meet, he decided to sell the gold idols to another rich man and get some money. The other rich man first weighed the cup used for Abhishekam and fixed its price as sixty thousand rupees as it was made of twenty gold coins. Then he weighed the peacock, the cow and Krishna's idol one after the other and fixed the price of each of



them as sixty thousand rupees. However, the seller was not satisfied. He said, "What is this! You are putting the same price for Krishna as well as cow, peacock and cup. I cannot bear this. You should give more price for Krishna".

Then the buyer said, "You have more value for the idol of Krishna than other objects because Krishna's form is more important for you. But what is important for me is the gold contained in each of them". He gave importance to the weight of gold and not to the form. Likewise, we give importance to humans based on name and form without realising that the same Divinity is present in everyone in the form of five elements. The realisation of this oneness is the principle of Advaita. The five elements are the same in everyone; there is no sixth element in anyone. But we are deluded because we go by the form.

Excessive Desires Cause Disaster

Excessive desires are the cause of misery. Desires are necessary but they should be under some limit. Most of you might have read the story of King Midas. Though he was very rich, he was obsessed with greed. Therefore, he started praying to God from dawn to dusk with intense devotion. Devotee prays and God grants his prayer. God appeared before him and offered to grant him any boon. Then Midas said, "Oh Lord, whatever I touch should turn into gold. Please grant me this boon". God cautioned him, "This is a boon you should not ask for. You will not derive any happiness from it; rather you will become

the victim of so many problems and worries. Ultimately, you will ruin your life. Therefore, do not ask for this boon". But Midas insisted, "You leave me to my fate; I want only this boon". What can anyone do if one does not listen to sound advice?

Can anybody change what is written in the destiny of anyone? There is no point in feeling sorry about it even for hundred years.
(Telugu Poem)

Then God said, "Okay, if you want to suffer your fate, you may suffer". He granted his prayer and disappeared.

Overjoyed at the boon received from God, Midas returned home. He came and sat on the mattress and kept the pillow aside. Immediately, both the mattress and the pillow turned into gold. He was happy that both the mattress and the pillow turned into gold with his touch, but he wanted to further test the efficacy of the boon he received. Therefore, he entered his garden. All the trees, flowers and the saplings turned into gold when he touched them. After some time, he felt tired and hungry. He asked a servant to bring food. When he tried to eat it, it turned into gold as he took it in his hands. He was feeling hungry but was unable to eat anything. He cried, "Alas! What would be my fate now"! Out of desperation, he hugged his daughter who also turned into a statue of gold. Then Midas came to his senses. He repented, "Fie on me, I am so foolish that I did not pay heed to the advice of God". Again he prayed to God wholeheartedly with intense feelings. God manifested before him and said, "My dear! You have fallen to this state



because you did not listen to Me. What do you want now"? Midas prayed to Him to take back the boon given to him. From that moment onwards, he developed a sense of contentment with whatever he had.

Excessive desires lead to such disastrous consequences. One who follows the divine command implicitly will be blessed with all comforts and auspiciousness. That is why Sankara said:

*Oh man, give up your thirst for money.
Give up all your desires by proper
discrimination. The wealth you have
is nothing but the result of your past
actions. Therefore, be contented with
whatever you have.* (Telugu Song)

As are your Feelings, so is the Result

Oh man! You may have some desires. But do not give room to greed. You must develop love to attain God. That love alone will give you everything you need. It will give you all that you require at the appropriate time and place.

*Do not ask, oh mind, do not ask. The
more you ask, the more you will be
neglected. God will certainly grant you
what you deserve without your asking.
Did He not grant the wish of Sabari,
who never asked? Did He not redeem
Jatayu, who never asked but sacrificed
his life for His cause?* (Telugu Poem)

King Dasaratha asked Rama to pour water in his mouth in his last moments. But he was not fortunate to have Rama by his side when the end came. But Rama poured water in the mouth of Jatayu,

though Jatayu did not ask for this boon. He sanctified the life of Jatayu and granted him liberation. Sabari chanted the Name of Rama day and night. But did she ask for anything? No. On coming to know that Rama had entered the forest, she waited for Him everyday. As she did not know by which path Rama would come, she cleaned all the paths leading to her hermitage. Sitting under a berry tree, she thought: It seems Lord Rama has come to the forest along with Mother Sita. He may come this way and ask me, "Mother, give me some fruits to eat". She started imagining in this manner due to her intense love for Lord Rama.

She plucked some fruits, tasted each of them and kept aside the sweetest of them for offering to Lord Rama. Lord Rama also reciprocated her feelings by showering His grace on her. God is the embodiment of Anugraha (grace); there is no trace of Agraaha (anger) in Him. But as the saying goes, *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as are the feelings, so is the result), He will respond as per the feelings of the Sadhaka. When you stand in front of a mirror in a posture of salutation, you will see your reflection also doing the same. If you point a finger at your reflection showing anger, your reflection will also do the same at you. Similarly, Nature is like a mirror. As is your action, so is the reaction.

*Oh man, is it possible to escape the
consequences of actions?*

*You may study the scriptures and
worship your family deities,*

*You may go to a forest and perform
intense penance,*



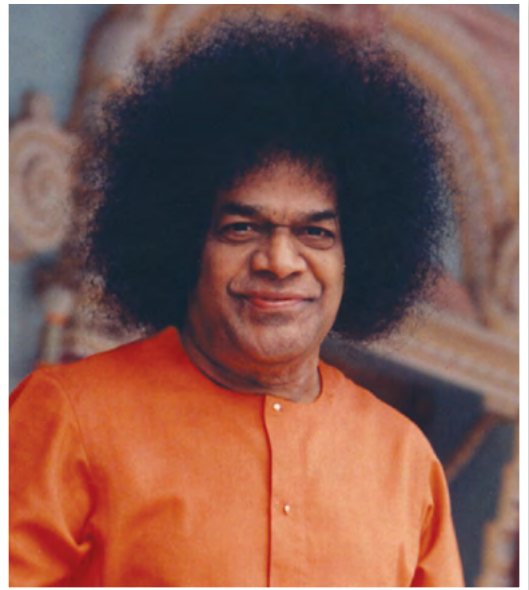
But it is impossible to escape the consequences of your actions.

(Telugu Poem)

Money Makes many Wrongs

God is the cause, Nature is the effect. This world is nothing but the manifestation of cause and effect. Whatever you do in front of the mirror of Nature will come back to you in the form of reaction, reflection and resound. In fact, there is only one entity. You see the object and its reflection only when there is a mirror. Without the mirror, there can be no reflection. This is the mystery of Nature.

From the worldly point of view, there are three entities – yourself, your reflection and the mirror. If you ask what is 3-1, even a first standard student will say 2. He also knows the worldly mathematics well. But God does not agree to this. He says $3-1 = 1$. You may make fun of God, “What is this? God might not have attended any school. He does not know the basic principles of mathematics”. Then God says, “Oh madcap, there are three entities here – yourself, your reflection and the mirror. Take out the mirror. What remains is only yourself, the reality”. What appears from the worldly point of view is different from the spiritual point of view. Many people say, money makes many things. But I say, money makes many wrongs. It is only when you realise this truth will you be able to put money to proper use.



Realise the Principle of Oneness

Sankara was able to explain the principle of oneness even in day-to-day matters. This is the uniqueness of his philosophy of Advaita. As I told you yesterday, pots are many, but clay is one; jewels are many, but gold is one. Similarly, God is one but He manifests Himself in various forms. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). People call God by many names like Allah, Jesus, Buddha, Zoroastra, Rama, Hari and Hara. But God is one. This can be illustrated by an example in day-to-day life. The owner of a house is addressed by his wife as ‘my dear husband’, his grandson says, ‘my dear grandfather’, his brother says, ‘my dear brother’, his son addresses him as ‘my dear father’ and his daughter-in-law says, ‘my dear father-in-law’. Though the person is one, he is addressed by different people differently based on



their relationship with him. This is worldly relationship.

People pray to God:

*Twameva Matacha Pita Twameva,
Twameva Bandhuscha Sakha
Twameva,*

*Twameva Vidya Dravinam Twameva,
Twameva Sarvam Mama Devadeva.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Oh Lord! You alone are my father and mother, friend and relation, wisdom and wealth. You are my everything).

But Sankara did not approve of this type of prayer. When you say, “You are my father”, you are different from father. Sankara said, “It is not correct to say, You are my father, You are my mother, etc., which connotes the principle of duality. Instead, you should say, “You are I, I am You; You and I are one”. This shows the doctrine of Advaita. The Vedas propound the same truth through the Mahavakyas (profound statements), “*Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman), *Tattwamasi* (That thou Art). Experience of oneness gives bliss. That is why Sankara propagated the principle of Advaita. However, it is not that easy to experience the principle of Advaita. You have to conduct proper enquiry and undergo the process of Samskara (refinement). When you reach the ripe stage of Samskara, you can easily realise the principle of oneness. How fortunate is such a person who realises the principle of oneness! In fact, there is none more fortunate than him in this world. He is the King of kings and the Emperor of emperors. He is the king of the Atmic kingdom. The

Atma pervades everyone from top to toe. Only those who do not realise the presence of the immortal Self in the body aspire for the poison of worldliness. Once you taste this divine ambrosia, you will not have taste for worldly matters. Therefore, you should make efforts to have the experience of the Atma. That is why Sankara strived hard to propagate this principle of Advaita in villages as well as in cities right from a simpleton to a scholar.

Sankara demonstrated ideals in every aspect of his life. Before he left his house, he gave a promise to his mother. She said, “My dear, you have become a renunciant and are leaving the house. But it is my wish that you should be by my side when I leave this body”. Sankara was pure-hearted and he kept up his promise given to his mother. In fact, whatever one says with purity of heart will become true. If he points towards a flower and says, this is not a flower, it will cease to be a flower. You should understand this truth.

Faith Confers Deservedness

There is an incident from the Mahabharata which illustrates this truth. A day prior to the commencement of the Mahabharata war, Krishna took Arjuna with Him for a walk in a forest. They were discussing who will fight with whom and such other war related matters. It was at that time that Krishna wanted to subject Arjuna to a test. God always tests the deservedness of a person before showering His grace on him. The reason is, only a person of deservedness will be able to make the best use of grace conferred on



him. As it was getting dark, Krishna said to Arjuna "Let us go back home". Then He started His test.

Krishna pointed towards a bird perched on a tree and said, "Arjuna, see how beautiful is this peacock"! He started this conversation to see the state of Arjuna's mind. Arjuna replied, "Yes, Swami, the peacock is really beautiful". Krishna said, "Oh madcap, that is not a peacock. Don't you see it is an eagle"? Arjuna replied, "Yes, Swami, it is an eagle". Then Krishna slapped him on his back and said, "What a fool you are, Arjuna that you are unable to make out whether it is a peacock, an eagle or some other bird? Look carefully. It is neither a peacock nor an eagle. It is a pigeon". Arjuna replied, "Yes, Swami, it is a pigeon". Pretending to be a little angry, Krishna said, "Don't you have common sense? Don't you have discrimination power? What are you thinking? You don't seem to enquire whether it is a peacock or an eagle or a pigeon. You are blindly saying yes to whatever I say". Then Arjuna replied, "Oh Krishna, if I say it is not a peacock, You may change it into a peacock. Similarly, if I say it is not an eagle or a pigeon, You may turn it into any of them. You can do anything. Therefore, Your word is important for me. How does it matter to me whether it is a pigeon or a peacock or an eagle"? Krishna was very happy that Arjuna had so much faith in His words. He placed His hand on Arjuna's head and blessed him.

*Manmana Bhava Madbhakto
Madyaji Maam Namaskuru*

Maam Evaishyasi Satyam

Te Pratijane Priyo Asi Mey.

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

Krishna said to Arjuna, "Now you have become My true devotee. You have got total faith in My words and, therefore, you will emerge victorious in whatever you do". It was only after this incident that Krishna gave the knowledge of the Bhagavadgita to Arjuna. What is the use of imparting the knowledge of scriptures to a person who does not have faith? At the time of Mahabharata war, Krishna was 86 years old and Arjuna was 84 years old. All those years prior to the war, Krishna never tried to impart the knowledge of Vedanta to Arjuna. All of a sudden, He started teaching him Vedanta. God showers His grace on an individual at the appropriate time, place and circumstance. He said, "Arjuna, who are these people? You think, they are your relations. But, in fact, they are not so. You, I and they are all one and the same". Arjuna was utterly confused listening to this. He thought, "How can we say, all are one? In that case, where is the necessity for a war"? Then Krishna said, "Oh madcap, there is a reason for this which I am aware of and you are not. I am the embodiment of awareness, whereas you are in a state of ignorance".

*Without coming under the veil of
forgetfulness,
Always in the waking, dream and deep
sleep states,*



*One should constantly be aware of
the Soham Mantra that would enable
one to realise the Atma Tattwa.*

By the grace of Sadguru,

*Oh Man! Cultivate the sense of
discrimination.* (Telugu Poem)

God Knows the Past, Present and Future

Krishna added, "I know the past, present and future whereas you do not know. That is why you are carried away by the physical relationship you have with them in the present. You do not know the past. You knew it once, but now you have forgotten". Then Arjuna asked, "Swami, You say, You, I and they are all one. Then how is it that only You are aware of this truth while I am not aware of"? Krishna replied, "You see from a worldly point of view; I see from the point of view of Nivritti or Atma. I transcend the three periods of time. That is why I am omniscient while you are not".

To illustrate this point, Krishna gave a beautiful analogy. I am narrating this to you by changing the names so that you will understand easily. Once a man went to Kashmir. There he bought a piece of cloth as it was available at a cheaper price. On his return from Kashmir, he gave that piece of cloth to his mother who put it in an almirah and forgot all about it. Ten years passed. One day, the mother found this piece of cloth in the almirah while she was looking for something. She called her son and said, "Here is a piece of cloth. Get it stitched". Accordingly, the son got a shirt stitched from that piece of cloth and wore it on his birthday. When he bent down to pick

up a sweet dish prepared by his mother, the shirt at once got torn. His mother was surprised. She said, "This is a new shirt, how come it got torn so quickly"? Then the son explained to her, "Mother, the shirt is new, no doubt, but the cloth is of old stock". Is this not true? In the same manner, Krishna told Arjuna, "You have forgotten your reality while I am always aware of it. This is the difference between you and Me".

In the Mahabharata war, Arjuna was dejected and depressed at the death of so many young warriors including his son Abhimanyu. He asked Krishna, "Swami, how is it that Abhimanyu died so young? Being his father and much older than him, I should have gone first". Then Krishna replied, "Nobody can say who will go when. None can escape death when the appointed time comes".

*The body is bound to perish, how much
ever you protect and nourish it. In the
same manner, whatever is written in
your destiny, good or bad, will happen
even if you hide yourself in a thick
forest.* (Telugu Poem)

Whatever you face in this life is the result of your many past lives. For example, a young man of 25 years hits a boulder with a hammer twenty times, but the boulder does not break. Afterwards, the boulder breaks when an old man hits it only twice. The old man boasts, "This young man hit the boulder twenty times, but it did not break whereas I broke it only with a second strike". Then the young man said

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CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF GUNTUR DEVOTEES

MORE THAN 3,000 DEVOTEES came to Prasanthi Nilayam from Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh on a three-day pilgrimage from 7th to 9th June 2015, and presented music and cultural programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first programme presented on 7th June 2015 was a dance ballet which recounted the experiences of some ardent devotees of Bhagavan from Guntur that included Sri Ramabrahmam, Sri Anil Kumar, Sri Narayan Rao and Sri Jandhyala Papayya Sastry. Excellent acting and dance performances of Bal Vikas children



Dance ballet by Bal Vikas children of Guntur.

coupled with perfect choreography and make-up made the drama a memorable presentation. The second programme of Guntur devotees was a bouquet of devotional songs which they offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan on 8th June 2015. Beginning their presentation with the

song "Parthiswara Sathya Saiswara" (Sai, the Lord of Puttaparthi), they saturated the entire milieu with devotional fervour by soulful rendition of group songs which included "Tallivi Neeve Tandriivi Neeve" (You are mother and father), "Narayana Sathya Narayana", "O Maa O Maa O Maa Sai Maa" (Oh dear Sai Mother).

SUMMER COURSE IN INDIAN CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

A Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality was organised at Prasanthi Nilayam from 12th to 14th June 2015 for the students and teachers of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning with a view to expose them to the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Bharat and orient them into the educational philosophy of this unique institution which is based on the vision of the Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, that spiritual and empirical education must go hand in hand.

The event marked the beginning of the academic year for students and teachers of all the four campuses – Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan, Muddenahalli and Anantapur of the university, as well as Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam (Classes XI and XII) and Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English



Medium School, Rajahmundry (Class X). Over 2,500 students and 200 teachers participated in the Summer Course.

The morning sessions of the Summer Course were held in Poornachandra Auditorium and afternoon sessions were conducted in Sai Kulwant Hall. There were also post-dinner Parayanam Sessions which provided opportunity to the students to share their experiences with Bhagavan.

Day 1 – Friday, 12th June 2015

On the first day, following the invocatory Veda chanting by students at 8.30 a.m. Dr. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Warden, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute extended

to elevation. That is the ideal which the students should observe while pursuing their studies. Spiritual education, He said, is true education. Bhagavan exhorted one and all to know their own truth by following the path of spirituality. Spiritual path, He added, is the only way to God-realisation.

Prof. K.B.R. Varma, Vice Chancellor of the Institute, then delivered the inaugural address. He congratulated all new students in getting admission to this unique educational establishment and urged them to lead a selfless life. He touched upon the rich history and diversity of Indian culture and the profound impact it had across the globe.



Summer Course participants in Poornachandra Auditorium.

a warm welcome to all the participants and touched upon the importance Bhagavan Baba gave to spiritual education and the interplay between body, mind and soul as the three main components of life. He suggested that all participants choose a few teachings of Baba during the course of the event and determine to practise them throughout the academic year.

A brief video of Bhagavan Baba's Discourse was then broadcast, in which He emphasised that education must lead

These talks were followed by a Faculty Panel Discussion on the theme: "Lessons from the Mahabharata for Modern Society". Prof. A Sudhir Bhaskar, Professor (Hon.), Prasanthi Nilayam Campus was the moderator. The discussion centred around specific situations in the Mahabharata and the inherent conflicts that they portrayed. The panelists threw light on the lessons that the epic teaches. These include Dharma, honesty, loyalty and sacrifice.

This was followed by a Panel Discussion, in which four Institute alumni participated. The session was chaired and moderated by Prof. (Miss) Rajeshwari C. Patel, a faculty member of Anantapur Campus. The discussion centred on the role of Sai



students in society in all areas of their life – professional, social, family, personal and spiritual. The alumni shared the lessons they drew from their experiences and how faith in Bhagavan Baba and His love shaped their life and character.

The evening session held in Sai Kulwant Hall consisted of talks by two students, namely, Sri V. Sairam from Prasanthi Nilayam Campus and Sri Seemesh Bhaskar from Brindavan Campus. Elaborating their speeches with stories from Bhagavan and ancient Indian scriptures, the speakers provided insights into Bharatiya epics and highlighted the need to sacrifice one's ego.

Day 2 – Saturday, 13th June 2015

Following the customary invocatory Veda chanting, the morning session on the second day was a Faculty Panel Discussion on the topic “Lessons from the Ramayana for Modern Society”. Dr. (Ms.) T.R. Rajeswari, a faculty member of Anantapur Campus was the moderator. The panel focused on the wonderful lessons that the epic Ramayana imparted and how they could be applied in daily life. It highlighted the mistakes made by Ravana and high ideals set by Lord Rama and their relevance to different aspects of modern life.

The tempo stepped up a notch with a scintillating Bhajan Workshop led by young teachers and research scholars, who are part of the Bhajan Group at Prasanthi Nilayam. The genesis of Bhajans by Bhagavan Baba was discussed starting way back when Baba was eight years

old! A video clip of Swami talking about the significance of Bhajans was also broadcast.

The final item of the morning was a talk on the “Message of the Vedas for Practical Daily Living” by Dr. Sekhar Boddupalli from California, U.S.A. He discussed the efficacy of people of the community coming together and praying to God. He narrated his discussion with Bhagavan Baba regarding the Vedas and how He stated that chanting of Vedic Mantras was very powerful. Veda is Deva as it expands one's consciousness and helps one contemplate on the Divine, said Baba.

The evening session was again held in Sai Kulwant Hall. The speaker for the evening was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus. Speaking on “The Essence of Bharatiya Culture”, Sri Sahni deliberated on what it is to be a Bharatiya. Defining Bharat as the land with love for God, he explained and elaborated on the concept of unity in diversity, terming it as the quintessence of Bharatiya culture.

Day 3 – Sunday, 14th June 2015

The first item of the programme on the concluding day of the Summer Course 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 chaired by Prof. (Miss) Madhu Kapani, Director, Anantapur Campus. The panelists



BURRA KATHA

also provided deep insights into the stories and illustrated their observations with their experiences with Bhagavan. This was followed by a quiz on the Life and Message of Bhagavan Baba. The quiz team was led by Dr. S. Subramanian, faculty member of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus and other young teachers of the Institute. The students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music followed this with an excellent musical presentation.

The Summer Course concluded with a valedictory talk delivered by Dr. (Miss.) S. Kanaka Durga, Professor (Hon.), 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.

The ancient folk art form of Andhra Pradesh, Burra Katha, came alive when three former students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented the life story and teachings of Bhagavan Baba in this art form on 21st June 2015. Depicting various incidents from Bhagavan's life, the students kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour with their excellent narration of the story embellished with Bhajans and Telugu lyrics, highlighting at the same time the main teachings of Bhagavan, viz., selfless service and love for all. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. with a song dedicated to Lord Ganesh came to a close at 6.20 p.m. with Arati.

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"Oh grandfather, don't be proud of your achievement. The boulder broke at the 22nd stroke since I had hit it earlier 20 times. Understand this". In the same manner, you see only the present whereas God takes into consideration the past and the future also. This is the difference between God and man. The seed of present has come from the tree of past, and is the basis for the tree of future. You see only the seed of present; you are unable to see the past and future which are contained in the seed. Lord Krishna said, *Beejam Maam Sarva Bhutanam* (I am the seed of all living beings).

In this manner, Sankara propagated the principle of Advaita to the entire world. This Advaita has a fundamental principle as its basis. It is the unity of all creation. Many examples have been compiled in scriptures to make man understand this fundamental principle. You should also make efforts to understand it.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hey Siva Sankara Namami Sankara...*")

– Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 8th September 1996.



YOU AND I ARE ONE

DEVELOP EQUANIMITY AND STRIVE TO ATTAIN DIVINITY



DEVOTEES OFFER THEIR prayers to God. Some people doubt the efficacy of prayer.

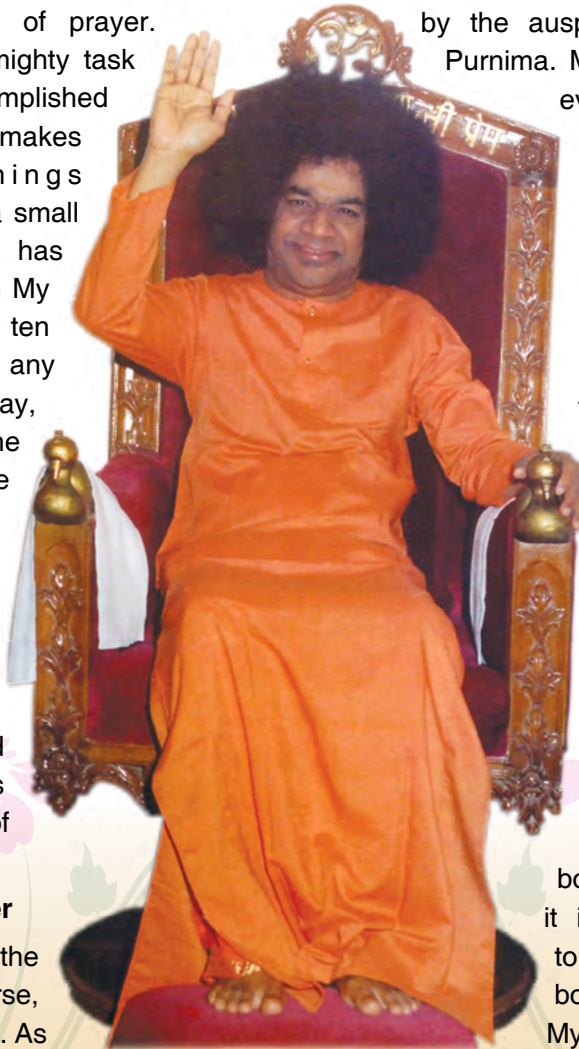
But, in fact, any mighty task can be accomplished through prayer. It makes impossible things possible. Here is a small example. There has been a swelling on My cheek for the past ten days. I never take any medicine. Yesterday, I observed that the attention of all those assembled here was focused on My cheek, not on Me! They were worried that the swelling had still not reduced and that Swami was undergoing a lot of pain.

Efficacy of Prayer

After I delivered the Valedictory Discourse, I retired to My room. As

I was resting, a number of devotees were praying to Me to cure Myself at least by the auspicious day of Guru Purnima. Many of them did not even take food. With tears in their eyes, they were praying continuously. All their prayers reached Me. When I got up in the morning, the swelling reduced and there was absolutely no pain whatsoever.

In fact, I had not willed that it should be so. It is the result of the prayers of devotees. As Sanjay Sahni rightly pointed out, "You and I are one". You are not different from Me. This is not My body, it is yours. So, it is your responsibility to take care of this body. I never think of My body and its well-



being. I never make a Sankalpa (Will) that such and such a thing should happen, so far as My body is concerned. There is no selfishness in Me from head to toe. That is why I have got every right to declare that you and I are one.

God certainly listens to the prayers of His devotees. Some people hesitate to pray lest their prayers should cause inconvenience to God. They are mistaken, for God can never be put to any inconvenience whatsoever. God has no suffering at all. He considers devotees' happiness as His happiness. However, your happiness results from material things; whereas My happiness is related to the principle of Atma. I am pleased by the smallest of small offering if it is made with love. Your tiny offering will assume gigantic proportions to Me. On the other hand, you are not satisfied in spite of receiving mighty favours.

Fill your Mind with Radiance of Love

What is the significance of Guru Purnima? Guru is one who illumines the path to divinity. Purnima stands for the cool full moon light. Full moon stands for a mind with total illumination. It is spotless and blemishless. Even if there is a trace of blemish in the mind, it will lead to darkness. It cannot give you total bliss.

Embodiments of Love!

Let your mind be filled with the radiance of divine love. Acquiring mere textual knowledge is of no avail. What you have studied is only a fraction of the total knowledge. Yet you feel proud about it.

Your worldly education is insignificant compared to divine wisdom. You cannot attain God with your education, power and wealth. He is accessible by love and love alone. You can experience Him only when you develop love. Devotion means to love God wholeheartedly.

Embodiments of Love!

What is it that you are supposed to know on this day of Guru Purnima? You must understand that God is in you, with you, around you, above you, below you. In fact, you are God. Recognise this truth in the first instance. Do not entertain excessive desires and become beggars. Do your duty sincerely. That is the true Sadhana (spiritual discipline). When you are in office, do only office work; do not think of your family matters. Likewise, when you are at home, take care of the needs of your wife and children. Do not make your home an office. But today, because of too much work in the office, people take office papers to their homes to complete their work. They are thus facing difficulties because they mix up their office work, household work, business and spiritual matters.

Man has death, but the mind has no death. Whatever one does during one's lifetime is imprinted on the mind and gets carried over to the next birth. No one can understand the nature of the mind. Some people think that suicide is the only way of putting an end to all their troubles. They think, "It is the mind that is responsible for our suffering. Let us put an end to it". It is the worst of sins. The mind cannot be



killed so easily. One should never entertain such low ideas. One should be prepared to face any difficulties with fortitude and strive hard to sanctify one's life.

Contemplate on Soham Principle

Embodiments of Love!

Right from this day, try to reduce your attachment to the world to the extent possible. Be happy and make others happy. Do not hurt anybody. Consider difficulties as passing clouds. Since you have developed family relationships, there are bound to be some worries. But do not be perturbed by them. When you look at the vast sky, you find many clouds. Likewise, in the sky of your heart there are clouds of attachment. They just come and go. Do not worry about them. What is the shape of worry? It is a mentally created fear. It is the result of your imagination. Every man is bound to encounter difficulties and losses. We should face them with courage.

Embodiments of Love!

From this day of Guru Purnima, make your hearts sacred. Just as you wave away the mosquitoes that try to bite you, brush aside any difficulties that assail you. Do not be depressed by sorrow or be elated by happiness. Develop equanimity and strive to attain Divinity.

You are the embodiment of the Divine Trinity: Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara. Hence, Guru is not separate from you. You are everything. Let your concentration not waver. Let it be steadily fixed on your goal. Be one a student, a householder or a

Let your mind be filled with the radiance of divine love. Acquiring mere textual knowledge is of no avail. What you have studied is only a fraction of the total knowledge. Yet you feel proud about it. Your worldly education is insignificant compared to divine wisdom. You cannot attain God with your education, power, and wealth. He is accessible by love and love alone.



renunciant, the goal is one and the same for all. Contemplate on the principle of Soham that your inner voice teaches. Say *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahma). There is nothing wrong in this statement. Some people have a mistaken notion that to say so is a sign of egoism. In fact, that is not ego at all. It is your right. To think that you are a mere human being amounts to demeaning yourself. You are the embodiments of God. Develop such faith and become God. There cannot be any bad qualities in God. So, you should lead a pure, steady and selfless life. See good, speak good and do good. You should be an ideal to everybody. No benefit accrues from worship if you do not purify your heart.

You have been worshipping Swami and have been coming for My Darshan for a number of years. But is there any transformation in you? You are coming and going without any aim. Such people need

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A SIMPLE MANTRA FOR LIFE

Dr. Prithvi Raval

Swami has emphasised that faith is an essential ingredient in life. In fact, it is the starting point for spiritual progress. Many times a personal experience or an answer to our prayer enhances our faith. While several formulas and practices are recommended by many, Swami has given the most powerful Mantra, "Love All, Serve All", universally to everyone. Unless there is Divine Love and utmost humility, it is difficult to practise this Mantra.

I HAVE ENJOYED ONE OF THE rarest of rare opportunities of having grown up under the umbrella of Swami's grace for over 60 years, which gave me a close insight of His Divine Love, a deep understanding of how He felt towards the people of the world, and His response in a simple way to all.

My First Interaction with Swami

The very first question I heard from Swami was when He enquired about my father in Telugu, "Padmanabh Unnada"? meaning "Is Padmanabh at home"?

This must have been in 1954, when I was a small boy of four years. I was playing in our house after school, when Swami passed in front of our house. In those days, Swami's routine in Bengaluru was

to pass by our house to go to Lalbagh Botanical Garden or other devotees' houses in that area. He was accompanied by two or three devotees at that time. My father was a practising dentist; our clinic and residence were the same in a small place in Basavanagudi, Bengaluru. I replied to Swami, still playing my game, "No, he is not here" and continued playing! Swami left, and that was my first interaction with Swami.

What is in a Name?

When I was born, my mother requested Swami to do the naming ceremony for me on one of these home visits of Swami, and He obliged. He named me 'Jagadesh', and I am called 'Jaggi' at home. However, when I joined a convent school, my mother's close friend insisted that she should put the name she had given me, 'Prithvi' and that went into my school records. So, I was being called Prithvi in school and Jagadesh at home! Swami, too, called me by both the names, and it was as if He had accepted it.

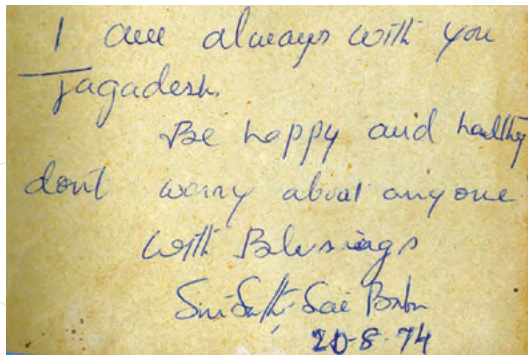
As I was finishing school, I realised the monumental mistake I had made by not putting the name Swami had given me. I was planning to go abroad and my



passport had to be made in due course. So, on one of Swami's visits to our home (we were fortunate to have so many of them), I asked Swami about the mishap about my name. I was more than willing to change it officially by legal process, before I could make my passport. Would I have His permission? I asked.

But Swami just said, "What is in a name? It is just a label! It does not matter what name you are called by. You may use the current name and need not change it". Then in a lighter vein Swami added, "But look at the meaning; the lady who gave you the name – Prithvi, it just means earth, but I have given you a better name – Jagadesh, the ruler of the earth!! And since there is similarity, you may continue with the same name".

After my graduation, when I went abroad for my higher studies, Swami gave us an interview at Puttaparthi, the



day before my leaving, and He signed an autograph especially for me. Swami asked me to finish my studies and come back to serve the people here in our country and the needy.

Right from my birth, Swami has been guiding, influencing and persuading me. He has been a Divine factor in all our decisions even without our knowing it. Unlike many other Gurus who exercise some kind of authority and position, Swami cajoled me to make Him my best friend. He was there at all times, knowingly or unsuspectingly, to make matters better for me.

Swami's Visits to our House

In those days, whenever Swami was at Whitefield my father used to take time off from his evening practice and be with Swami. Swami's Darshans were very much looked forward by the large masses of devotees who started coming from all over the country and many parts of the world. At that time, Swami's visits to Bengaluru were 3-4 times a year.

Around 1958, my father was blessed to buy a small plot in Jayanagar, Bengaluru and was very fortunate to have Swami come and perform the 'Guddali Puja' or ground breaking ceremony. Our newly-built fairly large house was inaugurated by Swami in January 1962. After that, He blessed us with His Divine Presence every New Year. Later on, it became 'sometime' during the month of January. At our home, Swami encouraged my father to bring in all our relatives so that He could talk to them. My father therefore invited all those who were close to Swami for this precious Darshan and all went home happy with their 'Korikas' (requests) answered. My father also invited some important spiritually informed friends and neighbours who

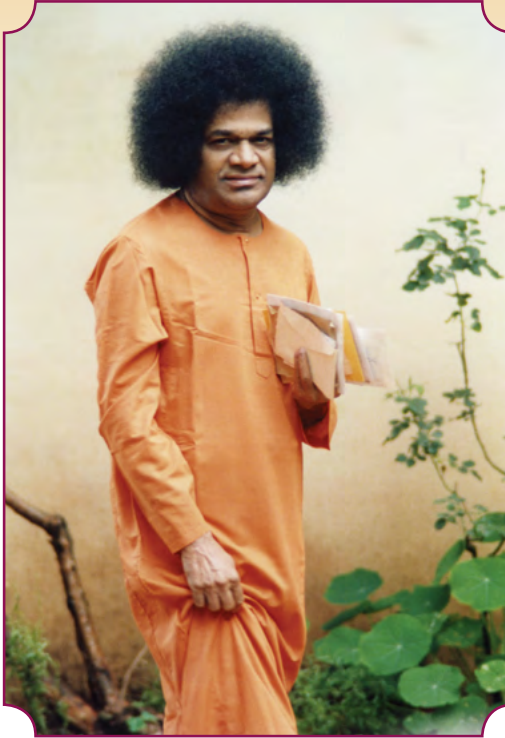


were well versed in Vedantic thought. They would ask several questions and Swami would answer everything breezily and clarify their doubts. Many of them were IAS officers and well read. Over the years this made a big difference in their perception of Swami's Divinity.

After endless Namaskars and greetings of everybody, Swami used to sit down and say, "Let us talk on some Adhyatmic (spiritual) subjects. Banerjee, do you have a question? Gokak, do you have a question"? Swami would finish his talk in about an hour in Telugu (part Kannada). Those days, the content of his divine talk was twice of what it became later. With translations, the content of His talk was reduced to half the size of earlier times.

After making sure that everyone including some students who came with Him from Whitefield, was first fed, Swami would have a very meagre meal and we would go back to Whitefield.

On the day when Swami would come to our house (a very short notice was given), my father and I would go to Whitefield



around 5 p.m. and wait till the Darshan was over. Swami would come with us in our car. It was first our Standard Super 10 and then later on a Fiat model. My father used to drive and I used to sit with Swami at the back. Around 8.30 p.m. or so, Swami would leave our house to go back to Whitefield.

All the people at Whitefield including Sri Ramabrahmam would wait for Swami anxiously, wondering why Swami took so much time! It would be around 9.30 p.m. or so when we reached Brindavan, Whitefield. In those days, roads were not well lighted and so we had to drive slowly.

When we finally reached back home, my cousin sisters and others would be waiting for us to hear all the details of Swami's conversation in car, and every anecdote was marked well and repeated again and again! This aspect of Bhakti towards Swami has been etched in our memories for all times to come. His Divine Presence and unconditional love to all has (hopefully) made us better human beings.

A Universal Mantra for all

Today in a world of myriad religious and spiritual leaders, all willing to guide the



common man out of the hustle and bustle of day-to-day tribulations, finding the right Guru is a chore in itself. Some deep thinking people will come and go away, not able to fathom the Divinity within. There could be a challenge for many. Swami has often said, "Don't, analyse, realise"! Fortunately for me, having been born into this unique situation was a gift of a lifetime.

Swami has emphasised that faith is an essential ingredient in life. In fact, it is the starting point for spiritual progress. Many times a personal experience or an answer to our prayer enhances our faith. While several formulas and practices are recommended by many, Swami has given the most powerful Mantra, "Love All, Serve

All", universally to everyone. Unless there is Divine Love and utmost humility, it is difficult to practise this Mantra.

Swami preaches universality of all religions, wherein people from all faiths are welcome. He exhorts everyone to practise his own religion but with better understanding. Swami has said that one must graduate from being in a religion into recognising divinity in all. "It is good to be born in a religion but not good to die in one," He has said.

– **Dr. Prithvi Raval, son of Dr. R.S. Padmanabhan and grand nephew of Sri Seshagiri Rao, is a practising dentist in Bengaluru.**

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not come here at all. Wherever you are, do your Sadhana. When you come here, you should imbibe divine feelings and become divine. Gradually, reduce your attachment to the world. The world will not go with you when you die. You cannot take with you even a fistful of dust. You can take only the virtues you have cultivated.

Embodiments of Divine Love!

Realising that the Atma in everyone is the same, extend your love to all. It does not matter if you do not practise any Sadhana. Your love to others will raise you to the highest level of spirituality. Bear no ill-will towards anyone. When you harm anyone, realise you are doing harm to God. When you develop this kind of universal love, it will be the basis for unity.

Remember that you must live up to whatever you say. You must practise what advice you give to others. This is what I am doing. Hence, I have the right to advise others. I call upon devotees to show love towards all. I love all. I am always engaged in work from morning to night. You cannot know how blissful I am always. Happiness is My form. I am always happy. I do not worry about anything because I have no desires. That is the reason for My happiness. As your desires increase, your happiness diminishes.

In whatever you do, remember the name of God. It is a panacea for all human ills. Do not waste time, because time is divine. With faith in God, consecrate your life.

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



Pride of Doership!

A HOUSEHOLDER IN A VILLAGE raised a beautiful garden in the compound of his house. Once a calf entered the garden and started eating the plants. Enraged at this, the householder beat the calf black and blue. Unable to bear the severe beating, the calf died. The householder however felt no remorse about it as he thought, "The calf died because the life-span given to it by God was over. There is no fault of mine in this". He did not feel sorry that he had caused the death of the calf.

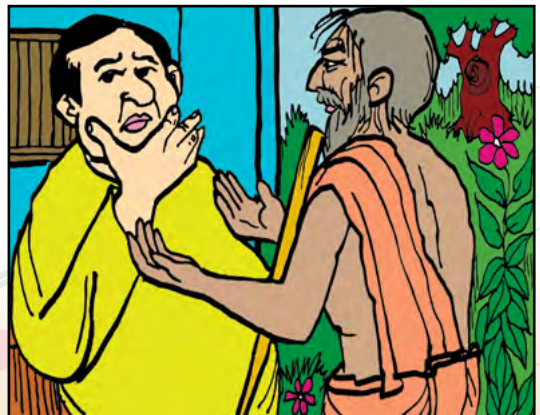
At that time, an old man entered the garden and started praising it, saying, "What a beautiful garden it is! Who has

raised it with great care"? The householder heard this from inside his house. He came out and said, "Sir, it is I who has raised this beautiful garden". Then the old man said, "Oh! You disown the blame for the death of the calf saying its life-span is over and take the credit for raising this beautiful garden! Is it just to say this? Either God is the cause of both these actions or you". Hearing these words of the old man, the householder was dumbstruck.

You should own up your mistakes leaving all pride. You should not claim that you are the cause of the actions which bring praise and others are the cause of the actions which bring blame. Wisdom lies in doing all actions to please God.



The householder told the old man with great pride that the beautiful garden was made by him.



The old man chided the householder when he said that God was the cause of the calf's death, while concealing his own guilt.

Effulgence of Divine Glory

EXPERIENCING SWAMI'S PRESENCE

I N A BUKKAPATNAM SCHOOL recently, I had the great privilege of seeing a black and white photograph of Swami when He was hardly 19 or 20 years old. It was such a beautiful, beautiful picture. You cannot believe it. This picture had been put in the flag hoisting place. There were many other pictures of Swami. But this picture caught my attention and then my eyes were filled with love. I felt a shiver running in my body and I sat on the steps. I could not bear the outpouring of that love. Many a time, I have felt His Presence. There is no doubt about it. But this is merging of the form with the formless. I cannot forget in my lifetime, the love, which was there in His eyes, and that was recently in Bukkapatnam school where we went to distribute Swami's Prasadam. Many a time I have felt His Presence, His invisible Presence, I should say, in classroom. Then I tell my students, "Look, Swami is here". They do not believe.

I also felt His Presence when girl students were taking their lunch, His Prasadam as lunch at Bukkapatnam. I felt His Presence, which went all round. While coming back, I was sitting on the steps of

the moving bus with the students. I said to them, "Look, Swami is here and He has not taken His lunch. He is waiting for us to come back". I realised that because I felt His Presence in that moving bus. This experience of His Presence gave me the realisation that God is with you always. The Quran calls Him 'Maula' the word we use in the Bhajan when we recite 'Allah Sai, Maula Sai, Sarva Dharma Priya Sathya Sai'. That brings tears to my eyes, because once you know that He is in your heart, you say 'Husban Allah', that is, 'God is enough'. We do not want the world. We do not want the whole world! No, neither its position, nor its power, nor its wealth; we only want Him and Him alone. You can also feel that presence in the heart. I once pestered Swami in a letter, asking to feel the bliss, and what He meant by bliss. For seven days at a stretch, I felt in my heart, a presence that oozed with joy. I cannot describe it, but whenever the world is too much with me, I recollect it and feel one with it.

— From the talk of Dr. Zeba Basheeruddin compiled in "Journey with Sai: 75 Glorious Years".





K.S. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY

SAI, PERFECTION IS THY NAME

OUR BELOVED SWAMI, WHO explained so succinctly profound philosophical concepts contained in the Vedas, Upanishads and Puranas needed for our spiritual uplift, would also talk about things that are necessary for our daily conduct. He told us how one should lead one's life in society, at home, at school or college. In fact, He never missed an opportune moment to impart important lessons to the students even in the performance of ordinary daily chores.

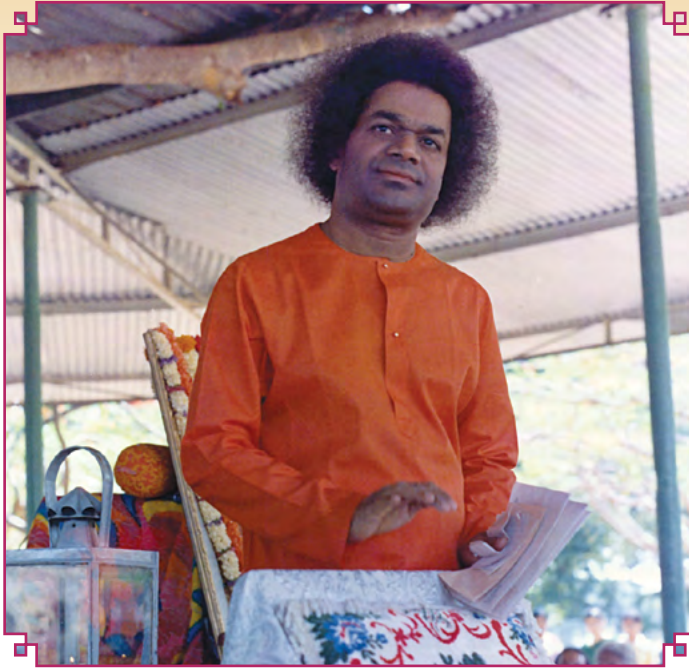
In early days in Brindavan, Swami used to visit the hostel daily after every evening Darshan at Sai Ram Shed. Much before the dinner time, Swami would come to the hostel and enquire about various arrangements being made including menu. The students looked forward to such unsolicited visits with excitement because Swami moved freely giving advice, cutting jokes, appreciating the work of one student at one place and teasing another at some other work spot when he lagged behind in doing his work. Swami's presence created an enchanting atmosphere. Students always flocked around Swami to watch that bewitching smile radiating from His face. However, special visits by Swami for

dinner or any music programme created a festive atmosphere in the hostel.

On one occasion, hostel students in Brindavan invited Swami for a special dinner. Those days, facilities were less in the kitchen to roll Chapatis or Puris. Some of us were therefore given the duty to roll Puris. In the dining hall, we had two rows of tables made of Kadapa stones. We cleaned the Kadapa slabs and tried to roll Puris on them. None of us had the prior experience in preparing Puris. We tried our best to do the job but the Puris were not coming round. When we were struggling like that, Swami came and stood beside us and said, "Can't you roll a small Puri? You should be good at everything". He then scraped the wet flour stuck to the stone, made it into a round ball and gently moved the wooden roller on the wet flour ball in two gentle strokes. The wet flour ball got transformed into a perfect round Puri, round and perfect like full moon!

We all clapped in appreciation and exclaimed, "Ah! What perfect round Puri"! Swami appeared happy. Holding the Puri in His hand, He folded it into half and pressed the edges. Then He said, "Andhra people





uttered loudly, "Ah, look at that, how carefully it is eating! Boys do not know even that".

One day, Swami sent some framed photos to the new hostel in Brindavan to be fixed in the dining hall, where students do their morning and evening prayers. On one Sunday morning, Swami came to the hostel to guide the students to fix those photos. Swami gave several instructions: at what height the picture has to be placed, how deep the nails have to be driven into the wall, how the frame has to be tied to the

make a particular variety of sweet (Kajjikai) by stuffing it with dry coconut, sugar and some spices. He told us to fry and eat it". Later, when we fried and opened it to have it as Prasadam, to our amazement we found that there was a sweet filling inside it!

Once in Brindavan, Swami was talking to a small group of students in the dining hall. After some time, Swami got up from the chair, picked up a banana fruit and went towards the window, saying, "Poor fellow, waiting for a long time". We all wondered who that lucky person was. To our utter surprise, it was a small monkey. Happily it took the fruit from Swami's outstretched hand and started eating it. The monkey peeled the fruit bit by bit and ate it without dirtying its hands. After keenly observing the monkey as it ate the fruit, Swami

nail without tilting the photo towards right or left. We were amazed to see Swami moving backwards and again to the sides to make sure that the photos were placed correctly.

Sometimes, Swami presented books written by Him and written on Him to visiting dignitaries. A carton of books was received at Brindavan Ashram from Puttaparthi book stall. One day, Swami noticed the box containing books in the Mandir safe room and told me to arrange the books neatly on the window sil. I started arranging the books vertically so that it would be easy to take out any book. While I was doing this, one senior student joined me and piled all the books saying that more could

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NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

COLOMBIA



PRE-WORLD CONFERENCE was held in Bogotá on 28th February and 1st March 2015, in which more than 200 Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) members from Venezuela, Ecuador,



Pre-world Conference, Bogota.

Peru, Argentina, Colombia, U.S.A., and El Salvador gathered together to exchange ideas and share about their spiritual journeys. Inspiring presentations made by Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council; Leonardo Gutter, Member, Prasanthi Council; and John Behner, Chairman, Zone 2 exposed the participants to Bhagavan's teachings which they planned to share with others after returning to their home countries.

The SSIO of Colombia arranged a public meeting on Monday, 2nd March 2015 which was attended by more than 700 people in spite of inclement weather. Bhagavan's message of love, selfless service and practice of spirituality were the

main topics of deliberations of the public meeting.

CANADA

The SSIO of Canada launched "We Care, We Share" programme in April 2014 by serving meals to the needy from



"We Care, We Share" programme.

a mobile van. Every month, volunteers prepare food at the Sathya Sai Centre of Ottawa-Carleton, transport it in the van and serve it to the homeless. About 10,000 hot meals have been served so far under this programme, attesting to the programme's success.

MAURITIUS

During the weekend of 7th to 8th March 2015, severe flooding affected the southern parts of the island of Mauritius. It was communicated on 9th March that 30 families needed immediate help. Sathya Sai volunteers swiftly rendered assistance to the victims and supplied food items and articles of daily need to them.



CROATIA

In early 2015, Sathya Sai volunteers found that the water level in the river Rječina had dropped, exposing large deposits of nylon, tin, and plastic waste in the river bed. Eleven volunteers, including eight women, began cleaning the river bed on the following Sunday, 9th March 2015, International Women's Day, dedicating their service to Mother Earth. In less than two hours, the volunteers collected twelve bags of garbage. The environmental protection coordinator for the city of Rijeka informed the volunteers that their exemplary service had sparked the formation of a Green Clean Up 2015 project, to be conducted on Earth Day. Many community residents, volunteers, schools and other institutions are expected to participate in this environmental project.

GUATEMALA

The Sathya Sai School in Guatemala has been selected as the best school in the country. The school was established 16 years ago and provides education from

kindergarten to ninth grade. One of the school's alumni now teaches at the school. In January 2015, a district supervisor from the Ministry of Education arranged a two-day workshop on human values for public school teachers. Sixty teachers participated in the workshop and requested further training. In January 2015, more than 200 people attended a public meeting on parenting at the Sathya Sai School.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The SSIO of Dominican Republic organised a public meeting on 26th February 2015 in Santo Domingo which was attended by about 650 guests, including many public officials and leaders of different faiths. Sri Leonardo Gutter and Sri John Behner gave uplifting talks in the conference which left an indelible impression on the audience about spirituality in daily lives.

GREECE

The SSIO of Greece organised several service activities during December 2014



Public Meeting on Sai Parenting, Guatemala.



Firewood to indigent families.

and January 2015. About 30 Sathya Sai volunteers donated two tonnes of firewood to indigent families in Perama to help them stay warm during the winter months. The volunteers also distributed clothing, blankets, hygiene kits and 80 food parcels. Funds were provided to a low-income family to cover their monthly electricity and water bills and rent. Volunteer paediatricians examined about 40 children, some of whom were treated for illnesses, while others were given immunisations. Medicines were distributed to families in need.

KENYA

On 31st January 2015, more than 100 parents attended an educational workshop at the Kisaju Sathya Sai School auditorium. The headmaster welcomed the gathering, stressing the need for development of human values in the children. The Chairman of the Board spoke about the ideal educational system according to the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He reported that the school enrolment had increased from 163 to 179 students.

For the third consecutive year, the Sathya Sai Centre in Mombasa, in cooperation with other charitable organisations, arranged cataract surgeries for rural community residents. Volunteers screened 218 potential patients and identified 17 needy people for cataract surgery. Surgeries were conducted at the Coastal General Hospital, 75 miles from Mombasa. All the cataract surgeries were



Patients waiting for eye surgery in Mombasa.

successful, leading to full restoration of vision.

RUSSIA

About 35 people attended the annual regional family Sai camp in the Urals region from 3rd to 6th January 2015. The camp programme was dedicated to encouraging respect and friendship for elders. Even



Urals Winter Camp.

though it was winter, by Bhagavan's grace, it was unusually warm during the whole camp, and everyone enjoyed the natural beauty of the surroundings. In addition, a joyful Sai Olympic event was organised. The family camp included creative workshops, morning and evening Bhajans, games and concerts.



On 17th January 2015, the SSIO of Russia held a Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) seminar focused on the developmental characteristics of children of age-groups 6-9, 9-12 and 12-15. There were 25 Sathya Sai members in attendance, as well as parents and grandparents of the children. SSE teachers from St. Petersburg, who organised the seminar, gave a presentation on the developmental stages of children in each age-group. Sessions were organised on how to work with children and the role of an SSE teacher.

From 7th to 8th February 2015, 60 SSIO members from nine Sathya Sai Centres and Groups attended an annual



Annual National Conference in Kiev.

January 2015 in Kiev. The conference was organised to report on the work done in 2014, to plan for 2015, and to share experiences. About 60 SSIO members from 10 Sathya Sai Centres and two Sathya Sai Groups from 13 cities throughout Ukraine, participated in the conference. One notable session, conducted over two days, was devoted exclusively to questions and answers between the audience and senior SSIO leaders.

BELARUS

On 24th and 25th January 2015, a seminar on Bhajan singing was organised to deepen the understanding of devotional singing as a spiritual practice. The seminar included breathing exercises. During roundtable discussions, participants shared their personal experiences of devotional singing. It was noted that devotional singing harmonises our lives at various levels and provides inspiration for taking up service activities.



Participants in annual regional conference in St. Petersburg.

regional conference in St. Petersburg, on the theme, "Love is the Source; Love is the Path; Love is the Goal." Regional Coordinators from all wings of the SSIO shared their experiences. The first day of the conference featured songs, poetry and skits. Round-table discussions took place on the second day.

UKRAINE

The SSIO of Ukraine held an annual national conference from 23rd to 25th



BHARAT

Bihar and Jharkhand: A State-level Conference was organised by the Ranchi Samithi of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Bihar and Jharkhand on 16th and 17th May 2015, in which about 200 delegates from 29 districts of the two States came to participate. The conference was formally inaugurated by Professor L.N. Bhagat, former Vice Chancellor, Ranchi University.

In his inaugural address, Professor L.N. Bhagat, stressed upon 'Educational Social Responsibility' and 'Sustained Spiritual Development' based on human values and ethics. Speaking during a conference session, Sri P.J. Prasad Rao, State President of Odisha emphasised the vision, mission and core objectives of the Sai Organisation. State Coordinators for Service, Spiritual and Bal Vikas wings explained in detail the changes that were taking place and the approach to be adopted for strengthening the respective activities under each wing.

Gujarat: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat organised Mass Upanayanam (sacred thread investiture ceremony) on 3rd May 2015 simultaneously at Ahmedabad and Surat. The programme began at 9.00 a.m. with the inaugural address by Sri Nilkanth Sashstri, first Chairman of Surat Samithi and recipient of President award for promoting Indian Culture and Sanskrit language. Dwelling on the importance of Upanayanam, the distinguished scholar observed that Swami always stressed the need to initiate the children to Gayatri



Mass Upanayanam at Ahmedabad.

Mantra. The ceremony was conducted by 14 learned priests amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. In all, 16 boys in Surat and 15 boys in Ahmedabad took part in this ceremony. More than 350 people in Surat and 800 in Ahmedabad attended this function which included the relatives of the boys and Samithi members.

Punjab: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab organised an awareness camp for all District Presidents and Samithi Conveners in Noorpurbet village which has been adopted by Ludhiana Samithi under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme (SSSVIP). In this camp, the working of Sai Seva Dal volunteers in villages under SSSVIP was explained to all the delegates to motivate them to work for human welfare in villages. All District Presidents promised to Bhagavan that they would adopt at least one village under SSSVIP Programme.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Batala organised a programme called "Naari Shakti", wherein 31 old Sai devotees (ladies) were honoured by 62 new Sai



devotees (ladies) for their contribution to the Samithi. The ladies thanked Bhagavan

for choosing them as His instruments in the Divine Mission.

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be accommodated that way. Later, Swami came in and said, "How can you take out the lower book when necessary? You have seen in Parthi how the books are arranged. Do properly".

During the 50th Birthday celebrations, Swami purchased a variety of clothes like Saris, Dhotis, pant pieces and shirt pieces for distribution. One day, some students were asked to open the boxes containing the clothes and rearrange them according to colour and size. While doing so, we came across a box containing readymade shirts. When Swami came near us, we asked Him where to keep them. Swami said, "Keep them back in the box and close it. They are meant for somebody else". Swami told us to hurry up with that work and went to look

into some other work. We were quickly stuffing the readymade shirts back into the box. When Swami came back and saw this, He said, "Keep them neatly, take out each shirt, fold it properly and place it in the box. Otherwise, they get crumpled". Nothing misses His ever watchful eyes.

Even the smallest work should be done with perfection. This is what Swami taught practically to the students. As Rabindranath Tagore wrote "tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection", Swami tirelessly tried to make his students perfect day in and day out.

– The author is serving as a teacher in Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam.

There is a divine power that is inherent in every human being. You must strive to manifest it. Recognise that all the knowledge you have been able to acquire is because of this divine power within you. You must cherish and foster that power. Most people make use of this power for selfish purposes to promote the well-being of themselves and their families. It should really be utilised for the good of the whole world. You should live up to the Gita ideal, Sarvaloka Hithe Ratah (engaged in the welfare of all). Recognise the divinity in you and share that experience with all. Use the divine power in you to cultivate virtues, which constitute the essence of education. Lead a life which will earn for you the love of the people more than their respect.

– Baba

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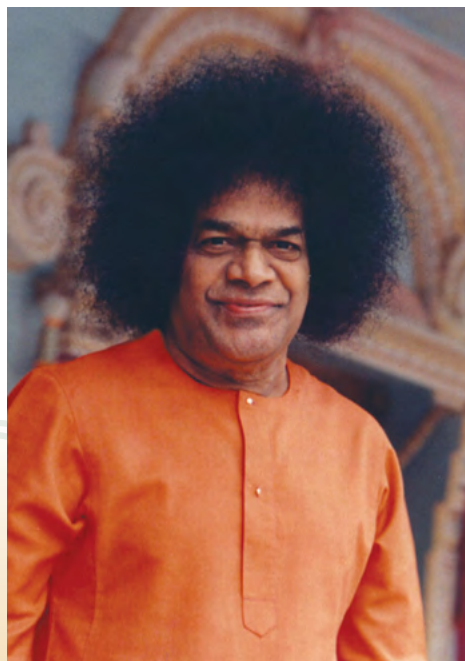
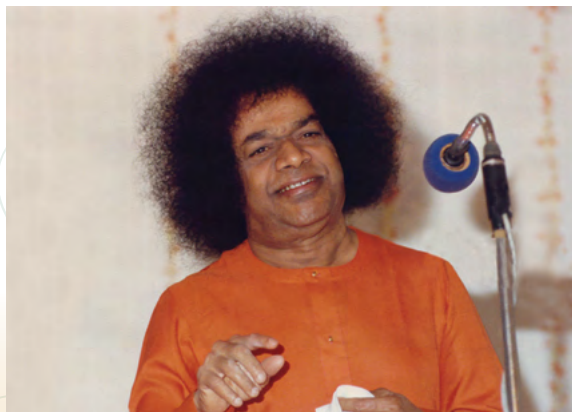
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About SSSSTPD

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
2. Summer Showers In Brindavan, 1972
3. Satyopanisad I
4. Satyopanisad II
5. Gurudev
6. Namasmarana
7. Bhakthi And Health
8. Life Is Love, Enjoy It!
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Music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall by students during Summer Course.



Devotional songs by Guntur devotees.



Burra Katha by former students of the Institute.

Be Pure and Full of Love

I want each one of you to grow into a strong, steady and straight person. Your eyes should not seek evil sights; your ears should not seek evil tales; your tongue should not seek evil speech; your hands should not seek evil acts; your mind should not seek evil thoughts. Be pure and be full of love. Help those who are in a worse condition and serve those who need your help.

– Baba



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