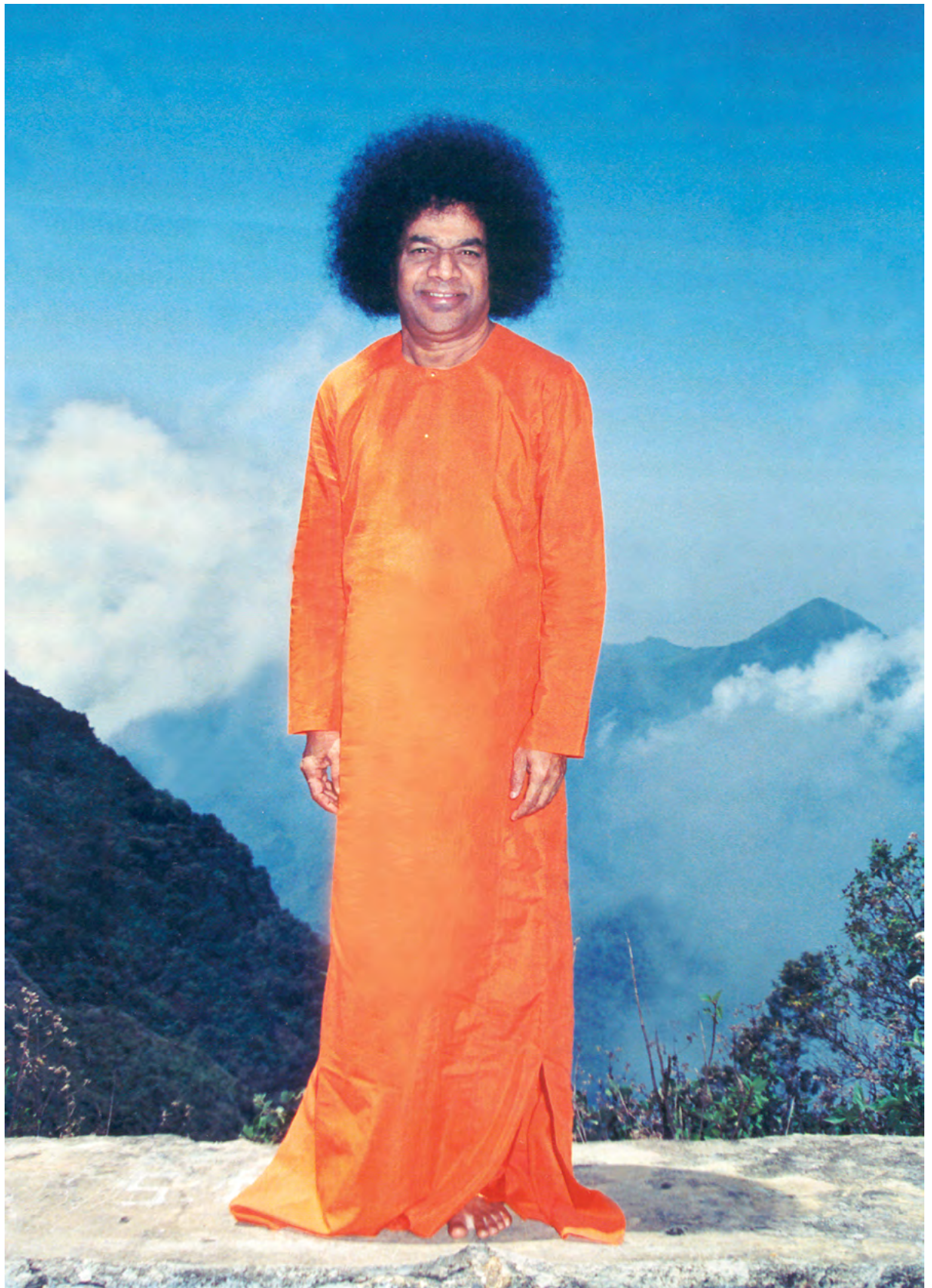




**Sanathana Sarathi**

**JULY 2019**





# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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*"A magnet attracts iron pieces. If the magnet and the iron remain together for two days, the iron also gets the magnetic power. So, when you remain close to God constantly, you will also become one with God! The aim of human life is to recognise the unity of the individual with God! So, whenever you get time, think only of God."*

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AVATAR VANI

# SELFISHNESS IS THE CAUSE OF MAN'S RESTLESSNESS\*

PEACE RESULTS ONLY WHEN YOU THINK OF GOD

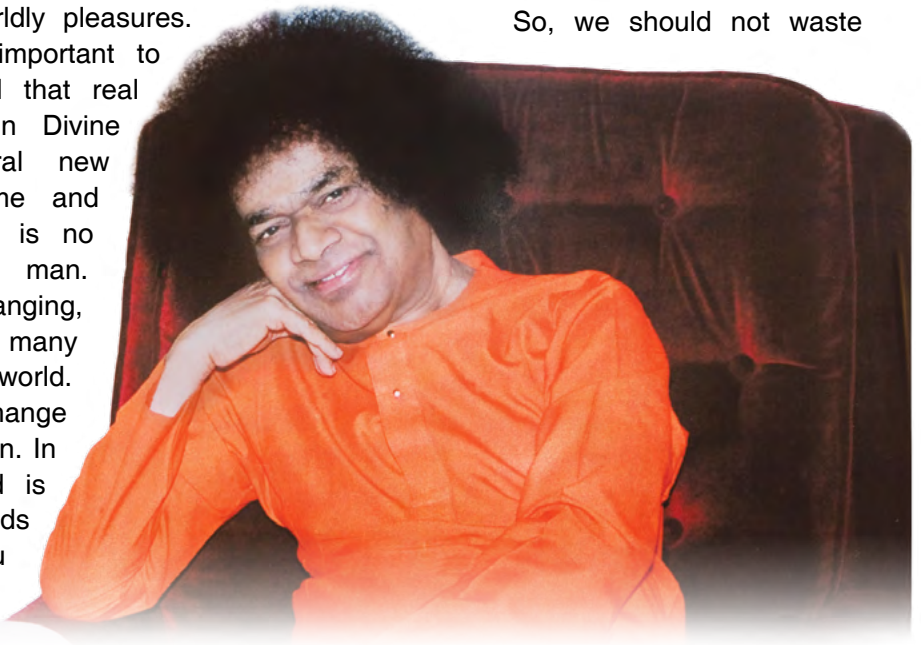
**N**ARROW FEELINGS ARE ON the rise in people from all walks of life. All of them are running after worldly pleasures. These are not important to man. Understand that real happiness lies in Divine proximity. Several new years have come and gone. But there is no transformation in man. Years are changing, and there are many changes in the world. But there is no change in the mind of man. In fact, man's mind is leading him towards destruction. You cannot be called a true human

being if your mind does not get transformed.

## **Do all Work as Offering to God**

It is not the New Year that brings profit and loss, happiness and sorrow to man. His Karma (past deeds) is the main cause. If he does evil deeds, he will get bad results. He suffers because of his bad deeds and reaps good results by his good deeds. But man today wastes his time in evil pursuits. Adi Sankara, while referring to God, says

Samvatsaraya Namaha (salutations to the one who is the embodiment of time). Time is Atma, Time is life, Time is God. So, we should not waste



time. We should use the five senses given to us by God to do the work ordained by Him. We should have sacred thoughts in the mind while doing our work. Dedicate all work to God whether it is daily work, office work or business work. *Sarva Karma Bhagavad Preetyartham* (do all actions to please God). If we do like this, then only will Bharat shine as the ideal country in the world.

*\*Continued from the previous issue. This is the second and final part of the Divine Discourse.*

Since time immemorial, Bharat has been the spiritual leader of the world. The goal of the people of Bharat has been *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the worlds be happy!). Thus, the aim of the people of Bharat has never been narrow like only their family, their country, their people. All countries must be happy. All people belonging to all the nations should be happy and prosperous has been their ideal. What else is Bhakti (devotion) than developing such broad attitude? Bhakti is not merely plucking flowers from plants, tying them into a garland and offering it to God. Lord Krishna says in the Gita that man can please God by offering Patram, Pushpam, Phalam, Toyam (leaf, flower, fruit and water). There is an esoteric meaning of this. Leaf is the body, flower is the heart, fruit is the mind and water is the blissful tears when you contemplate on God. A true devotee will offer all these to God. Man gets caught in various illusions and suffers because of his body attachment. Why has body been given to man? Body has been given to pray to God. The body is the container. Fill it with the water of Prema (love of the Divine) fully. Then your heart will become broad. Offer that flower of heart to God. Man's life should have such high ideals.

### **Understand the Value of Human Birth**

We use the word Manava for man which contains three letters Ma Na Va. Ma means man, Na means not, Va means new. So, Manava means not new. You are not new, you are old only! You had many births.

*Punarapi Jananam Punarapi Maranam,*

*Punarapi Janani Jathare Sayanam.*

(Oh Lord! I am caught up in this cycle of birth and death; time and again, I am

*Sai's property is love. Let anybody think anything. My entire life is filled with love only! All that Swami shares with you is love. Swami spends all His time in giving only. Always giving, giving. Give at least a fraction of this God-given love to others. You call yourself a devotee of Swami. Do you have the right to say so? No! To what extent are you practising Swami's teachings in your daily life? Nothing. In practice you are zero, but in talking you are a big hero.*

---

experiencing the agony of staying in the mother's womb.)

You had many births and many deaths. Why are you born? Then, why do you die? Understand the meaning of human birth. What is the goal of life? What have you to achieve? What is the purpose of human birth? Is the purpose of your life to study well, go abroad, earn a lot of money and send it home? What are you going to achieve with it? Human life is meaningless without sacrifice. *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutattwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice).

There is no use of high position or wealth if you do not practise sacrifice. Sacrifice is the true way of life for man. It is true yoga. Anything without sacrifice is Roga (disease). The world is suffering because of lack of peace. Man has no peace even for a moment. Where is this peace? Peace is within you. But you are

unable to enjoy it because you search for it outside in the world.

### **Dedicate your Life to God**

There is no need to wait for the New Year to begin spiritual practice. Every moment is new. Therefore, the heart should bloom every moment with divine feelings. Then mind also will start blooming step by step. This is the true meaning of the new year. It is not eating a grand feast, wearing new clothes and making merriment. Do you wait till the new year to fill your belly? What is the meaning of Ugadi? It means the origin of the Yuga (aeon). What is the origin of man and what is his reality? Man is not new; he is ancient. He should understand his reality by asking the question, "Who am I"? Introducing himself as so and so and belonging to such and such place indicate the body only and not his true identity, that is the Atma. Understand that your true identity is the Atma. Realise that the same Atma is present in all and develop the spirit of oneness and sacrifice.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Everybody should develop love. There is no God other than love. There is nothing superior to and more powerful than love. There is nothing more perfect than love. By saying *Poornamada Poornamidam* (That is full, this is full) we understand that the Jiva (individual soul) and God are both perfect only. We should understand this oneness. Then only can we call ourselves true human beings.

But, day by day, man is taking to wrong path. If this is so, how can the nation grow? How will the transformation of the mind happen in a good way? How long can we hold on like this? Man today is becoming worse than animals. Animals at least have some reason and season, but the present-day man has no reason and no reason.

Your life is the gift of God. It is the property of God. It is not the property inherited by you from your father or grandfather. Man should offer this God-given property only to God. He should use his life in the service of God. The life which is not dedicated in the service of God is useless. Man today is wasting his life in accumulating more and more wealth. As his wealth is increasing, his behaviour is becoming worse.

#### *Embodiments of the Divine!*

This world is subjected to many troubles because man has forgotten love. Therefore, develop love and broaden your heart. The whole of your heart is filled with love only. Enjoy it. Share it with your neighbours. Fill everybody with love. This is true worship! Worship is not offering flowers to God which fade and wither. Offer the flowers of love to God. Sai's property is love. Let anybody think anything. My entire life is filled with love only! All that Swami shares with you is love. Swami spends all His time in giving only. Always giving, giving. Give at least a fraction of this God-given love to others. You call yourself a devotee of Swami. Do you have the right to say so? No! To what extent are you practising Swami's teachings in your daily life? Nothing. In practice you are zero, but in talking you are a big hero. You should be heroes not only in talking, but in practice also. Develop unity of thought, word and action. Thought, word and action must be one always. Practise silence for at least ten minutes everyday and think of Swami's teachings.

All matter in this vast world is a collection of atoms. There is no matter without atoms. Magnetic waves fill the entire world. But the biggest magnet is God. Develop purity so that God attracts you. Then only can you call yourselves a spiritual aspirant and devotee.



## Love is the Source of Great Power

The world changes constantly. It is only God who never changes in this changing world. Hold on to God and practise His teachings. Then you will become dear and near to Him. You will get as much peace and bliss as much near you reach Him. You will get as much Ananda (bliss) as much you think of God. You will not feel difficulties when you have love. Where there is love, there is no pain.

There was an officer who worked in office. Everyday, he appeared to be very tired when he returned home after his office work. His wife performed household work, cooked food and served him. One day, his wife fell ill and was admitted to hospital. The officer returned home, cooked food and took it to his wife in the hospital even though he was tired. After this, he attended to her the whole night. From where did he get the energy for all this work? All this energy was generated because of the love he had for his wife!

When love for a human being can give so much energy, how much power will love for God give? So, having love for God and doing His service can give you immense power. Those who realise this are Parama Bhaktas (great devotees) and true Sadhakas (spiritual seekers). Ancient Rishis and sages knew the power of love. Even though there were wild animals in the forest, they did not do any harm to them. They could live amidst them because of their intense love! The vibrations of their love could change even the animals into loving ones. This has been the practice in vogue from ancient times. But man today is devoid of love. Naturally, the feelings of his hatred evoke anger even in peaceful animals.

## Nearness to God Gives Bliss

Therefore, give love and receive love. If you give anger, you will get back only anger! Therefore, Prema is necessary always. Love is your soul, your life, your God. Live in love! Share love with others. Swami's New Year gift to you is love.

Accept everything with equanimity. In Tamil Nadu, people prepare a dish containing a mixture of all tastes – sweet, sour and bitter on New Year Day. What is the inner meaning of this? It means that you should observe equanimity in both, happiness and sorrow! From this New Year, undertake to develop the virtue of equanimity. You should not exult when you get happiness nor grieve when you get troubles. Accept both as God's Prasadam. Do not think that everything should happen as you wish. Accept all that God wishes and act accordingly. Then only can you reach God. *Brahmavid Brahmaiva Bhavati* (the knower of Brahman becomes verily Brahman).

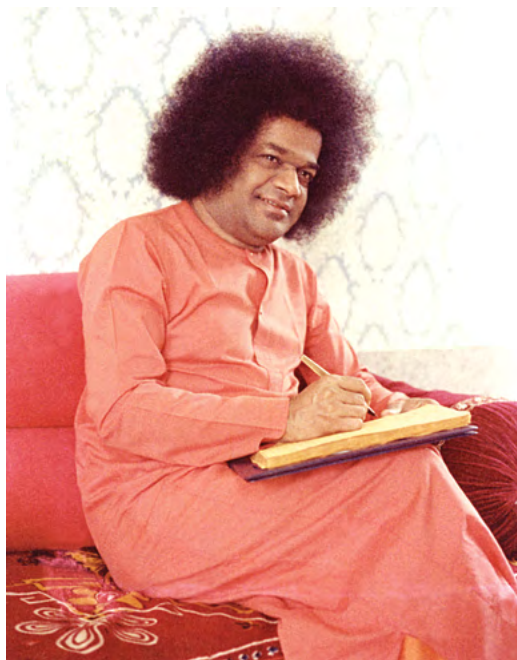
A magnet attracts iron pieces. If the magnet and the iron remain together for two days, the iron also gets the magnetic power. So, when you remain close to God constantly, you will also become one with God! The aim of human life is to recognise the unity of the individual with God. So, whenever you get time, think only of God. The Ananda (bliss) you get becomes limitless as you go nearer and nearer to God. Therefore, always engage yourself in the thoughts of God.

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

– **Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 13th April 1996.**







## BHAGAVAN WRITES FOR SANATHANA SARATHI

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

The article given in this issue forms the second and final part of the article which was published in July 1984 issue of Sanathana Sarathi. We have not been able to give the article which was published in June 1984 issue since we could not find this handwritten article. The subsequent issues of Sanathana Sarathi will also carry articles of "Leela Kaivalya Vahini" which expound the profound knowledge of the Vedas. Since Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself is the Veda Purusha and the Vedas have emerged from Him, there can be no greater authority to propound the eternal values and invaluable teachings of the Vedas than Him. The seekers who want to grasp the authoritative and true import of the spiritual truths contained in these most ancient scriptures should read and reread these articles.





ద్రోహం. చలనం. మృత్యుం. కేదం, అది పుష్కలం చెప్పబడినది.  
 ౨౨. ఇది అంతర్లీనంగా భగవంతుని సత్త్వం, మంత్రం నాకు  
 భగవంతుని పుష్కలం కలిపి అద్భుతమైనదిగా  
 కలిసిపోతున్నది అని చెప్పారు.

సా. ప్రభువులు కేదం అంటారు.

స్వా. కేదం అంటే మన కేదం అని ప్రభువులు అంటారు. ప  
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# వీలాకైవల్య వాహిని

## (సాయి సాధకుల సంభాషణ)

అన్నము, జలము, అమృతము, వేదము-ఇవి పృథ్వి అని చెప్పబడుచున్నవి. ఇవి ఎల్లప్పుడు భగవంతుని గర్భము నందుండునవి కాన భగవంతుడు పృథ్విగర్భుడని కూడా బ్రహ్మయే తనకు తాను వేదరూపమున తెలుపుకొన్నాడు.

**సాధకుడు :** ప్రథమజా అనగా ఏమి?

**సాయి :** త్రయీరూపమగు వేదవాక్కు ప్రథమజా అని కీర్తింప బడినది. 'ఉపస్థాయి ప్రథమజాం' అని అనుటచే ప్రథమజా అను వాక్కును సేవించుటవలననే విద్య సిద్ధించుచున్నదని చెప్పబడినది. అనగా, వేదవాక్కును సేవింపని యెడల బ్రహ్మవిద్య సిద్ధింపదని దీని తాత్పర్యము. వేదవాక్కు కేవలము అర్థము తెలిసి భావపూరితముగ సేవించినపుడే వేదవిద్యాసిద్ధిని బడయవచ్చునే కాని కేవలము నోటితో ఉచ్చరించినంత మాత్రమున వేదవిద్యాసిద్ధి లభించదని కూడా ఈ వాణి స్పష్టపరచినది.

**సాధకుడు :** ఈ ప్రథమజా అను వాక్కు ఏ వేదమునందు దర్శింపబడినది?

**సాయి :** ఋగ్వేదమునందు ప్రథమజా, పూర్వజా అను పదములు వేదముయొక్క అనాదిత్వమును చాటుచున్నవి. అందుచేతనే రామాయణమును వ్రాయుచు వాల్మీకి ఈ వాక్కును 'అగ్రవాక్' అని కీర్తించినాడు. వేదవాక్కునే కాక హిరణ్యగర్భునకు కూడా, ప్రథమజా అని ప్రథమోత్పన్న మైనదగుటచే బ్రహ్మను, బ్రహ్మవిద్యను ప్రథమజా అని శ్రుతులు కీర్తించినవి. 'బ్రహ్మదేవానాం ప్రథమః' బ్రహ్మదేవునకు, హిరణ్యగర్భునకు ప్రథమజా అని పేరు వేదమున కన్పట్టుచునే యున్నది.

**సాధకుడు :** ఇందులో ప్రాథమ్యమెవరికి? అనగా హిరణ్యగర్భునకా లేక పరబ్రహ్మకా?

**సాయి :** హిరణ్యగర్భునకంటే పరబ్రహ్మకు ప్రాథమ్యముండుటచే బ్రహ్మనే ప్రథమజా అయినది. ప్రథమజా అనగా అనాది సిద్ధమగు వాక్కు. ఇది పరబ్రహ్మ ముఖమునుండి ఆవిర్భవించినది అని అర్థము. ప్రథమజా అను నామము సార్థకము అయినట్లే ఆర్షపదము కూడా బ్రహ్మవాక్యమైన వేదమునకు ప్రసిద్ధము. మీమాంసాది న్యాయముచే పరిశీలన చేయువాడే ధర్మజుడు. మీమాంసాదులచే పరిశీలన చేయనివాడు అధర్మజుడు అని అర్థము.

**సాధకుడు :** ఆర్ష మనగా నేమి?

**సాయి :** వేదము ఋషి యగుటయే కాక ఋషిద్రష్ట అగుటచే ఇది 'ఆర్ష' అని చెప్పబడినది. ఈ వేద మంత్రజాతము ఆర్షయధీనమని ఋగ్వేదము స్వయముగా వివరించినది.

# LEELA KAIVALYA VAHINI

## Sai Speaks to Sadhaka

I mentioned the name Prusnigarbha. That is a very meaningful name for the Almighty. It signifies Anna (food), Jala (water), Amrita (immortalising nectar), and the wisdom of the Veda. Since the Almighty Brahman has all these in Him, in the Garbha (womb), so to say, He is named Prusnigarbha. Brahman is thus declaring His own Reality as the Veda Rupa (Form of Veda).

*Sadhaka:* Swami! Prathamaja is another name You mentioned. What does that word mean?

*Sai:* The Trayee (Three), that is to say, the Veda, is extolled as Prathamaja in the Veda; “Upasthaya Prathamajam”— this statement reveals the belief that Vidya (higher learning) could be attained by the Upastha (revered study) of Prathamaja or the Primal-born. Unless one studies, with humility, the sacred Veda Vaak (Word of the Veda), one cannot master Brahma Vidya (knowledge of Brahman). This requires not the verbal recitation of the Veda, but the constant “service”, the conscious worship of the Veda with full awareness of what the word means and commands. This has been made plain in that statement.

*Sadhaka:* In which Veda, Swami, does the name, Prathamaja, occur?

*Sai:* In the Rig Veda. Understand that Prathamaja and another similar expression, Purvaja indicate the impossibility of discovering when the Veda was first revealed. It is beginningless. It is for this reason that Sage Valmiki has praised this Vaak (Word) as the First, imperceptible, Agra Vaak (mysterious Word). The first concretisation of the Cosmic Will was the Cosmos or the Hiranyagarbha (Cosmic Womb); that, too, is Prathamaja. Knowledge of the Impersonal and its projection as Personal (Brahma Vidya) is also Prathamaja, the Primal Awareness, according to the Veda. Both Brahman and Hiranyagarbha are sometimes referred to as Prathamaja.

*Sadhaka:* Of these two, which is really Prathama, that is to say, the First?

*Sai:* Brahman is the very first. It always is and has been. From it, Hiranyagarbha was born. And the Veda, too, emanated from it. The appellation Prathamaja is very apt, for the Vedas. Since the Rishis heard and pronounced the Veda, it is also named Aarsha; that is, related to the Rishis.

Veda is the source of Dharma, moral life, righteous behaviour. Those, who observe the norms relating to duties and taboos as laid down in the Veda and as interpreted by the Mimamsa rule, deserve the name Dharma-adherents. Those, who interpret them as their own desires direct, are Adharma-adherents. This is the meaning.

*Sadhaka:* Aarsha? What does that mean?

*Sai:* The Vedas are the expression of the highly spiritualised vision of sages or Rishis. As the Vedas are related to the Rishis, they are called Aarsha. The Vedic Mantras are the precious treasure, garnered by Rishis for liberating man. Thus sayeth the Rig Veda.







# MY TRYST WITH DIVINITY\*

*Indreshwar Singh Sirohi*

**T**HE NEXT DAY, SWAMI WAS going to the Ayurvedic College and the Sainik School which my grandmother had set up. Then a day later, Swami was going to inaugurate the 'Digvijay Dwar' at Somnath which grandmother had put up. So, there was a lot of excitement. But the next morning, something else happened. There was a gold control act. Under that act, this Krishna idol which was about fifteen inches high and weighed about two and a half kilograms was falling under the purview of the act. This was a high level team which had come down and Swami once again said to grandmother, "Rajmata, go and ask them whether it is 22 carat, 24 carat or what it is". By now, people were sure that Swami was up to another drama. So, she went down and told them.

They were government assayers who knew the job inside out and they looked at grandmother with smug expression on their faces. They said, "Very soon we will tell you what it is. It looks like 24 carat and then we are going to go away with the idol. Time for you to say goodbye". They took a file and filed under the feet of Lord Krishna's idol. They filed a little, took the quantum of the gold that came out and started testing it. A few minutes later, they again started filing it a second time and again testing it and this went on and on. The government file had many Padanamaskars of Lord Krishna before they finally decided to tell the family, "It is not 22 carat gold, definitely it is not 24 carat gold either. It is not Kundan gold,

which is 100% gold. It is something not known to mankind; it does not come under any of the elements known to man in this universe". A Leela of Swami, and of course everyone was very happy.

## **How Swami Granted me Admission in His School**

I will tell you how I joined Swami's school. I appeared in my 10th Standard examination, did very well and came back to Bombay (Mumbai). A group of friends as also my cousins passed 10th Standard. We were a mischievous lot and decided that we would join St. Xavier's College. So, we fixed up everything. All of us had State level and National level accreditations in sports, shooting, swimming, etc. So, the entire gang knew how to get in on our sports merit. We picked up our bikes, our cars and we were sure of the Masti (revelling) and Hungama (bashing) we were going to do and somewhere in between we thought we will suffer a little bit of education too. Everything was Pucca (confirmed).

All was set and one fine morning grandmother told me "Gopal, we are going to Parthi tomorrow". Oh my God! I thought. Swami can turn the tables. I was scared what Swami would do. I quickly got back to my gang and said, "Tomorrow, I am going to Parthi. What to do"? They consoled me, "Don't be so scared. You are going for only one day; nothing will happen. Swami will ask a few questions, a few lines at the most. You can't be granted an audience by just going down for a day. Just relax". The next day as we reached Puttaparthi, in

a few moments of Swami coming out, we found ourselves huddled in the interview room. Mother, grandmother and aunt representing the ladies side and myself all alone on the other side of the room representing the male bastion feeling all the more alone because I was isolated in the world, even God was not with me. It was a bad state to be in. Now very fervently, I kept my eyes closed and prayed, "Swami, please don't talk about my studies".

Swami continued talking something else with grandmother and suddenly He looked in my direction and asked, "Rajmata, Gopal Ki studies Ka Kya"? (Rajmata, what about Gopal's studies?) Oh my God! I quickly knelt on my knees and said, "Swami, don't worry. Everything is looked after; I have done well in my 10th Standard examination, almost got into St. Xavier's by Your grace. All is well". Then grandmother told Swami, "Swami, this boy doesn't understand anything. I would be very happy if he studies at Your Lotus Feet". And then you know what Swami said, "Haan, Hamare School Mein Padh Sakta Hai Lekin..." and there was a long pause. What He said, "Yes, of course, he can study in My school but..." I saw my entire school life reviewed in front of me. Everything that you do in public school, jump over the wall, go out and eat, see movies, the pranks, the mischiefs, everything that you do would not meet Swami's high standard of expectations. I did not know what will He pick up and talk about. I was so scared. Then Swami said, "Humare School Mein (in our school) no meat, no non-vegetarian". I picked on to it and said, "Yes, Swami, I am used to eating non-vegetarian food. I cannot do without non-vegetarian food, Swami". Swami said, "Yes, I know".

Then Swami started explaining to my grandmother, "Dekho Rajmata, Bombay

Mein Tumhara place Mein Mondays, Thursdays because of Swami and Lord Siva no non-vegetarian food. You know what Gopal does, he goes down to Kemps Corner, Gwalior Tank and Udhar Vo Muslim Ke Paas Kebabs Hai, Udhar Jaake Tripti Karke Aata Hai" (he goes to that Muslim Kebab seller and comes back fully satiated). So, that was true, it was very true. On those days, I would go down the roads Swami mentioned, indulge myself in Kebabs. Well saturated, I would come back and people would ask me, "Gopal, you are not eating today". "No, I don't feel like, I am not feeling well today," I used to say. Every Monday and Thursday, I was not well! So, people thought, poor chap he does not like eating vegetarian food, which I called rabbit food. So, it was fine.

Now Swami revealed more secrets and I kept nodding my head. Then Swami said, "That is on two days of the week but in his previous school, Rajkumar College, everyday they are served meat and even then he runs away outside, isn't it true?" "Yes, Swami." That was what was going to save me. "Vo pavilion Ke Peechhe wall Ko jump Karke Bahar Jaata Hai." (he jumps the back pavilion wall and goes out.) "Yes, Swami." And then Swami let out, "Kabhi Bharti Ke Paas Bhi Jaata Hai, Tho Kabhi Reshma Ke Paas Jaata Hai." (sometimes he goes to Bharti and sometimes to Reshma). Oh my God! And then Swami stopped and I was stunned. How could Swami do this to me? My face went pale and my grandmother was looking at me and looking at Swami and Swami never explained that Bharti was my favourite omelette stall of a hawker who was working outside the school wall peddling his wares, and Reshma was my favourite Kebab stall. Depending on the amount of money that was jingling in my pocket, I would either go to Bharti or to Reshma, and both were

manned by males but the way Swami put it, I was in a fix.

Grandmother flew onto Swami's Feet, saying, "Swami, Bachao (save my grandson). Please keep him in Your school. Swami, he is a good boy. It is his Rajput genetics, they just can't help it. Swami, please save him". Swami looked at me sternly with a mischievous glint in His eyes and said, "Aur Bolun"? (shall I tell more?) I said, "No, Swami". I thought: You have done enough damage for the day. "Hamare school Mein Aata Hai?" (will you come to our school?) "Yes, Swami", I said. "Achchha" (Ok), Swami said. And very soon the interview was over. After this, I appeared in the entrance test and interview. Even though I played all tricks to fail, yet it was the Will of God that prevailed. And I joined Swami's school.

### **The Creator and His Creation**

Now let me come to what happened in Brindavan one day. Like you are seated over here, we were all seated in Trayee Brindavan one evening and were quite excited because that day Swami was definitely in a very playful mood. And sure enough, Swami waved His hand and brought out a large diamond. Swami had been talking about the Kohinoor that adorned the royal crown. So, we felt a diamond was coming and true enough it was a big diamond. Swami passed it across and all the boys were looking at the diamond and some of them were kissing the diamond and Swami spoke but rather softly, "Heeray Ko Kya Dekh Rahe Ho? Hero Idhar Baitha Hai. (why are you looking at the diamond? The hero of the universe is sitting here)". But the import of the words was lost because Swami spoke very gently. Then Swami spoke a little louder, "Why clasp the created? Why not clasp the hand of the Creator?"



*The author with Bhagavan in Kodaikanal.*

### **Swami Acts as Krishna**

From here, the informal residence of the Lord of the universe, let us go to the green mountains of Kodaikanal, which were His playground. I have been lucky to be blessed with a few Kodaikanal trips with Swami. Now what happened one evening, Bhagavan came out a little earlier from His room and only about four of us were ready. So, we quickly descended behind Swami and then Swami looked at us and said something which really took us off our feet. He said, "Chori Karna Hai? (shall we steal?)" Wow, were we hearing right? "Chori Karna Hai." "Yes, Swami," we echoed. So, Swami tiptoed towards the pantry door. Just to give you the layout, there was a lounge where we were and there was a pantry door to a very small pantry. There Smt. Ratanlal, whom we fondly called Brij aunty, was cooking Vadas and was placing them on the pantry after frying them. What Swami did was as she went back into the kitchen just adjacent, Swami tiptoed to the Vadas, picked up a few and brought them over to us. They were very hot. So, we started juggling with them but we quickly devoured the Vadas because we again





wanted to see Swami tiptoe, go back and get the next bounty of Vadas, and Swami did that. As we ate them, our gullets started burning, our hands were scorched and our eyes were streaming. Yet we were very happy. And Swami went back again and this time brought a larger quantity. We started thrusting them into our mouth wanting to see the re-enactment of the 'Makhan Chor' (the stealer of butter) and we were the lucky Gopalas. Meanwhile, Smt. Ratanlal realised that the Vadas were vanishing, and so, she hid behind the kitchen to solve the mystery of the vanishing Vadas. And no sooner did she see Swami putting His hand out for the Vadas, she caught Swami's hand. "Swami, Aap Kya Kar Rahe Ho? Yeh Vade Mein fry Kar Rahi Hun, Meine Aaj Sham Ko Sab Ko Kilana Hai. Mein Doosra Bana Nahin Sakti. (Swami, what are You doing? I am frying these to serve everybody in the evening. I cannot fry another lot". And here was the Lord of the universe in His own kitchen 'stealing' His own Vadas for His students! You know what He did after that. He looked up, turned round quickly and came out of the pantry, saying, "Aiyo, Durvasa Muni"! (Ah! She is Sage Durvasa). That is the liberty that devotees can take with Swami when their hearts are filled with pure love.

### **Unbounded Grace on Avatar's Contemporaries**

Now I will take you across to another lovely experience that we had in Kodaikanal. We were travelling in a bus and we knew that we were supposed to go to the Silver Cascade. Everybody felt very close to Swami and Swami was talking in a mischievous way and we were all very happy. Then the bus stopped. We had reached the Silver Cascade. That is a waterfall that falls on dark indigenous rocks and the frothing foam over there

looks wonderful. It is a sight for gods to see and naturally all the boys opened up the windows, pulled away the curtains and started looking at the surrealistic beauty of the waterfall. And Swami said something which most of us didn't hear. Swami repeated again, "Ah! Boys look outside, beauty is outside, only God is sitting inside". So, at once we all closed the curtains, we were taken aback by the profundity of that statement, and the gravity of those words slowly started settling into our hearts. Then one amongst us said, "Swami, we are so lucky to be at Your Lotus Feet. We have not done such good Karmas to be next to You. Surely, it must be our ancestors, our parents, it must be the Devas blessing us, our Kula Gurus blessing us and so on". Swami looked at the boy and mentioned very casually, "You know the Rishis in the Himalayas. Some of them have been praying for hundreds of years and some even for a few thousands years. I appear before them for a few precious moments and here I am with you day in and day out. And what do you do to reach Swami? Here Swami is available at merely a bus ticket and there the Devas are praying for a chance of Swami's Darshan". We were all silent.

Then Swami asked, "Now tell me what have you done or your ancestors done or your Kula Gurus done to deserve My Darshan"? We all shook our heads, "Nothing, Swami". Then Swami revealed the highest truth, "It is true. You just happen to be the contemporaries of the Avatar and it is purely My grace". I hope that these profound words of Swami would reverberate in our hearts and vibrate till eternity.

– The author is the grandson of Late Rajmata Saheba Gulab Kunverba of Jamnagar. He passed his B.Com in the year 1991 from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Brindavan Campus.

# LOVE THE DIVINITY INSTALLED IN YOUR HEART

SHARE YOUR LOVE WITH YOUR FELLOW BEINGS

## *Embodiments of Love!*

**G**URU IS ONE WHO DISPELS THE darkness of ignorance, arising out of body attachment. Body is but an instrument. God has given you the body to take to the path of action. Body is God's gift. *Deho Devalaya Proktho Jivo Deva Sanathana* (the body is a temple and the indweller is God). Consider all bodies as temples of God and offer your salutations. Salute even your enemies.

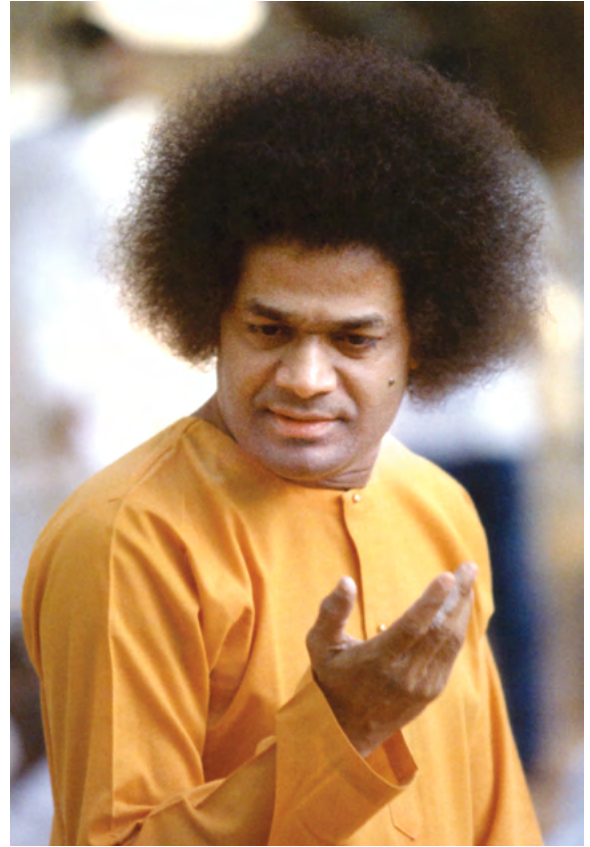
## **Bad Company Causes Impurity**

I often address you as Bangaru (nuggets of gold) because you are the embodiment of Hiranyagarbha. The principle of Hiranyagarbha is present in your heart. You may change the shape of the jewel, but gold remains changeless. The value of gold decreases as it is mixed with various metals like copper, brass, etc. Likewise, man by birth is highly pure and most valuable. But on account of his association with evil desires and bad company, he loses his value.

*Tyaja Durjana Samsargam,  
Bhaja Sadhu Samagamam,  
Kuru Punyam Ahorathram,  
Smara Nityamanityatam.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Give up bad company; join good company, perform meritorious deeds day and night



and remember what is transient and what is eternal). This is your Dharma.

## *Embodiments of Love!*

It is said, *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). So, sanctify your life by making proper use of your senses. Do not talk as you please. Talk softly and sweetly.

Have proper control over your vision. You all know what happened to Keechaka when he looked at Draupadi with evil intentions. Bhima smashed his head into pieces. That is why Buddha preached the principle of Samyak Drishti (right vision). Buddha attained enlightenment only after he cultivated sacred vision. Consider all that you see as the form of God. Think what is good, see what is good, hear what is good, talk what is good and do what is good. Only then can you attain Divinity.

### **All are the Sparks of My Divinity**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

This body is approaching its 75th Birthday. All these years I have remained blissful because I am aware of the principle of unity. You too can experience bliss if you understand this truth. I do not hate anybody. Neither do I have any enemies. I have absolutely no fear because everything is My own form; the same Atma exists in all. When an innocent child smiles at you, you too smile at it. Likewise, when I smile blissfully, seeing Me all of you do the same. Have a sacred heart. Cultivate sacred feelings. Then the result also will be sacred. Have faith that God is everywhere. You may have to undergo trials and tribulations, but never lose faith in God. Consider faith as your very life-breath. Each one of you is an embodiment of love, but because of food and habits, evil qualities of jealousy and anger arise in you. As is the food, so is the head, as is the head, so is God. So, consume only Sattwic food. Then you will have only sacred feelings and your speech will also become sacred. In order to put you on the right path, I sometimes pretend to be angry, but in reality, I am never angry. The only harsh word that I use is Dunnapotha (he-buffalo). You are

truly a buffalo if you do not undertake good actions. If you do good, you become a good fellow. When there is a heavy downpour, the cow and calf may run hither and thither, but the he-buffalo remains wherever it is, totally unmindful of the rain. You should not become inactive like a he-buffalo; there should be transformation in you. Human life is highly sacred. Do not put it to misuse. I love everybody. Love is My true form. All of you being the sparks of My Divinity, share your love with your fellow beings, just as I share My love with you all. Then you too will become Divine. When you follow the sacred path, the world will undoubtedly attain peace and prosperity.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

Give up ignorance, light the lamp of wisdom in you and ultimately merge in the Divine. This is Swami's message for you today. Develop love. Through love alone can you annihilate the mind and through love alone can you get cured of any disease. Only love can eradicate the evil qualities in you. So love all. Love the Hridaya, not the physical body. Love the Divinity that is installed in your heart. Body, mind, intellect and senses are merely instruments; you are the master. So, master the mind and be a mastermind. Never become a slave to your mind. Contemplate on the Divine day in and day out. That alone can bring about transformation in you. You may chant any name, contemplate on any form; but understand the truth that God is one and only one.

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

– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 16th July 2000.





# MY EXPERIENCES IN BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE PROXIMITY

*Srivilas Suri*

I WAS STUDYING IN MADRAS (Chennai) for my degree. Since I earned a good name as a cricketer and tennis player in my college, I was selected to represent the university in cricket as well as tennis. This deprived me of minimum attendance. But the Principal assured me that I was exempted from attending many classes since I had brought credit to the college.

When the exam dates were announced, I was denied the Hall Ticket citing lack of minimum attendance. I was devastated and protested vehemently, but it was of no use. I did not attend the prize giving ceremony in the college and was brooding what I should do. I even filed a case against the College Management. This was in 1959.

## **My First Encounter with Swami**

It was during Sri Sathya Sai Baba's visit to the house of Dr. Suri Bhagavantam, an uncle of mine, in Bangalore (Bengaluru) that my father was introduced to Baba who invited him to come for Sivarathri festivities at Prasanthi Nilayam.

My father sent word (telephones were rare those days) that he planned a visit to Prasanthi Nilayam to witness Sivarathri celebrations being held by Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and asked me to come to Kolar Gold Fields (where I was born). He was planning to travel by car. I was thrilled because I could drive for a long distance and reached KGF. I was not aware of Sri Sathya Sai Baba,



who was living at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi, whom my father was interested in seeing.

On the morning of Sivarathri in 1959, I think, it was February, I set out for Puttaparthi along with my parents in car. There was no proper road except a mud track. After missing the Puttaparthi village, and after many enquiries, we reached Prasanthi Nilayam at around 12 noon. Puja was being held for a statue of Shirdi Sai

Baba in a tin shed, and it was reported that Sri Sathya Sai Baba had performed Vibhuti Abhishekam by materialising Vibhuti with the wave of His hand. We did not see this as we had arrived late. There was a small crowd of about 500 to 600 people. Those days, there were no rooms to accommodate persons coming to Prasanthi Nilayam. We spent the afternoon in the car and proceeded to the shed for the evening Bhajan and Discourse. Sri Baba, whom everyone was addressing as Swami, sat on a cushioned chair swaying to the tune of Bhajans. Suddenly, He had convulsions and with pain on His face, He started bringing out small-sized Siva Lingas from His mouth! About 9 such Siva Lingas came from His mouth on that night. The Bhajan continued but Swami retired to His room. The night was spent by my parents in the verandah of a devotee and I slept in the car all the time wondering who this man was and what He was up to.

I was perplexed and confused at this happening. Who is this diminutive person, clothed in an orange-coloured Jubba (a long outer garment resembling an open coat, having long sleeves), covering fully the orange-coloured Dhoti, with a flock of dark curly hair around His face like a halo! I was thinking if He was a magician tricking people with His magic to attract them and seek money from them. But my parents were totally lost in this phenomenon.

The next day, Swami started calling each one for a personal talk, which was called interview. I was later to learn how precious and invaluable this interview was. Swami would address the personal problems of each one by talking to them in the room and provide solution and solace. Prasadam and Vibhuti were personally

distributed by Swami along with His printed colour photo. My parents had their interview, but I was not called. Swami said that He would like to talk personally to me. I wondered what He would talk about!

When I was called by Him, He asked me what I was doing in Chennai. I told Him that I was studying for my degree. He said, "No, you are wasting your time and going to films with a female film star. You have ruined your health with hotel food and developed ulcers". I was stunned beyond belief! Who told Swami about my health and my going to films, when I was in Chennai. Was He guessing to get an answer from me? Even my parents were unaware of what I was doing in Chennai. Did someone tell Swami about me? But why should they tell Swami? I was filled with all sorts of doubts.

Then He said, "I want you to come back after dropping your parents. I was shocked and wondered if He had given this information about me to my parents. I don't know, what prompted me to come back, even after He had revealed my ways of living in Chennai. I did come back.

Meanwhile, my father retired from KGF, and under the advice of Swami, joined the Atomic Energy Commission as General Manager of Mining Operations at Jaduguda, a place 30 km away from Jamshedpur.

### **Swami Cures my Ulcers**

The trip to Prasanthi Nilayam those days was very arduous. From Bengaluru, one had to take a train proceeding to Hyderabad at 10 p.m. and get down at Penukonda railway station around 2.30 a.m. From the station, one needed to walk about two km to reach the bus stand. The

first bus would leave Penukonda bus stand at 6 a.m., and would reach Bukkapatnam around 8 a.m. Right through the journey, the locals would abuse Swami saying He was a fake cheating public and they would dissuade people from visiting Prasanthi Nilayam. After reaching Bukkapatnam, one had to wade through Kothacheruvu lake, again a distance of two km to finally reach Prasanthi Nilayam. From the balcony of the first floor, Swami would be counting the number of people coming on a particular day. It would be not more than 10. He would request them to have a bath in Chitravathi river nearby and come for Bhajan. One had to scoop water from the Chitravathi river as it was full of sand. There were no bathrooms or toilets those days.

On one of my journeys, I went with my brother-in-law who was contemplating change of job from Bengaluru to Bhopal. But Swami advised him to stay in Bengaluru and take up a new assignment with new Government Electric Factory being established with German collaboration.

After the interview, Swami would ask people, if they were planning to leave the same evening. The food in the canteen those days was for a limited number of people, and if one missed the time, there would be no food available. Outside stalls were very unhygienic, and it was impossible to eat there, as it was full of garlic and chilli powder.

The same routine would follow while returning. Some semblance of food was taken and the trek to Penukonda station would begin. There, one had to wait for the return of Hyderabad-Bengaluru train which would come around 2 a.m. to reach Bengaluru by 6 a.m. As no reservations

were available those days, one had to squeeze into the compartments, which had first class and inter class. A very tiring ritual indeed!

What made me to undergo this ordeal every time I visited Prasanthi Nilayam? What was attracting me to Swami like a magnet? Why was I going to Him even after He had sort of exposed me? I had no answers. On one of my visits to Prasanthi Nilayam, Swami asked me, "Why are you coming like this? Come today, I will cure you of the ulcers". I had not even taken a bath and was waiting to take leave from Swami. All of a sudden, Swami called me inside and said, "Bangaru, Neevu Chaala Rozulunundi Kadupu Noppito Bhada Padutunnavu. Inka, Eeroju Nunchi Nee ulcers Nenu Nayam Chesthanu" (you have been suffering from stomach ache since many days, I am curing you of ulcers from today). Swami materialised Vibhuti and asked me to take a deep breath, and He put the Vibhuti in my mouth. Swami said, "Eeroju Nunchi Nuvvu Gongura Avakai Kharam Anta Thinavacchu" (from today onwards, you can eat all pickles).

I came out of the room in a state of shock and daze! I left for Bengaluru en route to Chennai for my exam and wrote to my father this strange miracle of Swami. After writing the exam, I went to Jamshedpur to stay with my parents. Not believing that I was cured of ulcers, I did not touch the pickles.

### **In Bhagavan's Divine Proximity**

Dasara came and I was in Prasanthi Nilayam before the arrival of my parents. Swami, while giving interview to my parents, said, "Kolar (that is how He used to address my father), you have six sons, why don't you give this son to Me? I will



take care of him". My father immediately agreed without even consulting me and that is how I stayed put at Prasanthi Nilayam in the year 1960. He called me aside and said, "Yemi Nuvvu Inka Naa Meeda Nammakamu Leda? Yenduku Avakai Gongura Tinatalledu" (Don't you have faith in Me? Why are you not eating pickles?)

Casting aside my doubts, I started eating pickles from 1960 and till date my ulcers have not reappeared! While I was at Prasanthi Nilayam, I got an appointment letter as a clerk, under sportsmen quota with State Bank of India for a basic salary of ₹175 plus DA of ₹75, a grand total of ₹225! I informed my father and he said, "Do whatever Swami wants you to do". I told Swami about the job offer. He asked me, "Will your father send ₹225 every month for your stay at Prasanthi Nilayam? If he would not, I will pay you every month ₹225 for your stay at Prasanthi Nilayam". I had no answer and was wonderstruck at His response and why He had to do this.

### **Life at Prasanthi Nilayam those Days**

In KGF, I was used to the luxury of hot water and a toilet. At Prasanthi Nilayam, there were neither toilets nor bathing places those days. But I was used to have bath only with hot water even in summer. So, I managed to locate a family outside Prasanthi Nilayam, who would give me hot water for 25 paise. There was no electricity in the village houses and in the early morning darkness, I used to shave feeling every time my cheeks to check, if I had shaved properly! After a quick bath, I would go near the portico of the verandah for the morning Darshan of Swami.

Nagar Sankirtan was held at Prasanthi Nilayam at 5 a.m. and all were expected to

attend after having their bath. I was a late riser and would never attend the Nagar Sankirtan.

I was asked to sleep near the doorway of the interview room along with two other volunteers. Swami would often come down, cross over us, take a stroll in the portico before returning to His room upstairs. We were not aware of this and next day Swami would rebuke us for sleeping so soundly, unmindful of His night haunts.

Once a school function was arranged at Dharmavaram which was to be addressed by Swami. The surrounding villages and towns around Puttaparthi were dominated by Leftists and Dharmavaram was no exception. Here, the headmaster was the elder brother of Swami. Swami had arranged a bus for the residents of Prasanthi Nilayam for attending the meeting, and along with me, another two persons were put incharge of the bus. Miscreants started disturbing the meeting as soon as Swami started addressing. Swami was concerned about the disturbance which might turn violent and He instructed, while leaving the place, that the residents from Prasanthi Nilayam should be brought back safely. He waited on the outskirts of Dharmavaram and left only after the bus had passed His car.

There was a shortage of volunteers those days with only a handful of them for doing various works which Swami used to prescribe. One day, it would be serving the devotees in the canteen, the next day, helping in the cooking in the canteen, another day, cleaning the premises and another day being a Dwarapalaka (gatekeeper) near the interview room.

There were two large sheds those days. One was meant for ladies who were

the residents of Prasanthi Nilayam, while the other was meant for the devotees who came for His Darshan. There was no restriction of the number of days for staying, but questions were asked, if persons continuously stayed for months together, as there was a chance that anti-social elements or criminals in order to escape arrest would hide in the premises.

It was normal for Swami to give cash and medicines to the needy in the shed who had taken shelter, after being rendered homeless at their places or they were widows without shelter. They were living at the benevolence of Swami. Swami had stored many articles in the ladies shed. It was a rule that no young person would enter the ladies shed without being accompanied either by Surayya or any other elderly person. I was deputed to do this job of giving cash or medicines to these ladies. I used to go unaccompanied by any senior person. The ladies protested that a young person (I was hardly 20 years at that time) was coming into the ladies shed, while the ladies were either dressing or sleeping. Through the elder sister of Swami, they sent a request that I should not be allowed to enter the ladies shed.

One day, Swami called a meeting of the residents living in the two sheds, based on the complaints about me. There were more ladies than men in the meeting. Swami lambasted the ladies saying they were the descendants of demonesses, and by virtue of their merits in their previous lives, they were staying under the grace of Swami. They had been given a chance to correct their behaviour, but they were always complaining against one another and fighting among themselves. Also,

they never allowed place to newcomers and occupied the front row in a Bhajan or a meeting as a matter of right. He told the ladies that they had no right to accuse this youngster (meaning me) being sent by Him. He said that He would not take any action against him, based on their complaint. Thus, in very strong words, He admonished the ladies and gave me a character certificate. Am I not blessed? I was not filled with ego with the certificate from Swami. Instead, I decided to serve Him, in any capacity, He wanted me to serve!

Slowly devotees started increasing and the interviews, both in the morning and evening, were lasting three hours. All the time, I used to be on my toes for over three hours in the morning and two hours in the evening, outside the room, regulating the devotees. Many a time, I missed the lunch in the canteen and would subsist on some eatables available outside the premises. Then the flood of Mumbai devotees started coming.

I developed cordial relation with the sisters of Swami and his cousin Sri Kishtappa. I rarely interacted with His brother Sri Janakiramaiah, as he was very busy attending to the work of Swami. He would come to Swami to seek guidance and advice. Sometimes, Swami's sisters would serve me lunch, if I had missed in the canteen. During my stay in the Nilayam, I had the good fortune of meeting the parents of Swami.

*(To be continued in the next issue...)*

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



# GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF BRINDAVAN CAMPUS

**S**RI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its Brindavan Campus in Kadugodi, Whitefield, Bengaluru on 9th June 2019. So, 9th June 2019 is the red letter day in the history of Brindavan as it was on this day, 50 years ago, in 1969 that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba set up the erstwhile Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College for men which later became the Brindavan Campus of the Institute when the Deemed University was formed.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were marked by a number of events spread over two days, culminating in a grand commemorative ceremony held in Sai Ramesh Hall on the morning of 9th June. Brindavan was full of colour and gaiety, reminiscent of the days when Swami would be physically present in Brindavan. The Vice President of India, Sri Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The programme began at 9.00 a.m. on 9th June 2019 with a ceremonial procession from Trayee Brindavan. The Vice President of India, Sri Venkaiah Naidu, accompanied by the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and other luminaries, were escorted to the venue by the campus brass band, a group of colourfully dressed students dancing to mark the joyous occasion and a contingent chanting Vedic hymns.

After the national anthem and lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest,

the Vice Chancellor Prof. K.B.R. Varma gave the welcome address highlighting the philosophy, achievements, projects and initiatives of the University. This was followed by an address by the Director of the Campus, Dr. G.S. Srirangarajan who welcomed all the alumni and distinguished guests present and gave an overview of the 50-year journey of the campus.

A documentary entitled “Education for Life” specially prepared for the event was screened followed by Bhagavan’s Benedictory Message. The Chief Guest Sri Venkaiah Naidu then released a commemorative volume ‘Hrudaya



*Release of commemorative volume by the Chief Guest, Sri Venkaiah Naidu.*

Brindavan’, a compilation that describes the story of the journey of 50 years of the college at Brindavan through the beautiful and evocative medium of photographs. The name of the book has a historical significance since Bhagavan Baba had named the volume that marked the



opening of the hostel in Brindavan in 1978 as 'Hrudaya Brindavan'. On that occasion, He had said, "You are in Brindavan today; when you leave Brindavan, carry the Brindavan in your heart and it will give you peace and solace".

The crowning glory of the morning function was the address by the Chief Guest, Sri Venkaiah Naidu. Marvelling at the educational institutions set up by

and not transactional. He made references to alumni who continue to carry these values in their daily lives even as they have become important contributors to society in various capacities. The address had many references to the value of Indian Culture and the growth of the nation.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. T. Ravikumar, Warden of the Brindavan Campus Hostel and the oldest alumnus serving in the campus, followed by the national anthem, Bhajans and Arati.

The backdrop to the event was a global alumni meet, giving the alumni of Bhagavan's educational institution an opportunity to reconnect with the institution. This they did in style, by turning up in large numbers. The gathering consisted of alumni from the first batch as well as every other batch of students since the inception of the college in 1969. Reflecting Bhagavan's

presence and reach, they came from all parts of India and also from different parts of the globe. The alumni gathering had academics, scientists, military officers, civil servants and administrators, government functionaries, bankers, entrepreneurs, reflecting the diverse areas into which the University's students had made their mark.

To emphasise on the permanence of all the initiatives established by Bhagavan and to update the alumni with the current status of functioning of all His institutions, a special event titled "Reflections" was

*continued on page 30...*



*Address by the Chief Guest, Sri Venkaiah Naidu.*

Bhagavan, he made reference to the efforts currently underway towards a new educational policy. He observed that the institutions set up by Bhagavan Baba stood out as a promising model.

He spoke of how the motivation that Bhagavan provided to lakhs of people was a source of inspiration and made reference to Bhagavan Baba's quotes on education such as "Education is for life and not merely for a living" and "One must have the head of Sankara, the heart of Buddha and the hands of Janaka". The Vice President enumerated how education in these institutions was transformational

# INSCRUTABLE ARE THE WAYS OF THE LORD

N. Kasturi

**S**ATHYA SAI BABA HAS, AS devotees no doubt know, granted visions of Himself as Rama, Krishna and Kamakshi to Bhaktas. Perhaps, the experience of Swami Amritananda at Puttaparthi might be a very valuable example of this aspect of the Divinity of Baba.

As soon as Swami Amritananda reached Prasanthi Nilayam, Baba accosted him, "Amritam", and he was genuinely astonished at the familiarity and even affection with which that call was saturated, for he said, "Only Ramana Maharshi, with whom I spent 17 years, used to accost me thus and the voice and manner were exactly the voice and manner of the Maharshi"! This is a miracle, indeed, if ever there was one.

Later, Baba asked the 85 years old ascetic about a Ganapati Homa that he had performed for 41 days in his seventh year! He told the Swami all the details of that Homa, including the long, involved Mantra with which the offerings were placed each time in the fire. The Mantra as disclosed by Baba begins, "Om Sreem Hreem Kleem Gloum Gam". Baba told him that he had repeated this Mantra a thousand times a day, for forty-one days and made as many coconut offerings in the fire of the sacred Homa. "But, what is the reward promised in the Sastras?" Baba asked the old ascetic. He said that the Sastras declared, if the Homa was done with scrupulous regard for ritual, Ganapati Himself would appear in the Homa Kunda as the golden-coloured, effulgent, elephant-headed



god and with his trunk, he would receive the final and concluding offerings and he would grant everlasting bliss by means of the Darshan. Baba asked him whether he had the Darshan. Amritananda replied that it was not so easy for a seven-year-old boy to get the Darshan of the Lord, by the mere number and quantity of offerings and Mantras. But, Baba interrupted him and said, "No, no. It is due to all that Japa and all that Homa that you have come to Me now. You will today, after an interval of seventy-eight years, get the reward mentioned in the Sastras". Then, He asked Amritananda to look at Him and lo, he saw the golden coloured elephant, the Ganapati as described in ancient texts.

He was beside himself for about four days after this Darshan and forsook food and drink and sleep, in the bliss which he derived therefrom.

It might be of some interest to mention here the experience of Swami Amritananda, (a Nambudri Brahmin by birth, who was given Sannyasa by His Holiness Narasimha Bharati Swami, Sankaracharya of Sharada Peetham, Sringeri) as related by him to the writer. He was suffering from chronic asthma, an illness which Baba diagnosed as produced and aggravated by incorrect practice of Hatha Yoga at Tiruvannamalai. During the months that he remained at Puttaparthi, the drugs that Baba gave him kept away the spasms and he was left practically free from the dreaded affliction. About these drugs, Swami Amritananda said, "The first two days, He gave me the Vibhuti that He 'took' by a wave of the hand; on the third day, there came into it a golden-coloured heavy powder, which He put Himself into my mouth. Then, He turned to the four quarters and with each wave of the Hand, He got quantities of copper coloured powder, which He applied to my back and chest. Afterwards, He 'took' Vibhuti also and gave it into my hand, asking me to swallow a little when the spasm came on. Another day, He 'took' the tender soft hairy roots of some plant and asked me to chew and swallow them. On other days, He gave me a tiny midget version of hill plantain, which I had never before seen in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia or the Himalayas. He gave me a Kharjura (date) fruit, without seed; He 'got' a handful of leaves, which He squeezed before me and, collecting the juice in a vessel that He materialised, He commanded me to drink it".

"Another day, He waved His hand and there, I could see a bundle of small greenish

leaves. He asked me to eat the whole lot, about 3 to 4 ounces in weight, and passed the stuff on to me, with a twinkle in His eye. I was shocked to find that the leaves had underneath them, small sharp thorns and, when I looked at Him imploringly, saying, "Do You really want me to eat all this thorns included"? He melted a little and stretched out His hand, with the words, "Give it back to me". I placed it in His hand; He gave it back to me; and lo, there was not a single thorn! No, not even a vestige or indication that the plant was of such species; so, I ate it all in glee. A few days afterwards, He called me into His room and 'took' a sizeable quantity of green leaves. "A very good specific," He said, "coming straight from the Himalayas". Keeping half of it in reserve with Him, He placed the rest in my hand and said, "Come on! Chew and swallow". It was terribly bitter in taste and I had to draw upon all my Tapas, to perform the task allotted to me. Oh, how I prayed in my heart that He should stop with that and not force me to eat the horrible half portion He had kept in reserve"! But, no. He would not show any kindness that day. Giving me the rest of the leaves, He commanded: Finish this also. Reinforcing myself with all the courage I could collect, I put into my mouth the second instalment, but (would you believe it?) by longer contact with His Divine Hand, that half had become inexpressibly sweet, sweeter than sugarcane or honey! He laughed at my joy and relief and I came to know that the ways of the Lord are truly inscrutable."

This genuine report from an aged Sannyasi, who was for long with Ramana Maharshi and who was learned in Veda and Vedanta, is enough to instil faith in even the most hardened cynic.

– Excerpted from "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram" Volume 1.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## BARBADOS



ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2019, SATHYA Sai International Organisation (SSIO) volunteers in Barbados visited a geriatric hospital in the island's capital, Bridgetown. Five Sai Spiritual Education students prepared care packages, containing soap, toothpaste, lotions and towels, for 36 senior residents at the facility. SSIO volunteers, including Young Adults, spent the afternoon with the hospital's patients, and sang Christian songs and hymns, including "Blessed Assurance" and "Glory! Glory! Hallelujah"! The singing brought much joy to both the residents and staff. While sharing news about the island's favourite sport, cricket, the Young Adults were saddened to learn that the seniors had no access to television or radio, and immediately resolved to donate radios and televisions for the recreational area in the hospital.

## GUYANA

Between 23rd February and 2nd March 2019, an international team of SSIO doctors and medical specialists screened over 60 patients for uterine fibroids surgery



*Fibroids Project, Guyana.*

in Guyana. Supported by the Government of Guyana and the Ministry of Public Health, the on-going Fibroid Project has successfully led to over 140 uterine fibroid and five urological surgeries since 2013. This year, 22 uterine fibroid surgeries were performed with a 100% success rate. Doctors also donated medical supplies to the local hospital and saw other patients. The true measure of success of this project was seeing the happy, smiling faces of the patients and their families. On the final day of the service project, SSIO volunteers distributed 80 grocery hampers to the community in Berbice.

## POLAND

From 29th to 31st March 2019, 33 SSIO volunteers from eight countries



*Eco Bootcamp, Poland.*

participated in an Eco Bootcamp in Warsaw, Poland. Over the three days, the attendees participated in a range of interactive workshops, short talks, nature walks and devotional singing (Bhajans). The Bootcamp allowed attendees to share ideas and experiences and connect with one another.

On the first day of the camp, the participants delved into the teachings of

## BHARAT

Sathya Sai on God, Nature and Man, as well as the science and spiritual aspects of climate change. Human Values and Ceiling on Desires were then explored as two core spiritual solutions to climate change. On the second day, the Young Adults led many practical workshops on how to start and lead eco-projects. By the end of the day, participants had developed their own ideas for environmental projects and acquired skills to implement them. The day concluded with a bonfire and Bhajans to commemorate Earth Hour.

## TAIWAN

As part of the global Serve the Planet initiative of the SSIO, 59 SSIO volunteers, including Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) students and



*Beach clean-up, Taiwan.*

teachers, cleaned up a beach in northern Taiwan on 20th October 2018. Before the clean-up activity, the purpose of this project was introduced and discussed in SSEHV classes. SSEHV teachers extolled the practical value of the activity so that students could see first-hand the destruction of beaches by plastic waste and be motivated to use little or no plastic.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

**Himachal Pradesh:** A symposium on Human Values was organised at Dharamshala on 17th May 2019, in which the faculty members of Central University, Dharamshala and principals of seven teaching institutions with 600 B.Ed. students participated. The Vice Chancellor of the Central University addressed the gathering and underlined the importance of human values in education. Speaking on this occasion, Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President, SSSSO shared his views with the participants and said that it was the need of the hour. Sri Nimish Pandya was on a visit to Himachal Pradesh from 15th to 18th May 2019 and oversaw the various programmes and activities of the Sai Organisation of Himachal Pradesh.

**Odisha:** A fierce cyclonic storm “Fani” struck the coastal parts of Odisha on 3rd May 2019 which affected more than 10 lakh people of Puri, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack districts. Seva Dal volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation reached out to the affected people and provided food materials, items of utility and safe drinking



*Cooked food was served to the cyclone-affected villagers.*

water to more than 5,000 households on 5th May 2019. Cooked food was served to nearly 10,000 affected villagers and slum dwellers for 10 days.



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM TAMIL NADU

**M**ORE THAN 1,400 DEVOTEES including Bal Vikas children came from Kanchipuram North district of Tamil Nadu on their two-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 21st to 22nd June 2019 and presented a galaxy of music and cultural programmes.

On 21st June 2019, Bal Vikas children (boys) presented an enrapturing instrumental music programme “Layarpanam” (musical offering) in the form



*Mridangam ensemble by Bal Vikas children.*

of Mridangam ensemble. The children won the hearts of all listeners when they offered Bhajans and classical compositions with verve and liveliness.

After this, the Disaster Management Team of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu performed a drama entitled “Sai Soul Dears” depicting how these ‘Sai Soldiers’ saved people affected by natural disasters in very difficult conditions. Following the dictum of Swami that human life is meant to serve others, the Sai Youth



*The drama “Sai Soul Dears” showcased disaster management techniques.*

showed how they plunged into action as soon as some calamity occurred and saved precious lives, using all types of life-saving techniques. A video presentation at the end of the drama showcased the enormous work being done by SSSSO in Disaster Management.

On 22nd June 2019, the first programme was a devotional music programme “Sai



*A devotional music presentation by Sai Youth (girls) of Kanchipuram North district of Tamil Nadu.*

Parijatham” which was presented by Sai Youth (girls) of the Kanchipuram North district of Tamil Nadu. Beginning their presentation at 8.30 a.m. with a prayer song dedicated to Lord Ganesh “Om

Ganapati Om Ganapati Om Ganapati Om”, the singers poured out their hearts in devotion to their Beloved Sai in melodious songs which included “Namami Guru Charanam” (I offer salutations at the Feet of Guru), “Narayana Sathya Narayana”, “Namo Sathya Sai Baba Namo Sathya Sai” (obeisance to Lord Sai).

The evening programme began with soulful Bhajans “Prema Dhara” (stream of love) which were led together by the Bal Vikas children (boys) and Sai Youth (girls) from Kanchipuram North district.

The concluding presentation of the evening was a drama “Sanathana Samskriti” (eternal culture) which was also performed by Bal Vikas children. The drama commenced with a beautiful dance by Bal Vikas (girls) students and was followed by the famous Telugu poem by Bhagavan Baba on the rich culture of



*The drama “Sanathana Samskriti” showcased the rich culture of Bharat.*

Bharat. Portraying the life stories of some of the illustrious sons of Bharat, viz., Subhas Chandra Bose, Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the drama emphasised the values of unity in diversity, ceiling on desires and preservation of the five elements of Nature as ordained by Bhagavan Baba. The crowning glory of the drama was the presentation of a galaxy of dances from all regions of Bharat by children in a variety of costumes, depicting the value of unity in diversity.

*...continued from page 24*

organised where the heads of Bhagavan’s institutions presented a brief overview of the recent developments in their respective institutions. We had the Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Sri S.S. Naganand and Sri R.J. Rathnakar highlighting the roles, responsibilities and recent initiatives of the Central Trust. Thereafter, we had Dr. B Sai Giridhar, the Registrar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning focusing on the recent developments at the university and Prof. Siva Sankara Sai, Director of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute talking about the research initiatives at the university. This was followed by Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation stressing on the role played by the Seva Organisation and

finally we had Dr. Shekhar Rao, Director of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru focusing on the achievements of the medical mission of Bhagavan.

The culminating two-day event on 8th and 9th June began earlier with a “Felicitation” function for all the former faculty and staff who served in the college since its inception in 1969.

The two-day event, which marked the culmination of a yearlong celebration enabled all those connected directly and indirectly with Swami’s educational institutions to rededicate themselves to the noble task entrusted to each of them by the Divine Master, Bhagavan Baba.







## CHAITANYA JYOTI

### An Edifice to Elevate Human Consciousness

**T**HE GRAND MUSEUM AT HILL VIEW Stadium which was offered at the Lotus Feet during Bhagavan's 75th Birthday celebrations on 18th November 2000 is an edifice, which is a fusion of many architectural styles and cultures symbolising unity in diversity. Speaking on the occasion of the first anniversary of the museum, Bhagavan said, "People from all parts of the world come here on their own, without any special invitation. Why? (pointing to Himself) This 'Chaitanya Jyoti' is drawing them here!"

The imposing structure of the Chaitanya Jyoti Museum rising up from the rocky hillside on the north-western corner of the sprawling Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium symbolises Bhagavan's vision of unity of mankind in the diversity of its colours and cultures. Its vast Chinese roof that gives it the appearance of a Chinese emperor's palace is the biggest to be found outside China. Two Moorish domes made of titanium in shining silver with a crown of gold flank the Chinese roof on either side

bearing the emblem of unity of religions. The two domes are perched on the building with Gothic windows and Roman arches. The two lift shafts have Japanese style roofs. There are Indian religious figures like Nandi and Hanuman embellishing the structure all around. Chinese dragons, religious symbols and decorative designs abound this building. A

collage of colours and designs in glorious Chinese style pervades the ceiling. In the words of Bhagavan, "It will be an addition to the wonders of the world in the 21st century!"

A towering 36 feet Stupa with the Divine Hand supporting the universe atop catches the attention as one enters the Hill View Stadium. An artistically designed lotus stem supports the universe. Originally, the artisans who worked on the Stupa had depicted the earth atop the divine finger. But Bhagavan told them, "Not just the world, but the whole universe"! When Swami's statement "Viswame Naa Illu" was translated as "the world is My mansion"! Bhagavan at once corrected the translator, "no, not the world, but the universe"! Five swans surround its base. A fish pool called Koi Fish Pool with fishes of myriad colours and the hydraulically Rotating Granite Spheres add to the design concept and beauty of the museum.

Despite the numerous obstacles faced, Chaitanya Jyoti was completed on time for



the opening ceremony on 18th November 2000. It was surely Bhagavan's grace which enabled the timely completion of this mammoth project. The Bhumi Puja (ground breaking ceremony) of the museum was done on 25th August 1999 and for such a massive structure to bear fruition within such a short span of time was indeed a miracle. On 18th November 2000, at 8 a.m. Bhagavan was offered a traditional



*Inauguration of Chaitanya Jyoti Museum by Bhagavan.*

welcome at the ground floor of the museum where He pressed an automatic switch to open the main door of the building. Bhagavan released a bunch of balloons to mark the inauguration of Chaitanya Jyoti, which is the one of main attractions of the complex. Swami was then led to a few other sections of the museum. The brief function concluded with Arati to Bhagavan.

As the building was in the making, a team in Mumbai worked on the exhibits to be displayed at Chaitanya Jyoti. The museum houses rare exhibits which provide a glimpse of the life, mission and teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. There are revealing films on the materialisations of Bhagavan, Baba's childhood Leelas (divine sports), His life and teachings and on the life and teachings of earlier Avatars



*A depiction of Bhagavan's childhood Leelas.*

like Rama and Krishna, statues of various Avatars and prophets, predictions and prophecies on Baba's life and mission, depictions of His mammoth projects in the service of humanity and moving stories on the practice of human values in daily life. To top it all, there are majestic life-size statues of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The museum has no doubt become a pilgrimage centre and nearly 4.5 million pilgrims have visited it till date. What draws them here? Be it the three dimensional depictions, charts, models, video films and other multimedia content, they have created an aura of divine vibrations in the edifice. Every exhibit is imbued with that exalted vision of the coming of heaven on earth!

The concluding feature is the Contemplation Hall where the visitor can sit in peace and ruminate over what he has just seen, before emerging from the building.

The final image that the visitor carries with him is the sight of hundreds of Japanese KOI fish of breathtaking beauty, all floating and swimming gracefully and peacefully symbolising how we should live our lives with goodwill towards all.



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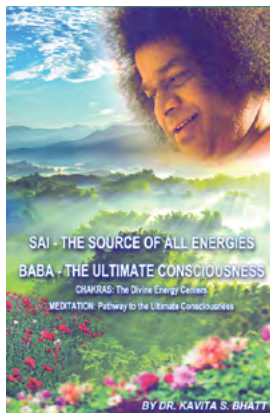
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**T**HE PRECEPTS AND PRACTICES of yoga are entirely based on the concept of subjugating mind and senses on the path of salvation, Moksha or Nirvana.

This book, “Sai – the Source of all Energies: Baba – the Ultimate Consciousness” is written by Dr. Kavita S. Bhatt, who has been a yoga teacher for long. The book covers a large spectrum of established concepts, phraseology and practical applications pertinent to the field of yoga propounded by sages like Patanjali. Relevant concepts of Tibetan Buddhism, as also ideas projected by Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung and others are duly corroborated so as to provide a wider perspective on the subject.

The primordial consciousness and energy are conceived as two facets of the

Supreme Lord by the spiritual seekers, while the scientific community conceives them as the primal building blocks of creation. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba had on many occasions revealed to His devotees that His very name represented these two facets – Sai, the Divine Mother (Energy), and Baba, the Divine Father (Consciousness).

This book is conceptually arranged into two parts. Part 1 is a vast compilation, analysis and interpretation about Energy Centres (Chakras), nerve systems and Nadis (astral nerves), supported by descriptive diagrams and tables; and Part 2 deals with Consciousness from various angles.

Findings of modern science about division of functional areas between left and right halves of the brain, such as intuition and intellect, consciousness and action, as also anabolic and catabolic types of metabolism, sympathetic and para sympathetic nerve systems are corroborated with Ida and Pingala concepts of yoga.

Describing the Anahata Chakra, the author relates its importance to Bhakti (faithful perseverance) and Bhava Samadhi (emotional balance) as vital means for merging with the Supreme Being (Paramatma). By concentrating the positive thoughts on Chakras, the pure vivifying, revitalising cosmic energy can be utilised to invigorate physical, mental, astral, ethereal and spiritual variants of the body, says the author.

– P.P.S. Sarma

Sanathana Sarathi



# God is the only Giver

ONCE A KING WENT TO A FOREST for hunting. After some time, he felt tired and thirsty. He saw a small hut at a distance and went there, expecting somebody to be there. There he found a sage engrossed in deep meditation. He sat there waiting patiently as he did not want to disturb his meditation. Meanwhile, the sage opened his eyes and enquired, "My dear! Who are you? What makes you come here"? The king replied, "I am the ruler of a kingdom. I came to the forest for hunting. As I felt tired, I entered your hermitage

invitation and ultimately the sage agreed just for the satisfaction of the king.

After coming to the palace, both of them had their bath and entered the Puja room. The king started praying, "Oh God! I have become a king due to my great good fortune. But this small kingdom is not enough for me. Therefore, I want to extend my kingdom by annexing the nearby small kingdoms. Cast Your benevolent look on me and shower Your grace". On hearing these words of the king, the sage quietly got up and started to leave without saying anything. "Swami! Will you go without eating anything? Kindly stay for some time," prayed the king. The sage replied, "I have not come to beg from a beggar. You yourself are a beggar and you are begging



*The king was pleased with the hospitality of the sage and invited him to visit his kingdom.*

to take some rest". The sage was very happy to hear this and offered fruits and cool water to the king. The king was very pleased with the hospitality offered to him by the sage. At the time of his departure, the king prayed to the sage, "Swami! My kingdom is quite nearby. Kindly come to my kingdom and accept my hospitality as a token of my gratitude". The sage who had renounced everything did not accept his invitation. But the king persisted with his



*"I will pray to God if I need anything", said the sage to the king.*

from God for petty gains. You are begging from God to make your kingdom big. If I want anything, I will pray to the same God to whom you are praying. I don't require anything from you".

## About Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust Publications Division (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.

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- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries for the benefit of visiting pilgrims and devotees all over the world. All the literature and publications are based on the teachings, philosophy, message, and values of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- 2) The publication and distribution of Bhagawan Baba's monthly spiritual journal - Sanathana Sarathi - in English and Telugu languages. Since 2011, e-version of the magazine is also released simultaneously and is available in the popular Interactive PDF format on [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org).
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*A scene from the drama "Sai Soul Dears".*



*A dance number by Bal Vikas children in the drama "Sanathana Samskriti".*



*A galaxy of dances by Bal Vikas children in the drama "Sanathana Samskriti".*

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## *Do not Harbour Evil Qualities*

As long as you harbour evil qualities  
like desire, anger, greed, etc.,  
humanness cannot blossom in you  
and you cannot experience bliss,  
wisdom divine and all-pervasive  
divine principle. When you lead  
your life beyond duality with the  
awareness of your divine reality,  
only then can you call yourself a true  
human being.

*– Baba*



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