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**The Divine Mission and
Legacy of Sai Avatar**



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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*"You should know who you really are.
Only then will your human life become
worthwhile. Understand that you are
the embodiment of love, you are God.
Love is God. Live in Love. Develop
love more and more. However, use
your discrimination when you give
your love to others. Keep it within
limits. You should offer your love only
to God and none else."*



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THE MISSION AND LEGACY OF DIVINE LOVE

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA IS A UNIQUE AVATAR IN the history of mankind who reached out to millions of people belonging to all religions, races and countries of the world, showered His Divine Love on them and gave them the experience of His Divinity. The world has witnessed how Bhagavan turned His abode Prasanthi Nilayam into a mini world where people from all parts of the globe lived His Divine Message of unity, purity, divinity without any differences of caste, creed and religion. He exemplified His immortal teachings in His own life and set up several exemplary institutions and a unique Sai Organisation for the service of mankind and the spread of spirituality in the world.

Declaring the purpose of His Divine Mission on earth, Bhagavan said, “I have come to light the lamp of love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added lustre”. As He Himself translated His love into action and initiated humanitarian tasks to serve mankind, He also inspired His students and devotees to serve the needy and underprivileged selflessly without any desire for recognition, appreciation, reward, etc., remembering all the time that those whom they served were none other than God, thus transforming service itself into worship of God. Though the global magnitude of Bhagavan’s humanitarian work through the Sai Organisations in all parts of the world is matchless and unparalleled in the history of mankind, Bhagavan never advocated only quantity. Rather, He wanted all devotees to uphold the quality of service undertaken by them. Service, He said, was love in action, and the best way to love God was: “Love All Serve All”. Millions of His devotees in all parts of the world who are engaged today in His Divine Mission of selfless love and service are bringing about a silent spiritual revolution to usher in a new era of truth, love, righteousness and peace in the world. It is no surprise that the humanitarian task He undertook to help the suffering humanity is spreading fast even after His physical departure. The seed of selfless love sown by Bhagavan in the hearts of millions of His devotees is perhaps His greatest legacy to mankind. This will surely one day illumine the heart of man with the light of His Divine Love, eradicating all hatred, violence, conflicts and wars from the face of the earth.

— Editor

AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
3RD SEPTEMBER 1996

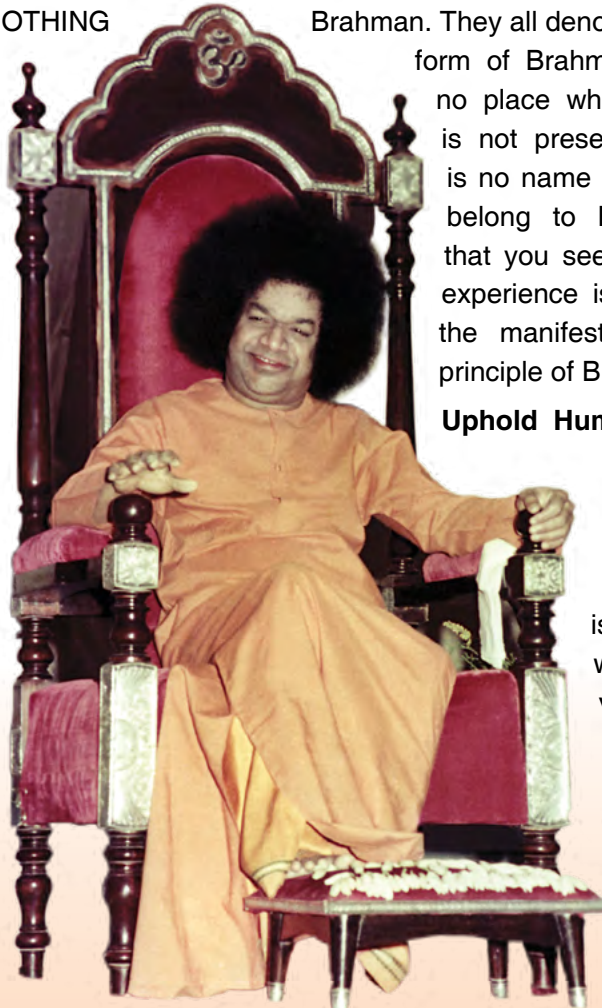
IT IS LOVE THAT UNITES THE WORLD

Though man is born as the son of immortality, he is beset with immorality due to his worldly desires and evil tendencies. Sai's word is the essence of all the Vedas.

(Telugu Poem)

VIRTUES DENOTE YOUR TRUE FORM

THERE IS NOTHING greater than knowledge in this world. But the question arises, "What type of knowledge?" Is it worldly knowledge, spiritual knowledge or knowledge related to ethics and morality? There may be many types of knowledge, but Brahma Jnana (knowledge of Brahman) is the sum total of all types of knowledge. What is Brahma Jnana? The realisation of oneness of the entire universe is Brahma Jnana. The world consisting of living and non-living entities is the very form of



Brahman. They all denote the cosmic form of Brahman. There is no place where Brahman is not present and there is no name that does not belong to Brahman. All that you see, hear, think, experience is nothing but the manifestation of the principle of Brahman.

Uphold Human Values

Every human being born in this world is endowed with certain values. But, unfortunately, most people do not recognise these

values. Even those who recognise them do not put them to proper use and take to evil path and thereby waste their life. Just as a dish of cooked Dhal (pulses) without salt is tasteless, human life without love is useless. In fact, a human being without love is verily an animal. Humanness is synonymous with the principle of love. However, you should know when, where and how you should put this love to proper use. You cannot eat cooked Dhal without salt. Similarly, you cannot eat Dhal if it is mixed with excess salt. You are concerned so much about the taste of the Dhal which gets digested in a couple of hours. Then, should you not be concerned about the human life which has a span of sixty, seventy or eighty years? How is it that man lives so long without being concerned about values? Is it truly the life of a human being? No, no. He should uphold sacred values every moment of his life. As man has forgotten human values and considers this world to be real, he has lost his humanness and is leading the life of an animal.

There are three aspects of spirituality: Asti, Bhati, Priyam (being, awareness and bliss). These three are termed as Sat, Chit and Ananda in Sanskrit language. How can you explain this? This is a tumbler; it lies here. Because it is present here, you give it the name tumbler. This denotes being or Sat. This is changeless. Then, how are you able to recognise the existence of the tumbler here? It is light that makes you aware of its presence. If the same tumbler were to be in darkness, you will

Virtues denote your true form. Love is the real virtue. Love is the true human value. Once you have love, there is no scope for any defect in you. It is love that unites the entire world. Where there is love, there is oneness and bliss. When you have both love and bliss, you will become the embodiment of peace. Today you complain, you have no peace. How can you get peace unless you have love in you?

not be able to know its presence. This light is Chit (awareness). It is Chit that proves the existence of Sat (being). Sat and Chit are interdependent and inseparable. When you say, there is tumbler here, it automatically means there is also light here. It is due to the light of awareness that you are able to recognise the shape of an object. When Sat and Chit come together, you experience satisfaction. This satisfaction itself is Ananda (bliss). Being is Sat. Awareness of Sat is Chit. Unity of Sat and Chit results in Ananda. Therefore, this world is the very manifestation of Sat, Chit and Ananda.

Everything in this world is God. Nobody can say, this is God and that is not. At all times, God is the only Reality and the world is unreal. You can see for yourself. (Telugu Poem)

Ekam Sat Viprah Bahudha Vadanti (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). That Sat is being. How



can you know its existence? You can know it because of the light of love present in you. It is the principle of love that makes humanness blossom and manifest in everyone. Therefore, you should consider the principle of love as God. There is no life without love.

God is the embodiment of love. Love is His Divine form. How can you find fulfilment in life if you do not taste even a little of that love? (Telugu Poem)

In fact, such a life is not worthwhile. The all-pervasive and cosmic divine principle of Brahman is nothing but love. Love is Brahman and Brahman is Love. This is what man should recognise and practise in his daily life. You have love in you. But you should also know when, where and how you should put it to use. This is called Sathyanveshana (quest for truth). Where is the need to search for truth when it is present everywhere?

It is the same eyes that see everyone but you should know whom to see and with what feelings. For example, you have a mother, a daughter, a wife and a sister. You should look at your mother as mother, daughter as daughter, wife as wife and sister as sister. You see all of them with the same eyes. Sathyanveshana lies in enquiring with what feelings you should look at each of them. But, unfortunately, man today does not know how to make proper use of his eyes. Just because he has eyes, he looks at everyone without proper discrimination. That is how he resorts to sin. Your eyes have a great value. Similarly, your ears also have value.

Your ears can hear everything, but you should enquire what you should hear and what you should not. True human value lies in knowing when, where and how you should put each of your senses to proper use.

Observe the Rules of Society

You build a house. In that house, you keep some doors and windows. What are the windows meant for? The windows are meant for proper ventilation and bringing light into the house. The doors are kept so that you, your friends and your relatives can come inside the house and go out. You allow only your friends and relatives into your house and not your enemies or dogs and pigs that move about in the street. Similarly, our body is like a house and also a temple. *Deho Devalaya Proktho Jivo Deva Sanathana* (the body is a temple and the indweller is God). This house has nine doors. But we can see only five doors with our eyes. You should enquire what is good for you, what is sacred and ideal for your life using your power of discrimination and entertain only such feelings and such tendencies into the temple of your body. You should not allow anything and everything through the doors of your body. Similarly, just because you have love in you, you should not divert it towards mundane and trivial matters. You should use it in a limited manner only when it is necessary.

You are born in society, grow in society and spend your life in society. Therefore, you must observe the norms and rules of society. If you give respect to society,



you will in turn be respected by society. *Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah* (If you protect Dharma, you will be protected by Dharma).

Students should not think it otherwise. I am just giving an example of what is happening in society these days. Suppose, a twenty-year-old boy has a sixteen-year-old sister. When they go out together, what will others think about them? They may mistake them to be husband and wife because they do not know that they are brother and sister. This act of brother and sister going out together is against the norms of society. When they go out, they should go with their parents or go separately. If you act contrary to the norms of society, it harms your honour and reputation. Since ancient times, Indian culture has prescribed such norms and controls in society. That which refines your behaviour and conduct is culture. Our culture teaches us how to talk to others, how to conduct ourselves when we go out and how to lead our life. We should meticulously observe the rules of society. In the house, brother and sister can talk to each other in an informal manner, but when they go out, their behaviour should be exemplary. Only such behaviour will give value to human life. But, unfortunately, man has forgotten human values which show the path of truth in his daily life.

Consider another example. There is a sixty-year-old man who marries an eighteen-year-old girl to take care of him in his old age. When they go out in the bazaar, what will others think about them? They

may consider them to be grandfather and granddaughter. In both these examples, society forms an opinion based on the age factor of the people involved. Therefore, you should always keep in mind the age factor, your duty and conduct when you are dealing with society. When you act in accordance with its rules, you will get a good name in society. On the contrary, if you think you have nothing to do with society and act in an arbitrary manner, society will not accept you.

Leave aside the norms and rules of society; you can understand this truth from your day-to-day experience. Consider, for example, you are eating a fruit. If it is sweet, you will eat it with a smiling face. If it is sour, you will at once throw it out. Why do you throw it out? Because it does not taste good. It is not as per your liking. Similarly, if your behaviour in society is not good, the society will not accept it; nobody will respect you. If you cannot earn the respect and honour of society, who will respect you? Good reputation is very important for a human being. Therefore, in order to earn the respect of society, you should uphold human values. *Love is God, God is Love*. If you do not give value to love, it amounts to not giving value to God Himself. When you value love, you value God.

You can Learn many Lessons from Life

Rama was human in form, whereas Sugriva was a Vanara (monkey). How could intimate friendship develop between them? It is natural for a man to befriend another man and for a monkey to befriend



another monkey. But how could a man develop friendship with a monkey? It was the effect of circumstances. Rama was exiled from His kingdom and was separated from His wife. Similarly, Sugriva also was banished from his kingdom, and he too was suffering from the pangs of separation from his wife. It was this similarity in their respective situations that brought about friendship between them. As both of them were in the same situation, they could understand the feelings of each other. In this manner, there are many things to be learnt from life. It is not bookish knowledge that is important; practical knowledge is more important. Mere platform speeches will serve no purpose; put knowledge into practice. Develop humanness by practising human values. You may be proud of your wealth, education and position. But how long do they last? They are momentary. Therefore, students, you should conduct yourself with utmost care in this young age. Here I would like to repeat what I told you earlier:

*Ma Kuru Dhana Jana Yauvana Garvam,
Harathi Nimeshath Kalah Sarvam.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Do not be proud of your wealth, progeny and youth; the tide of time may destroy them in a moment.)

God is your only True Friend

How long will this pride of youth, wealth and progeny last? Wherefrom do they come and where do they go? Are they permanent? Are they the property of your

grandfather or your great grandfather? You have developed this pride due to your false understanding. Such pride is not good for you. You may think you are highly educated.

You may boast of your high academic qualifications. But they cannot give you even an iota of peace in this world. You may feel proud of immense wealth, but it also cannot give you peace.

(Telugu Poem)

What are this wealth and physical strength? They are temporary like passing clouds. When you keep observing clouds, you will notice constant and continuous change in them. Human life is also like that. Light has no value if there is no darkness. It is the clouds that give value to sunlight. Similarly, happiness has no value if there are no difficulties.

Difficulties are there at every step in life. This is natural. Man keeps trying to overcome these difficulties and attain a higher position in life. Caught up in endless and meaningless anxieties, man constantly strives to attain things which are beyond his reach. He does not make effort to acquire things which he deserves. Rather, he craves for those things which he does not deserve. It is only the lamp of spirituality that can show the right royal path to man who is caught up in this endless struggle. For this, you have to develop faith in spirituality. None of your material possessions will go with you when you leave this body. It is only divinity that goes with you. In fact, divinity is in you, with you,



around you, above you and below you. You are God.

When the tank is full of water, you will hear the croaking noise of thousands of frogs in it. When the tank gets dried up, you will not find even one frog in it. Worldly friends are also like that today. When you have money in your pocket and when your father is in a good position, everyone will come to you, saying, hello, hello. When

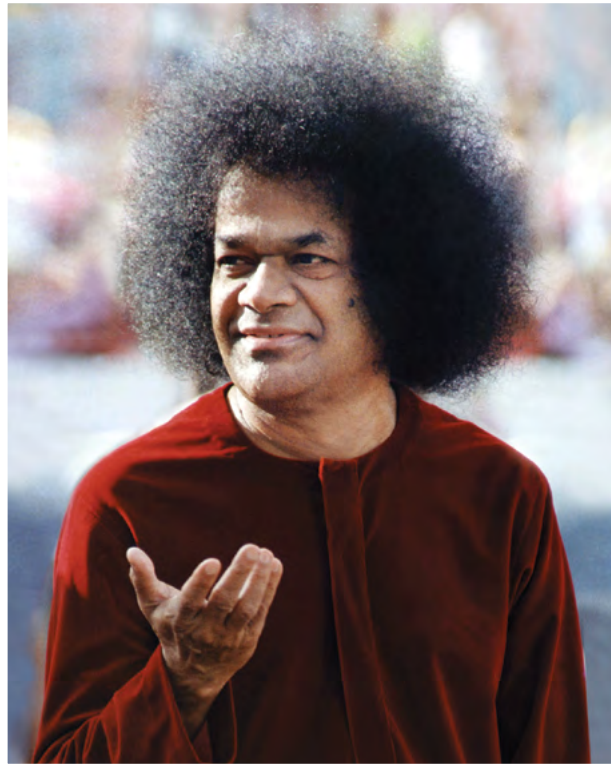
friends you have in the world today. This is not true friendship. God is your only true friend. He is the only one who will never forsake you.

God is your sole refuge wherever you may be,

In a forest, in the sky, in a city or a village, on the top of a mountain or in the middle of deep sea. (Telugu Poem)

We are giving free education to lakhs of children and bringing happiness in their life. In our Institute, there is no tuition fee, no laboratory fee, no games fee, no library fee, no examination fee, no fee whatsoever. Where else can you find such an institution in this world?

Wherever you go outside, you will have to spend thousands of rupees on your education. Can you call it education in the real sense? Prasanthi Nilayam is the only place where education is provided free, heart to heart, love to love.



your pocket is empty and your father has retired, there will not be even one person to say hello to you. All your so-called friends will desert you without even saying goodbye to you. These are the types of

But, unfortunately, you forget God who is your real friend. Instead, you are attached to friends who are temporary like passing clouds. Such friends can be very dangerous also. But you do not recognise



this danger in the beginning. However, you will see that these very friends will become your enemies in no time. But God is not like that. His friendship is eternal. God's friendship is based on heart-to-heart and love-to-love relationship whereas worldly friendship is only at the physical level and depends on monetary considerations. How long can such friendship last? Such friendship is only temporary. You should not believe it to be permanent. God alone is your true and eternal friend. Whether you believe it or not, God is all-pervasive. In fact, you yourself are God. There is no God other than you. This is what is propounded in the Vedas. You should have faith in the teachings of the Vedas. If you do not understand the Vedas, you should have faith in the teachings of noble souls.

You put your faith in a palmist who sits by the side of a road in the bazaar. You pay him five rupees and ask him to read your palm. Whatever he tells you, you believe it as true. But you are not prepared to believe the teachings of the Vedas which declare such profound truths as, *Prajnanam Brahma* (Brahman is Supreme Consciousness), *Tattwamasi* (That Thou Art) and *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). You don't believe the eternal teachings of the Vedas. On the other hand, you believe and follow whatever a roadside astrologer tells you. What is the reason? The reason is that you are interested only in worldly things. As the saying goes, the load gets the vehicle it deserves. One who is interested in worldly things will have faith only in such people. If you want to attain

eternal happiness, you should have faith in the eternal teachings of the Vedas.

Excessive Desires Cause Misery

Your body is like a water bubble which can burst any moment. But you are true, you are eternal, you are Brahman, you are the transcendental principle, you are the embodiment of Atma. What is Atma? The principle of love is verily the principle of Atma. Selfless love which does not seek any reward is the principle of Atma. Where there is selfishness, there you do not find true love. Fish is better than selfish because while moving in water fish eats away all the impurities in it and makes the water clean. But a selfish person pollutes the very society in which he moves. Though it is not possible to perform all actions without any self-interest, yet you should try to control your selfishness as much as possible.

You should understand that your worldly relations are not important and they are not permanent. You should take care that you do not develop unnecessary intimacy with anyone, and at the same time, you do not develop hatred towards anyone. Offer all your love only to God. In today's world, your good and bad depends upon what type of persons you associate yourself with. *Tell me your company I shall tell you what you are.* Whatever the type of persons you associate yourself with, you will acquire the same type of qualities. Those qualities will not leave you even if you don't want them. That is why I keep emphasising the need for good company. Moreover, you should have relationship with others only



to the extent necessary. Not only that, the bad qualities like hatred and anger should be under control. There should be a limit even to your desires. Excessive desires will turn into greed and make your life miserable. No doubt, everybody has some desires. But one should have desires only to the extent necessary. Fire should be in proportion to the food you cook and the size of the vessel should be in accordance with the amount of food you want to cook. Can you cook 5 kg rice in a vessel that can hold only 1 kg of it? Similarly, give your love to others as much as it is necessary. Observe limits with regard to everything. Understand the value of love.

Everything is Good for you

Chatterji mentioned in his speech that Swami says Manchidi (good) for everything. If you say, "Swami, I am going out of town", I say, Manchidi. If you say, "Swami, I came yesterday," I say, Manchidi. Not only that, he does not know one more thing. If you come and tell Me, "Swami, I am going to die", even then I tell, Manchidi. Some people come and tell me, "Swami, I am not able to bear this pain". I tell them, Manchidi. In fact, what is it that is not good in this world? Everything is good for us. *Pleasure is an interval between two pains.* I say Manchidi for everything because there is only goodness in Me. When you pour Payasam (sweet pudding) in a vessel with ten holes, only Payasam will come out of each of those holes and not poison. My entire being is filled with love. Therefore, My heart is full of love; My thoughts, My

words, My actions are all suffused with the sweetness of love. I am the embodiment of sweetness. Similarly, you should also fill your hearts with love. Then whatever you do will be surcharged with love. In fact, only a heart full of love can be called Hridaya. Hri + Daya = Hridaya. That which is filled with compassion is Hridaya. A heart full of harshness is like a stone. Such a heart is full of poison. You cannot call it Hridaya in the true sense of the term. Hridaya is that which is full of love. Only a human being can realise the sacredness of Hridaya. Birds and animals cannot do that.

Birds and animals lead their lives eating whatever Nature provides to them, whereas man eats food which is cooked and processed. Birds eat raw paddy from the fields. Cattle go out and eat grass. But man separates husk from paddy, cooks rice, mixes vegetables with it and only then eats. He does not eat the raw food that is provided by Nature. He refines his food according to his taste and derives satisfaction. It is only man who refines food before eating it. Monkey is considered to be an ancestor of man. When you offer a banana to a monkey, it eats only after peeling it. See how intelligent monkeys are! Nara (man) has evolved from Vanara (monkey). Vanara is one with Valamu (tail) whereas Nara has no tail. But desires are common to both. Then, in what way is man different from a monkey? Man can prove himself to be different from a monkey only when he has kindness in his heart. That is why human beings are called mankind. You should make efforts to understand the



inner meaning of the terms you use and follow the right path.

Students!

Safeguard your Goodness

You are endowed with many precious values. They are all within you. Your body is like an iron safe. Just as precious diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls are kept in an iron safe, likewise human values of compassion, love, tolerance, empathy, truth, etc., are all within you. In spite of having such precious treasure of values within you, you are searching for trinkets of trivial pleasures outside. The ocean teaches us a great lesson in this regard. It keeps most precious pearls in its bosom and throws all worthless shells on the shore. What you get on the seashore are only shells. If you want to get precious pearls, you have to dive deep into the sea. Mira sang, "Oh Krishna, I have taken great pains to go deep into the ocean to acquire the most valuable pearl of Your Divine Name. Kindly shower Your grace on me so that this invaluable pearl does not slip away from my hand and drop into the ocean again. I have no refuge other than You." A devotee should pray to the Lord with such intense yearning. Only then can man's life become meaningful. Otherwise, he will be human only in form, not in practice.

Do not mistake a silk cotton tree fruit for a mango. Do not chew the stalk of millet plant, considering it as sugarcane. Do not mistake white stones for sugar candy. Do not be carried away by the outward appearance of a person. It is

only the virtues that denote the real form of a human being. (Telugu Poem)

You cannot be called a human being just because you have a human form consisting of various limbs like hands, feet, nose, mouth, etc. Virtues denote your true form. Love is the real virtue. Love is the true human value. Once you have love, there is no scope for any defect in you. It is love that unites the entire world. Where there is love, there is oneness and bliss. When you have both love and bliss, you will become the embodiment of peace. Today you complain, you have no peace. How can you get peace unless you have love in you? You should not get deluded by the external appearance. You should go by the virtues enshrined in your heart.

Students!

God is not pleased by your outward show.

Can you kill a snake merely by beating at the anthill? Can the craving for sensual pleasures be subdued by subjecting merely the body to penance? Can one become Atma Jnani (knower of the Self) only by fasting? How can one realise the ultimate truth if one does not know oneself? (Telugu Poem)

You should know who you really are. Only then will your human life become worthwhile. Understand that you are the embodiment of love, you are God. *Love is God. Live in Love.* Develop love more and more. However, use your discrimination when you give your love to others. Keep it within limits. In fact, you should offer



your love only to God and none else. But, unfortunately, you are diverting your love to wrong ways.

*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.*

*You will get only as much water as your
vessel can hold,*

*No matter whether you dip it in a small
lake or in a mighty ocean.*

(Telugu Poem)

Man should perform only righteous actions. *Karmanubandheeni Manushya Loke* (Man in the world is bound by action). That is why I tell the students to be always cautious. If you lose this opportunity due to your carelessness, you may not get it again. Therefore, always be cautious. Mould your life in an ideal manner and earn the respect and honour of society. Bring good name to your parents, teachers and the institution you have studied. We are not charging even a naya paisa from the students in our Institute. We are giving free education to lakhs of children and bringing happiness in their life. In our Institute, there is no tuition fee, no laboratory fee, no games fee, no library fee, no examination fee, no

fee whatsoever. Where else can you find such an institution in this world? Wherever you go outside, you will have to spend thousands of rupees on your education. Can you call it education in the real sense? Prasanthi Nilayam is the only place where education is provided free, heart to heart, love to love (*loud applause*). But some foolish people are not able to understand this. If you were to study outside, it would have been a matter of great anxiety and worry to your parents who have to bear a huge expenditure on your studies. If there is a strike in the college, it would be a cause of great concern for the parents. They will be worried and anxious thinking about the safety of their children studying in the college. But in our Institute, there is no cause of such fear.

How does one get courage and confidence? Where there is goodness, there is courage and confidence. Therefore, safeguard goodness in your heart. Goodness is godliness. Love God. There is no love superior to God's love. Develop this principle of love.

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

– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 3rd September 1996.

Whatever I say is for the good of others. I say only sacred things and nothing that is unholy. Whether you believe or not, I may tell you that all the time I only think of what good I can do to better the lot of the people. Swami never thinks about Himself.

- Baba

DASARA AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PIETY AND GRANDEUR MARKED the celebration of Navaratri and Dasara at Prasanthi Nilayam. The important events that formed part of these celebrations included worship of the Divine Mother in the forms of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati, Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva in villages, Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna, talks by distinguished speakers in Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha sessions, music and cultural programmes and Divine Discourses of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Commencement of Kalasha Puja on 25th September 2014 by the Mandir priest in the Bhajan Mandir symbolising the worship of the Divine Mother marked the beginning of the Navaratri celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

VEDA PURUSHA SAPTAHA JNANA YAJNA

After two days of worship in the Bhajan Mandir on 25th and 26th September 2014, the sacred Kalasha was taken to Poornachandra Auditorium in a procession of priests and students on 27th September 2014 amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram. After the priests and students were seated on the beautifully decorated Yajnasala (platform for Yajna) in the Poornachandra Auditorium, the process of producing fire in the traditional way was started by two

priests by churning one piece of wood over the other. When the fire was produced in this sacred way, it was placed in the Yajna Kunda (sacrificial pit) amidst chanting of Vedic hymns.

After performing preliminary rituals, four priests started offering oblations in the Yajna Kunda. Meanwhile, another group of four priests started the recitation of hymns of Krishna Yajur Veda as per the tradition, one priest started performing Surya Namaskar (worship of sun god), another priest started Sahasra Linga Archana (worship of one thousand Lingas) and a priest and his wife started conducting the worship of the sacred Kalasha. Simultaneously, three elders began Parayana (ceremonial reading) of sacred texts while groups of students started sacred Vedic chants, suffusing the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. The performance of the Yajna which began at 8.30 a.m. continued in this sacred manner for nearly one and a half hours, after which collective chanting of Vedic hymns by the priests and students was done, spreading divine vibrations in all directions. Soon after this, the students proceeded on their sacred mission of Grama Seva. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 10.45 a.m., but Yajna was resumed after this.

The performance of seven day long Yajna with chanting of Vedic Mantras

continued in this sacred manner, elevating thousands of fortunate attendees. Poornahuti (final oblations) on the auspicious Vijaya Dasami day on 3rd October 2014 marked the conclusion of the Yajna. Since early morning this day, a huge gathering of devotees congregated in Poornachandra Auditorium to witness the grand spectacle of Poornahuti of this sacred Yajna. The entire auditorium reverberated with Vedic chants which elevated the devotees to a higher plane. As the priests proceeded for sacred bath at about 9.00 a.m., the students started Bhajans. When the procession of priests returned to the auditorium with precious material for Poornahuti and Dharani (long silver spoon) for offering oblations in the Yajna, arrangements were made for Poornahuti and a silver chair was placed near the Yajna Kunda for the Veda Purusha Bhagavan Baba. With Bhagavan thus

presiding over the offering of Poornahuti, the priests offered Poornahuti in the Yajna Kunda amidst loud Vedic chants and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram at 9.40 a.m. Vibrant Veda chanting continued after this by priests and students while some residual rituals followed. At the conclusion of the Yajna, the priests circumambulated the Yajna Kunda and sought the blessings of Bhagavan. The water of the sacred Kalasha was then sprinkled on the priests, students and devotees by groups of students and priests in the entire length and breadth of the auditorium while the students sang Bhajans. Arati to Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba marked the conclusion of the sacred Yajna.

PRASANTHI VIDWAN MAHASABHA

While the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was conducted in Poornachandra

Auditorium in the morning, the proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha were held in Sai Kulwant Hall in the evening from 27th September to 3rd October 2014.

Talks by Faculty Members of the Institute

Two faculty members Sri Sanjay Mahalingam of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus and Dr. T. Ravikumar, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning



*Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna in
Poornachandra Auditorium.*

addressed the gathering in the first session of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha on 27th September 2014. Subsequently, six other faculty members of the Institute delivered illuminating talks in the 3rd, 4th and 5th sessions held on 29th and 30th September and 1st October 2014 respectively.

While Sri Ruchir Desai of Brindavan Campus and Dr. Deepak Anand of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus spoke in the 3rd session, Ms. Suma Rao of Anantapur Campus and Prof. Anantaraman of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus spoke in the 4th session. In the fifth session, Dr. Deepa Seetharaman of Anantapur Campus and Sri Sanjay Sahni of Brindavan Campus gave very insightful talks. The faculty members narrated their enrapturing experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity and showcased the valuable lessons learnt by them during their interactions with Bhagavan. Another speaker who addressed the gathering on the last day on 3rd October 2014 was Sri Hari Shankar Bhat, an alumnus of the Institute working in Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.

Talks by Guest Speakers

Besides these engrossing talks of faculty members of the Institute, the proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha were enriched by erudite talks of some distinguished guest speakers. The first guest speaker was Dr. Nori Surya Narayana Murthy, a noted Sanskrit and Telugu scholar from Guntur region of Andhra Pradesh, who gave his talk in the second session on 28th September

2014. Dr. Murthy expounded the beauty of the "Sundara Kanda" of the Ramayana and showcased the unparalleled valour and devotion of Hanuman for Lord Rama. Embellished with beautiful Sanskrit and Telugu poetic compositions, Dr. Murthy's hour-long talk was verily a spiritual feast for devotees. Sri G.S.R.C.V. Prasada Rao, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust who introduced Dr. Murthy said in his introductory talk that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba showed the sacred path of Atma Jnana (Self-realisation) to devotees by exhorting them to hold on to spiritual practices of Namasmarana (chanting of Lord's Name), Satsanga (company of the good) and service to society.

The second guest speaker was Dr. N. Gopalakrishnan, a senior scientist from Kerala who gave his erudite talk in the 6th session on 2nd October 2014. The distinguished speaker referred to the teachings of Bhagavan and remarked that it was not important how long one lived, what was important was how well one lived. If one's mind was positive, one's thoughts and actions were positive, the results were bound to be positive, said Dr. Gopalakrishnan.

On 4th October 2014, the devotees had the good fortune of listening to an enrapturing talk by Sri Ajit Popat who came to participate in Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva along with his U.K. group like previous years. Speaking in his inimitable style on the topic "The Art of Living with the Master", Sri Popat remarked that intensity



of love and devotion to God were most important in the life of a spiritual aspirant.

Divine Discourses of Bhagavan

By far the most elevating programme of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was the Divine Discourses of Bhagavan which were played on the public address system during the course of its proceedings. In His Discourses, Bhagavan expounded Vedantic truths and said that man is essentially divine and his real form is the Atma. Man should therefore make efforts to realise the truth of his divinity by following the sacred path and developing values and virtues, said Bhagavan. Bhagavan concluded all His Discourses with a Bhajan which the devotees blissfully followed in chorus.

SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2014

Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva started by the compassionate Lord, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the year 2000 continues to be an essential part of Dasara and Navaratri celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. As the worship of Divine Mother began in the Bhajan Mandir on the first day of Navaratri on 25th September 2014, the Grama Seva started on the same day. At 8.00 o'clock in the morning, about 2,800 teachers and students of the three campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, namely, Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan and Muddenahalli circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir, reciting Vedic Mantras and singing Bhajans, offered their salutations at the



Distribution of Bhagavan's Prasadam at the doorstep of villagers.

Samadhi of Bhagavan and departed to the designated villages to distribute food and clothes as Bhagavan's Prasadam to villagers. They were assisted in this stupendous task of Prasadam distribution by senior students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam as well as Ashram staff, and a group of U.K. youth led by Sri Ajit Popat. Bhagavan's Prasadam thus reached the doorstep of nearly 3,00,000 villagers covering about 50,000 houses and hamlets in the three Mandals of Puttaparthi, Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam in a meticulously planned manner. On the Vijaya Dasami day, 3rd October 2014, Bhagavan's Prasadam was distributed by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute in Prasanthi Nilayam township after Poornahuti of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna in Poornachandra Auditorium. The work of preparation of food packets on all days was done by the students of Anantapur Campus with the assistance of senior

girls students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School.

MUSIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

A large variety of music and cultural programmes made the Dasara and Navaratri celebrations all the more enriching. The first musical offering was made by the students of Muddenahalli Campus of the Institute on 23rd September 2014. Beginning their programme with a prayer song to Lord Ganesh, they next rendered the sacred “Mahishasuramardini Stotra” (verse in praise of the Divine Mother, the annihilator of the demon Mahishasura), followed it up with two Hindi songs and concluded their presentation with a beautiful Qawali “Tere Darbar Mein Hum Aaye Hain Aaj” (today we have come to Your divine abode).

The second devotional music presentation was made by the students of Brindavan Campus of the Institute on 29th September 2014. Beginning their programme with a delightful instrumental piece, they next sang a Hindi song in praise of the Divine Mother “Aisa Pyar Bahadey Maiyya” (Oh Mother, inundate me with love), followed it up with two Carnatic numbers and two Hindi songs. They concluded their programme with a devotional song in praise of the Lord of Guruvayur, Bhagavan Sri Krishna.

The students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute enthralled the devotees with their soul-stirring rendition of devotional

songs on 30th September 2014. Commencing their programme with the song “Jayaho Jayaho Sai Gajanana” (hail, Sai Ganesh), the students next presented a Telugu composition on Mother Sai “Nee Naamame Madhuram” (Your name is very sweet) and followed it with emotionally surcharged number “Ab To Aao Sai” (Oh Sai, do come now) which touched the hearts of devotees. The students brought their soulful presentation to a close with a song which Swami loved dearly “Oh Maa Oh Maa Oh Maa Sai Maa” (Oh dear Mother Sai).

An exhilarating and innovative dance drama “Jantunam Narajanma Durlabham” (human birth is the rarest) was presented on 1st October 2014 by Prasanthi Dance Group comprising students of various Sai educational institutions. Referring to human birth as the most precious gift of man, the drama depicted how man was wasting it in futile worldly pursuits and indulging in inhuman acts of violence and war. The story was portrayed through shadow play while students performed thematic dances to the tune of sweet songs.

On the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami, 3rd October 2014, a talented musician Ms. Devaki Pandit presented a devotional music concert to the delight of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. Beginning her concert with a prayer song to Lord Ganesh, Ms. Pandit next sang three Mira Bhajans and concluded her excellent presentation with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram”.



BHAGAVAN SRI KRISHNA declared unequivocally in the Bhagavadgita in the battlefield of Kurukshetra: "Whenever Dharma (loosely translated in English, for want of a more appropriate word, as righteousness) is on the decline, I will recreate Myself on earth for the purpose of redeeming people from Adharma." The Lord comes down on earth in human form from time to time to redeem this pledge.

The Life and Message of Shirdi Sai Baba

In the long history of the advent of the Lord on earth, dating back to the Treta Yuga and the Dwapar Yuga, where He came as Lord Sri Rama and as Lord Sri Krishna, we find his advent in the form of

Sai Satcharita, a mystical, philosophical and poetic work in the Marathi language by an ardent devotee christened Hemad Pant by Shirdi Sai himself. The life and times of Shirdi Sai as described in the Sai Satcharita, open up many vistas of consciousness, devotion and mystic experiences. Sri Shirdi Sai attained Maha Samadhi nearly a century ago. Today, Shirdi Sai has become a household name throughout India and in many other parts of the world. The two main pillars of his message were Sraddha (faith) and Saburi (patience).

The Divine Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

As indicated by Shirdi Sai, the next Avatar Sri Sathya Sai Baba incarnated on

S.S. Naganand

BHAGAVAN'S MISSION AND LEGACY

Shirdi Sai in the late 19th century in the Kali Yuga. During those times, with primitive roads and communication systems, the advent was experienced by a few fortunate devotees in the remote hamlet of Shirdi. The Lord has His own way of propagating His message. Apart from the innumerable experiences of a wide cross-section of society, who interacted with Shirdi Sai, his message has been made immortal by the

23rd November 1926 in the remote hamlet of Puttaparthi in the Rayalaseema area of Anantapur district in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The advent was preceded by divine indications and His Divya Leelas (divine sports) commenced very early in His life. At the tender age of 14, Sri Sathya Sai made a profound declaration that He did not belong to any place or person, but belonged to the world, and had come



to redeem the world. The message was difficult to comprehend as He said that the entire world would come to Puttaparthi, but the divine voice can never be wrong. In a short span, the name and fame of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba spread to all parts of Andhra Pradesh, the States of Madras and Mysore, the kingdoms of Nawanagar, Jamnagar, Sandur and Venkatagiri. The high and mighty came calling and received Baba with great devotion, awe and reverence. The small Mandir at Puttaparthi, constructed in 1950's became the focal point of Baba's Mission. The Ashram got an identity as Prasanthi Nilayam. It grew steadily when hordes of devotees came here, completely sacrificing worldly life and following in the footsteps of Baba. Baba's great compassion, mesmerising eyes, captivating oratory, lyrical singing and all-encompassing love swept away every being who came to Him. His love for Nature and animals and His universal message of "Love All, Serve All" captivated His audiences.

Unique Institutions of Swami

As if by a wave of His hand, numerous institutions sprang up which were inconceivable. Starting with a small General Hospital in Puttaparthi in 1956, His institutions included a Women's College in Anantapur, Men's Colleges in Bengaluru and Prasanthi Nilayam, and later a Men's College at Muddenahalli. His mission also included the setting up of a General Hospital at Whitefield, two Super Speciality Hospitals at Puttaparthi and Whitefield, Bengaluru and two mobile hospitals, one

At physical level, Swami has left the legacy of the various Trusts and institutions set up by Him; at spiritual level, Swami has only shown to us that He has always existed, and continues to exist; it is for the devotees to tune in their frequency to the divine frequency of the Lord and enjoy the bliss of His company always, by being in the presence of the Lord every single moment and by perceiving the Lord in every being around us.



at Puttaparthi and a second at Chennai in the year 2014. All these institutions provide completely free service to all. Baba provided higher education to boys and girls, emphasising on integral education. The cause of primary and secondary education was subserved by setting up schools in Puttaparthi and Rajahmundry, apart from schools set up at Alike and Muddenahalli. Thousands of children were taken into the Sai fold and were showered with love, affection, education, both moral and spiritual, apart from secular education. Over the years, over 100 schools sprang up all over India, all enthused and guided by Bhagavan Baba. Far and remote countries adopted Swami's principle of Educare and Integral Education. The eternal values of Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness),



Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) form the bedrock of Swami's teachings. These eternal human values were instilled in young minds with love and compassion. The physical and bodily discipline was maintained. All-round development of the students was the aim. Thus, Baba achieved His Mission of upholding Dharma by creating a band of youth infused with ideals and at the same time possessing the required secular knowledge.

Baba always led from the front, and led by example. His famous words "My Life is My Message" sums up His style of working. Baba's Mission was not confined to Prasanthi Nilayam or India. It spread far and wide, with devotees coming from over 120 countries.

An important facet of Baba's Mission was the emphasis on service or Seva as an integral part of the practice of spirituality, be it any religion. "Manava Seva is Madhava Seva" sums up crisply the emphasis on



Seva as a means to reach God. For this purpose, Swami permitted the setting up of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, both in India and in every part of the world. The organisation at its grassroot level comprises Samithis. Membership is voluntary with no fees being payable by any member. The members of the Samithi participate in three streams of activity: the spiritual activity, the educational

activity and the Seva activity. A separate section for women in each Samithi is the order. The spiritual activity includes a weekly devotional congregation where songs emphasising the universality of Baba's message across all religions are sung, interfaith dialogue takes place and people belonging to every faith join in the devotional service. The educational activity comprises study circles and Bal Vikas programmes. The Seva activity requires participation in various social service projects both in the community and also by volunteering to serve for short periods of time in the various institutions



set up by Bhagavan Baba all over India and abroad, including the university, the schools, and the medical institutions as also in the divine precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam. In addition to this, members are encouraged to have a divine service once a week in their respective homes along with their family members. Through the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, millions of people have been touched.

Apart from undertaking the above continuous projects, Baba also envisaged water supply schemes where millions of hapless citizens were suffering due to want of potable water. With His divine inspiration and direct involvement, massive water supply projects were undertaken which government found it impossible to execute. He completed them and handed them over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh (including one project to be handed over on the 23rd of November 2014 to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh) benefiting lakhs of people.

Swami's Life was an Open Book

At physical level, these stupendous tasks undertaken by Bhagavan Baba and executed with such ease give the impression that these were easy tasks. Till Bhagavan Baba's Maha Samadhi on 24th April 2011, He was completely in charge of all activities. Nothing escaped His attention. He believed in micro-management and excelled in macro-management. His instructions were impeccably clear and crisp and at the same time firm, but instilled with love and compassion. Anyone who was fortunate to play any role in the

mega projects launched by Bhagavan Baba felt it was a great blessing and an invaluable opportunity to serve God. But Baba never gave the impression that His instructions were divine commands. He always descended to the human level and interacted with His devotees and functionaries at the mundane level and considered nothing to be unimportant. Protocol was important, but it did not take precedence over His compassionate demeanour.

To give an example, when Bhagavan Baba decided to move into the Yajur Mandir at Prasanthi Nilayam, He organised a grand lunch reception for functionaries and select invitees. Though Baba was not very happy with the grand residence built for Him and often remarked that He did not need such a big house, He personally received all guests and took great pride in inviting them to visit all parts of the house including His personal quarters. He made enquiries if the guests were comfortable and as to what they thought of Swami's residence. Baba personally supervised the lunch arrangements and the serving of various delicacies to the guests. He played the role of a host to perfection and overwhelmed every guest with His simplicity, meticulousness, love and affection. Baba meant to show to everybody that His life was an open book for everyone to see, emulate and follow.

Swami's Divine Legacy

To write about the legacy of the Sai Avatar in a short article is an impossibility. Many consider the miracles of Bhagavan



Baba His unique feature. Baba often said that His miracles were like visiting cards. Many times He remarked that people came to Him for many things but He was waiting for devotees who would come to receive what Swami had come to give, meaning that the pursuit of material goods should not be the goal of life. Swami often said and quoted the scriptures when He emphasised that the human body was but a means to undertake righteous acts (*Sariramadyam Khalu Dharma Sadhanam*).

By His words and His conduct, Swami embraced the whole world. Many devotees who hardly had any interaction with Swami felt from the bottom of their hearts that Swami was close to them, that He was their guiding force and that He was like their family member. Many devotees from foreign lands who could not understand the Telugu language in which Swami gave most of His Discourses, did not mind sitting in front of Him for hours being completely engrossed in His physical form and feeling a sense of oneness with the Divine. The mere presence of Swami in any congregation expelled in the hundreds and thousands of people in that congregation all negative thoughts and feelings, and infused every heart with joy, a sense of great elation, peace, and an emotional upsurge. Today, with the physical absence of Swami, thousands of devotees who congregate in Sai Kulwant hall at Prasanthi Nilayam feel the same sense during the devotional service. They long to come back and be in the presence of the Lord. Thousands of Seva Dal volunteers from

every State in India have been coming and will continue to come to Prasanthi Nilayam for their pilgrimage of service or Seva; they are willing to undertake every kind of Seva entrusted to them. They brave the harsh weather of Puttaparthi, travel long distances at their own cost, give their time and energy expecting nothing in return except the grace of Swami.

The Divine Mission and legacy of the Sai Avatar is there for all to see. With three years having gone by since His Maha Samadhi, Swami continues to guide all His devotees in the form of Nirakara Brahman (formless Divinity), having shed His Akara Swarupa (physical form). The principle message of Swami is the very foundation of the Advaita philosophy of Vedanta, which expounds that there is only one truth, and that truth is God (*Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti*). Swami took Sathya (Truth) as His name and lived a life, which personified all the five eternal values expounded by Him. At physical level, Swami has left the legacy of the various Trusts and institutions set up by Him; at spiritual level, Swami has shown to us that He has always existed, and continues to exist; it is for the devotees to tune in their frequency to the divine frequency of the Lord and enjoy the bliss of His company always, by being in the presence of the Lord every single moment and by perceiving the Lord in every being around us.

– The author, Sri S.S. Naganand, is a senior Advocate and a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.



From our Archives

TRUTH AND GOD ARE INSEPARABLE

BECOME DESERVING OF GOD'S LOVE

Embodiments of Love! persons. Develop the conviction that the
ATHYAM (TRUTH) HAS Divine you adore, who is your favourite
 manifested itself in the deity, is within you.
 cosmos. Without

Truth, there can be no universe. Everything has emanated from Truth.

All wealth, all pleasures come from Truth. The Vedas, the Upanishads and all scriptures have their origin in Truth. Truth is the proper abode of God. Truth and God are inseparable.

Love Unites all

Sow the seeds of noble thoughts, let them grow into giant trees and let people take shelter under them. This is the only birthday gift I seek from you. Your welfare is your gift to Me. Become exemplary



Make yourselves into a garland and I shall be the thread holding all the flowers together. Consider yourselves the children of one mother, belonging to the human family. Do not give room to differences of race, creed and nationality. All belong to the caste of humanity and the religion of love. The same object, water, is called by different names in different languages. Likewise God is one, whatever the name that is used – whether Allah, Jesus, Buddha or Rama – have that faith. Don't criticise any religion. By developing this universalism, bring joy to Bhagavan.

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BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA HIS GLORY AND HIS MISSION

Dr. Narendranath Reddy

“In truth, you cannot understand the nature of My Reality either today or even after a thousand years of steady austerity or ardent inquiry even if all mankind joins in that effort... This is a human form in which every divine entity, every divine principle, that is to say, all the names and forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest.”

– Sri Sathya Sai Baba,
First World Conference, 17th May 1968

A WELL-KNOWN SANSKRIT Sloka (verse) in Siva Mahima Stotra rightly observes that even if Mother Saraswati (goddess of learning) were to write for eternity about the glories of the Lord, using the entire earth's surface as parchment, the waters of all oceans as ink, and all the mountains with numberless trees as pens, she would not do justice to the task, because His attributes and glories are limitless. Only by His grace am I able to share an infinitesimal part of His glory and His mission. Nay, from the highest standpoint of non-dualism, He alone is the inspirer, the writer and even the pen, because He is the One without a second.

Embodiment of Love

Just as the moon can be seen only by moonlight and not with the help of candles, Sathya Sai, who is the embodiment of love, can be experienced only through love. If one word could sum up the essence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life and teachings that word would be “Love.” He

showed us that the path of love is the royal road to the goal of human life, namely, realising our divine nature.

In 1984, on my way to Prasanthi Nilayam I was passing through Singapore. I visited some Sathya Sai Centres and witnessed Vibhuti and nectar coming from pictures and I saw many other miracles. When Swami called our family for an interview, in my excitement I related these amazing miracles to Him. Swami told me, there were miracles galore and every home and every person had experienced divine miracles whether they were aware of it or not. After many years, I have come to realise the import of this particular statement of Swami.

For many years now, I have had the blessed opportunity to travel around the world on behalf of the Sathya Sai International Organisation, which spreads Swami's Divine Message in 126 countries through approximately 2,000 Sai Centres. During my travels, I was awestruck to hear



and learn about mind-boggling miracles from numerous devotees around the world, revealing Bhagavan's omnipresence and divine protection and the magnanimous humanitarian service projects that have been lauded by local government authorities.

Divine Provider

On 17th May 2014, a leading newspaper in Nepal published a story about a 99-year-old tribesman who was surviving on a diet of wild tubers. Unfortunately, due to severe drought, even the tubers were scarce and for 17 days the elderly tribesman was starving. Two Sathya Sai volunteers immediately went in search of this person with a sack full of rice and other dry food. The tribesman lived deep in the forest. Reaching him required five hours of arduous trekking, in difficult terrain. The Sathya Sai devotees reached the tribesman and offered him food, along with a photograph of Swami. He stared at the photograph for a few moments and said, "Yes, this is the man. I saw Him in my dream last night. He was wearing the same yellow dress." Apparently this tribesman's kith and kin had deserted him, and due to his plight he was contemplating suicide. He said that Bhagavan came in his dream and consoled him, saying, "You should not be despondent. Two persons will come tomorrow and give you enough food and take care of you. You should forsake the idea of killing yourself." Narrating this, the tribesman broke down with tears in his eyes and said, "In the morning, I thought

There are 30 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSEs) and 39 Sathya Sai Schools in various countries around the world. These institutions promote values-based education in countries outside India. Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) classes are also organised in the community. Many countries and their official education systems recognise and honour the value of this system of education that integrates spirituality with academic curricula.

it was one of those meaningless dreams we usually have. But now that the two of you have come, as foretold by the person in the dream, He must be God." The local Sathya Sai Centre subsequently resolved to provide food to this tribesman for the remainder of his life.

Divine Mission

His Message of "Love All, Serve All" and His system of integral education based on human values has spread to all corners of the world, irrespective of race, religion, nationality and colour. His life is His Message, and He continues to inspire millions worldwide to live the ideal that service to man is service to God. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has uplifted mankind through His universal teachings and innumerable



examples of love and service which include providing free food, free health-care, free education, free water supply, and other services to the needy. The global magnitude to which His work has quietly grown is astounding and unparalleled in the history of mankind. The Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) is a spiritual and humanitarian organisation which encompasses all religions, all faiths, and all nationalities. Transformation of the human heart is carried out through educational, spiritual and selfless service activities done with love.

Sathya Sai Education

Swami says, "The end of education is character." He is the motivator and guide in the development of Sathya Sai Education. A distinguishing feature of this educational system is its philosophy that fostering the development of good character is as important as fostering the skills for earning a good living. He declared that education should emphasise the practice of the five human values: Sathya (truth), Dharma (right conduct); Santhi (peace); Prema (love); and Ahimsa (non-violence).

Revolutionary in concept and comprehensive in scope, Sathya Sai educational principles have become a lifelong learning-and-transformation process for men, women and children in all parts of the world. There are 30 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSEs) and 39 Sathya Sai Schools in various countries around the world. These institutions promote values-based

education in countries outside India. Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) classes are also organised in the community. Many countries and their official education systems recognise and honour the value of this system of education that integrates spirituality with academic curricula, and have recognised the Sathya Sai Schools for their academic excellence and practice of human values.

In addition, Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) classes are organised on a regular basis by the Sathya Sai Centres all over the world for 3 to 18 years old children.

Sathya Sai Global Health Mission

Sri Sathya Sai Baba believed that free healthcare was an inalienable right of every individual irrespective of race, religion, caste, creed or economic status. With this noble ideal, the first Sathya Sai hospital was established in the remote village of Puttaparthi in 1956.

During the last 58 years, this healthcare mission has blossomed into a vast global system delivering free healthcare in many countries using the principles taught by Sri Sathya Sai Baba. These principles together provide a framework for the successful delivery of ideal healthcare.

Today there are many hospitals and clinics across the world under the tutelage of the Sathya Sai Organisation. Healthcare professionals provide comprehensive high quality free healthcare to the needy with love and compassion. This worldwide effort by Sathya Sai healthcare professionals



and volunteers is marked by excellence, comprehensiveness, and a determination to prevent illness and maintain good health for all. Every year, more than 170,000 patients receive healthcare free of charge at international medical, dental, and vision camps, and at medical clinics in over 35 countries. This includes about 29,000 patients from remote villages who receive medical services through Sathya Sai mobile clinics in Indonesia that bring medical services to their doorstep in mobile vans.

In addition, specialised services are organised in some countries where there is acute shortage of medical specialists. For example, in the island of Fiji, Sai doctors conducted a neurological medical camp for needy people and performed complex neurological surgeries, including the removal of brain tumours and spinal-cord tumours. In Guyana, Sai doctors performed 52 complex uterine fibroid surgeries over a two-week period in November 2013 to relieve the pain and suffering of underprivileged women who had been waiting patiently for 4-7 years.

Community Services

Water is the elixir of life. Availability of drinking water is an important issue for human health in developing and developed countries worldwide. By Bhagavan's grace the first water project to provide drinking water to the poor started in the villages of Anantapur district, India. Subsequently, many mammoth drinking water projects were initiated and have provided drinking

Sri Sathya Sai Baba has uplifted mankind through His universal teachings and innumerable examples of love and service which include providing free food, free healthcare, free education, free water supply, and other services to the needy. The global magnitude to which His work has quietly grown is astounding and unparalleled in the history of mankind.



water to millions. Deriving inspiration from these drinking water projects, many similar projects have been implemented by Sathya Sai International Organisation in Nepal, El Salvador and Indonesia to provide water to needy people.

The service activities of Sathya Sai International Organisation include providing food, clothing, school supplies and daily provisions to the needy; building and repairing homes and community buildings; visiting old-age homes, prisons and convalescent hospitals; mentoring needy students; and providing humanitarian relief to the victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. Many Sathya Sai Centres and Groups maintain food banks that supply food and provisions to impoverished families on an ongoing basis. Inspired by Bhagavan



Baba's message, children and youth are also actively engaged in these service activities.

Disaster Relief

Natural calamities often wreak havoc affecting the lives of many people worldwide. Disaster relief services were provided expeditiously and lovingly in many areas of the world, including Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina affected by the Balkan floods; the Philippines



Providing healthcare through medical camps.

impacted by super-typhoon Haiyan; the east coast of the USA devastated by Hurricane Sandy; Haiti ravaged by a massive earthquake; the low-lying areas near Jakarta, Indonesia submerged by floods; the region near Emilia, Italy affected by an earthquake; and the remote villages in Sri Lanka affected by earth slides due to torrential rain and floods, as well as many other examples.

In many countries these noble and exemplary community service activities have won accolades and awards from local and national governments.

Service to Man is Service to God

Selfless service is perhaps the single, most efficient and universal tool for understanding, experiencing and expressing Swami's Divine Principle of Love. Service is love in action. Swami says that the best way to love God is to love all and serve all. The main purpose of the Sathya Sai Organisation is to help one to realise one's innate divinity by the practice of Divine Love through selfless



Helping the victims of natural calamities.

service. Swami has also made it clear that the quality of service is most important, not the quantity. The spirit or the motive behind service is crucial. When we render service, we should feel that we are serving God. This is why He says, "Service to man is service to God". Service done in this manner makes us realise that "service is done by God, to God, and for God". The person who is serving, the recipient of the service and the process of serving are all one — and are all divine. Just as the proof

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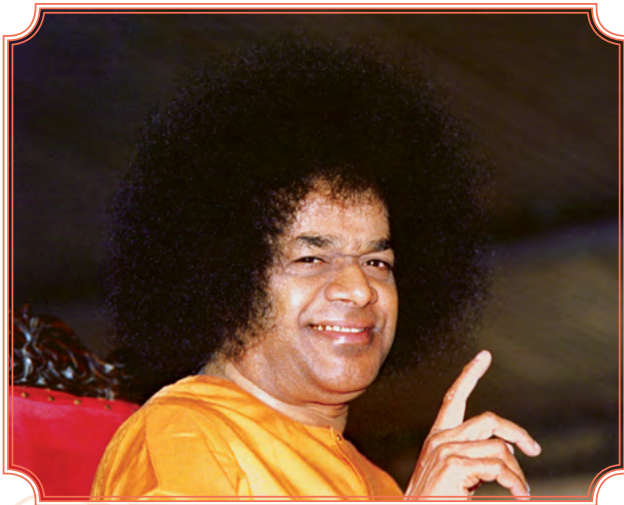


THERE IS NO FEAR WHEN SWAMI IS WITH US

R.J. Rathnakar

*“Do not waver or swerve
when things go haywire.
Ripe is his heart who keeps smiling
leaving irritation and worry behind.”*

– Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



THOSE WHO REMAIN STEADY in situations of joy as well as sorrow would win a special place in Bhagavan's heart. Having been brought up in His Divine proximity, I was able to develop by His grace a mind that does not overreact to sorrows or joys. What is the use if we fail to learn at least this much, after watching Swami who infused

mental fortitude in all in the midst of calamities? Out of His unfathomable compassion, Bhagavan took Sai Avatar for the protection of devotees. He is the only force guiding and guarding all beings.

Have Faith and Stay Calm

Here I would narrate an instance wherein He most graciously gave me a second life. It was the month of December in the year 2010. Bhagavan's 85th Birthday festivities had just concluded and we were blissfully enjoying the days that were filled with sweet reminiscences.

On 27th December, I had to go to Anantapur for an unavoidable personal work. As a normal practice, I would inform Swami and take His blessings whenever I had to go out of Puttaparthi for any work. But on that day, Swami did not come out to grant Darshan. Therefore, I did not get an opportunity to take Swami's permission.

It was such a situation that my trip to Anantapur could not be postponed. With no option left, and also thinking that it would take only three hours for me to go and come I proceeded to Anantapur.

While returning after attending to the work, we reached the outskirts of



Puttaparthi by 1.30 p.m. The driver was driving the car at high speed. There was no traffic and the road was clear. Suddenly, the car started swerving to the side of the road at that high speed. Even as I was cautioning the driver, the car smashed against a tree making a deafening sound. Everything happened in a moment and that one moment left an indelible impression on my life.

As I struggled to be composed, what I saw was a horrific scene around me! All my co-passengers were soaked in blood with very severe injuries, and were squeezed between the seats. The front part of the car was totally smashed. A big tamarind tree was seen in the place of the engine.

Exactly at that moment of collision, I had a feeling that someone had held me tight. Perhaps, because of this, I found myself seated intact on my seat. But my right leg was out of control, and it was dangling on to the ground through the car floor as it had opened up due to the impact of the accident. I had no doubt that the leg was broken. I could not move at all, but I was chanting “Sai Ram” incessantly. Meanwhile, some passers-by came running towards us. They recognised me and at once took all of us to Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital. On receiving this information, my wife and all the family members came rushing to the hospital and were shocked to see me soaked in blood. X-ray, CT Scan, etc., were carried out. The doctors were greatly worried.

The hip bone on my right side had fractured. The thigh bone was broken into

One day, I was feeling sad that I was unable to have Bhagavan's Darshan.

Just then, I heard some hustle, as Swami entered my room, saying, "How are you, dear"? One heart is not enough to hold that infinite joy. "Recover fast and walk. There is so much of Trust work to do," He said. There lingered a doubt in my mind whether I would be able to walk normally at all. The doubt was dispelled then and there with those words of Swami.

two. The knee was broken into pieces. A lot of glass pieces were stuck in the head. As almost all the main bones of the right leg were broken, there was an internal bleeding to the extent of two litres.

This calamitous condition was reported to Swami. Can the mother wait after knowing about the child's condition? Swami came to the hospital immediately. When I heard about His arrival, my mind was filled with many thoughts. Even though I was undergoing excruciating pain, I decided to put up a smiling face to Swami. As Swami entered the ICU, my wife, my mother and other members were in tears. But I looked at Swami with a smiling face.

“How is it that you are smiling when all around you are in tears?” asked Swami.

“When Swami is with me, where is the need for me to cry,” I replied.

Swami consoled all with great compassion. I was eagerly watching for a



special word from Swami to my wife as she was completely shaken. Swami went to her and said, "What to do? Your husband went out of Puttaparthi without informing Me! Don't worry, everything will be fine".

What can I say? Swami had not given me the chance to inform Him about my trip. I remained calm and courageous with the total faith that Swami was with me.

Swami spent nearly one hour with us. He spoke to the doctors concerned, gave them necessary instructions; and at the end subjected me to one more big test. "Tomorrow being Tuesday and Ashtami Thithi (eighth day after new moon or full moon day), let the operation be conducted on Wednesday, the day after," said Swami, fixing up the time, before leaving for Mandir.

That meant, I had to wait for 48 hours more for the operation, bearing the excruciating pain and with internal bleeding and what not! The doctors were perplexed and the family members were mute with shock.

The Divine Saviour and Protector

It was a condition of great emergency but Swami's instructions were seemingly contrary to that!! As far as I was concerned, Swami's word was final. Would Swami be not knowing my condition, after protecting my life from such a horrific accident?

Preparations were made for the operation at 9 o'clock in the morning on Wednesday as per Swami's instructions. At about 8.30 a.m., Swami came to the hospital, infused courage in me and blessed me before sending me into the

The protector of the universe as He is, He will surely respond to even our sundry appeals for protection. The real tragedy is that all of us are caught up in the violent waves of this ocean of worldly life. It is Swami alone who can save us from this. I pray to that Supreme Lord Sai to shower His benevolent grace on all of us, so that we keep smiling and maintain equanimity in every trying situation with surrender to His Will.

operation theatre. The operation took about 11 hours.

The next day also, Swami came, touched all over my leg with His Divine Hand and assured me that it was going to be alright.

I remained in ICU for nearly four weeks. Swami came many times to see me. He came to me even on the day of discharge. He sent a car to take me to a room that is close to Swami's residence. How can we define such a love! How to repay the debt of gratitude to the embodiment of compassion who showered such great love on me! There is a traditional saying that whatever happens is for our own good. This accident enabled me to experience the Divine Love directly.

After I was shifted from the hospital to the room in the Ashram, I was able to hear all the Vedic chants and Bhajans everyday. One day, I was feeling sad that I was unable to have Bhagavan's Darshan.



Just then, I heard some hustle, as Swami entered my room, saying, “How are you, dear”? One heart is not enough to hold that infinite joy. “Recover fast and walk. There is so much of Trust work to do,” He said. There lingered a doubt in my mind whether I would be able to walk normally at all. The doubt was dispelled then and there with those words of Swami.

After being confined to a wheelchair for six months, I was able to walk normally. Truly speaking, it is Swami who is making me walk. Believe it or not, I could climb to the top of the Golkonda Fort which is on a hillock when I went to Hyderabad along with my family members. Standing on the top, I phoned up to my surgeon and shared the joy with him. Of course, I also profusely

thanked my Divine Surgeon for all the kindness He showered on me.

If only we have the implicit faith that Swami looks after everything, He would surely protect us. There is no need for us to search for another God at times of despair.

The protector of the universe as He is, He will surely respond to even our sundry appeals for protection. The real tragedy is that all of us are caught up in violent waves of this ocean of worldly life. It is Swami alone who can save us from this. I pray to that Supreme Lord Sai to shower His benevolent grace on all of us, so that we keep smiling and maintain equanimity in every trying situation with surrender to His Will.

– **The author, Sri R.J. Rathnakar, is a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.**

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of rain is in the wetness of the ground, pure, selfless, loving service transforms us and we enjoy supreme peace and equanimity — the “peace that passeth understanding”.

The above-mentioned works and miracles are only samples of the innumerable and awe-inspiring incidents that happen everyday all over the world. In the Gospel of John, a disciple’s personal witness and testimony to Jesus’ life, John writes, “This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them...But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written”. Similarly, I believe that it is not possible to document all of Swami’s glorious miracles, divine works and instances of Divine grace

witnessed by millions of people around the world – which still continue to amaze and delight people all over the world!

The loving Lord Sai has assured us that if we have a longing heart we can experience His pure, unconditional and selfless love thereby deriving unalloyed and eternal bliss. Let us all love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and dedicate every moment of our life to serve Him and His creation.

Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu
(May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!)

– **The author, Dr. Narendranath Reddy, is the Chairman of Prasanthi Council, the administrative body of the Sathya Sai International Organisation.**

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

SAMARPAN: A DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

A SOUL-STIRRING DEVOTIONAL music presentation entitled “Samarpan” (dedication) was made by the staff of Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital on 5th October 2014 on the occasion of 59th anniversary of its



Devotional music presentation by General Hospital staff.

inauguration. The presentation which began with the invocatory verse of Guru Vandana (adoration of Guru) “Brahmanandam Parama Sukhadam” was themed on the concept of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba as the Sadguru of mankind. The next song was an offering of gratitude to Bhagavan “Bhajanandame Sai” which was followed by Guru Stotra (verse in praise of Guru). A popular song “Sathya Dharmamu Santhi Premalato” which Bhagavan sang many times was the next number which was followed by a Purandaradasa

composition. The programme concluded with excellent rendition of two Bhajans. The singers presented each song with heartfelt dedication to Bhagavan, making this 50-minute presentation laced with a beautiful commentary a sumptuous spiritual treat for devotees.

VRISHASENA: THE BRAVE WARRIOR

The folk art form of Yakshagana came alive at Prasanthi Nilayam when the students of Sri Sathya Sai Academy of Integrated Education, Bhadravathi, Karnataka State presented the story of the brave warrior of Mahabharata war, Vrishasena in this famous art form of Karnataka on 12th October 2014. It depicted how this 14 years old brave boy humbled even mighty Bhima in the battlefield and performed acts of great heroism. The excellent acting



An excellent depiction of folk art form of Yakshagana.

of the students, perfect make-up and costumes and thrilling dances kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour. At the conclusion of this presentation, the participants in the Yakshagana were felicitated and clothes were presented to them. Bhajans followed this which concluded with the Bhajan “Chittachora Yashoda Ke Baal” (the son of Yashoda who steals the hearts of devotees) sung by Bhagavan. This programme was presented on the occasion of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Coordinators Meet in which over 100 students and 75 teachers came to participate.

PILGRIMAGE OF UTTARA KANNADA DEVOTEES

More than 2,500 devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka State, and as part of this pilgrimage, Bal Vikas students and youth of this district performed a series of dances on 18th October 2014 on the theme “Forms are Many, God is One”. Beginning with a dance in praise of Lord Ganesh, they performed thrilling dances portraying the glory and story of Lord Rama, Goddess Durga, Lord Dattatreya, Lord Siva, Lord Vitthal, Lord Krishna and Lord Rama’s great devotee Hanuman, concluding their programme with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s message of unity of all faiths.

AVATAR DECLARATION DAY

Various music and cultural programmes were organised at Prasanthi Nilayam to commemorate the Avatar Declaration

Day when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba declared His Avatarhood on 20th October 1940. On the eve of this important day, a beautiful dance drama “Avatarana Uddharana” (Lord’s incarnation for man’s



*A scene from the dance drama
“Avatarana Uddharana”.*

redemption) was performed by the Bal Vikas students and youth of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on 19th October 2014. The drama depicted how the divine child Sathyanarayana Raju declared at the age of 14 years that He was Sathya Sai Baba come on earth to redeem mankind. Embellished with sweet songs and beautiful dances of children, the drama showcased Bhagavan’s Divine Mission of “Love All Serve All” and highlighted His Divine Glory. This was followed by Bhajans which concluded with the Bhajan “Hari Bhajan Bina” sung by Bhagavan. Nearly, 2,000 devotees of West Godavari district came to Prasanthi Nilayam on a pilgrimage to participate in the celebration of this important event.

The morning programme on 20th October 2014 comprised a reverential musical tribute to Bhagavan by the Bal



Vikas children and youth of West Godavari district. Beginning their presentation at 8.30 a.m., the singers showcased the Divine Glory of Bhagavan by their dedicated rendition of devotional songs. The programme in the afternoon began with an enlightening talk by a distinguished speaker, Sri V.S.R. Murthy from Hyderabad. Paying glowing tributes to Bhagavan, the speaker exhorted one and all to remember the profound statements of Bhagavan like “Love All, Serve All”, “Help Ever, Hurt Never” and put them into practice in their life, which will not only make the world a better place to live, but will also bring about their own transformation. Thereafter, Bhagavan’s students made a soul-stirring musical offering to Bhagavan by their fine rendition of the songs “Prema Pravaham” (flow of love) and “Sai Sharanam Baba Sharanam” (surrender at Sai’s Lotus Feet). These songs were accompanied by screening of Bhagavan’s Darshan videos which brought alive sweet memories of olden days.

DEEPAVALI AND GUJARATI NEW YEAR

Excellent music and cultural programmes of Bal Vikas children and youth of Gujarat marked the celebration of Deepavali and Gujarati New Year on 23rd and 24th October 2014 respectively.

The first item of the programme on the auspicious day of Deepavali on 23rd October 2014, was a devotional song “Sai Maa Dayamayi Sai Janani Maa” (oh compassionate Mother Sai) which was



A beautiful dance presentation by the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat.

presented by Sai Youth (girls) of Gujarat. This enrapturing song was followed by a vibrant dance performed by the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat. The last item of the programme was a drama by the devotees of Saurashtra. This 30-minute drama entitled “Service with Spirituality” set in the background of a disastrous earthquake in Gujarat depicted how spirituality could enhance the spirit of service and bring joy and satisfaction to both, the giver and receiver. Thereafter, there was a brief session of Bhajans which concluded with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram” sung by Bhagavan. At the conclusion of this programme in Sai Kulwant Hall, there was a grand display of fireworks in Bhagavan’s abode Yajur Mandir which the devotees witnessed with great joy.

The programme on Gujarati New Year day, 24th October 2014, began at 5.00 p.m. with a beautiful devotional song entitled “Tera Pyar Hai Aprampar” (Your love is immeasurable), soulful rendition of which by Sai Youth (girls) of Gujarat suffused the entire milieu with devotional fervour. This was followed by a drama “The Epitome of Bhakti” (the embodiment of devotion) presented by the students of



A scene from the drama "The Epitome of Bhakti".

Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat. Embellished with sweet devotional songs of Mira and

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Embodiments of Love!

The cosmos is filled with love. Love is righteousness. Love is truth. The universe is based on love. Lost in the transient pleasures of worldly life, man is forgetting this supreme Love principle. What is the reason? Selfishness has grown and selflessness has declined. Narrow-mindedness is widespread. Broadness of heart is on the wane. Desires have increased. Ideals are vanishing. Human life is dominated by selfishness and self-interest.

A heart without love is a cemetery. Love demonstrates the existence of the Divine. It is all-pervasive. It is the basis for human unity. Only when selfishness goes and faith in the Divine grows will human unity be achieved.

Swami's Love Attracts all

Where love prevails, there will be no room for hatred or envy. Love can have no truck with evil thoughts and actions. Love should be steadfast and unwavering. I do not desire anything. I have three P's. One is purity. Second is patience. Third is perseverance.

thrilling dances of the students, the drama portrayed the life of Mira and showcased her supreme devotion to Lord Krishna. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. Arati at 6.00 p.m. marked the conclusion of the programme. These music and cultural programmes formed part of three-day pilgrimage of Sai Youth of Gujarat to Prasanthi Nilayam.

It is these three which have secured the world's regard. No invitations were issued to those who have gathered here. Swami's love alone attracted them all like a magnet. Some may ask why some people are not attracted to Swami if that magnet is so powerful. The reason is that these persons are like rusted iron which no magnet can attract. Let them remove the rust and dust and they will be drawn to the magnet. Their hatred and desires, their envy and greed are the rust and dust covering them. If you cleanse yourselves of these, wherever you are, you will be Mine and I will be yours. The hapless and the forlorn, wherever they may be, are the concern of Sai. Promote sacred love in your hearts. That love will not only redeem your lives but will promote the well-being of all around you.

You need not offer anything except love. In Prasanthi Nilayam, no offerings are permitted. Only love is allowed entry.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan's Birthday Discourses.

SAI'S LEGACY TO MODERN SCIENCE

Dr. Samuel H. Sandweiss

I hope that this case can help establish better communication between our Sai family and the scientific and world communities. How crucial it is for us to find ways of bettering this communication – of radiating Sai's extraordinary love into a world torn by chaos and despair! I pray for Swami's guidance and for all of us to be kept close to His heart and to be worthy instruments of His divine love and peace.

WE KNOW THAT OUR disturbed world is in desperate need of Sai's precious healing love. Then, how can we better share this love with brothers and sisters all over the world? Why isn't news of Swami's extraordinary life, message, and works better received by our scientific and world communities? In 1983, Swami gave me a miracle that may help.

In my "Sanathana Sarathi" article last year (November 2013 issue), I wrote about my young Western patient who had no prior knowledge of Sanskrit yet began to speak it fluently. She said that the messages came from Sai Baba, who identified Himself as Parabrahman: infinite consciousness. She wrote the words phonetically and translated

them. I videoed and analyzed this miracle with the help of a highly respected scientist and two Sanskrit scholars.

A New Dimension of Human Consciousness

Because Sai devotees have experienced or heard about similar occurrences, they may not find this case to be unusual. What is unusual, however, is that this Sai miracle can, and is being, analyzed scientifically and thus opening fruitful communication with modern science. The case demonstrates Sai's expanded

consciousness, and the messages declare that pure consciousness created all. This presents a serious challenge to the most fundamental assumption of modern science: that consciousness arises solely from the brain, from matter, and is limited to one's personal life experience. The challenge is not small – if found to be true, this case would shake the scientific world. That is perhaps why science and the general public haven't taken Swami's powers of love seriously.

Our current team consists of a professor of cognitive sciences from UCSD (University of California, San Diego), and a Sanskrit scholar and professor of religious studies from SDSU (San Diego



State University). Both universities are among the largest and academically most respected in California. Our first objective was to establish that my disabled patient had no prior knowledge of Sanskrit and could not have produced the messages, nor did she have the financial resources to pay someone to construct the messages for her.

I produced a brief documentary in which the patient reported that she not only had no prior knowledge of Sanskrit but didn't even know there was such a language. And her husband said that he was very close to her and would certainly have known had she been working with someone who knew Sanskrit. He said she definitely didn't know anything about the language herself. Also, having been her psychiatrist for six years, I knew her capabilities and activities very well. I knew that she had no knowledge of Sanskrit and no interest in learning it. Though she knew that I had an interest in Sai Baba, she had little interest in Him herself. She was a practicing Christian, had no interest in



following another religion, and could hardly keep up with normal daily activities because of her pain syndrome.

Analyzing the Extraordinary Event

Our team's next order of business was to analyze the messages – where were they coming from, what were they saying? What language or languages were expressed and from what

traditions and time periods? How complex were the messages? Did this patient have the understanding or the capability to construct these passages?

After extensive analysis by our Sanskrit scholar, we were surprised to find that the messages were composed of five different languages, four of them Sanskrit-related from different traditions and time periods. A few English words were present as well. This complex array of languages was synthesized into a focused declaration about pure consciousness being the creator of all. The messages were entirely unique and although the Sanskrit scholar



understood the concepts, he had never seen them produced in such a way. The words, concepts and construction of these messages were well beyond the understanding and capability of my patient. He thought it would be almost impossible for the patient to find someone to compose these messages, as no Sanskrit scholar had cross-training in different traditions, and she did not have the means to pay for such work. Also, even if she had been able to find a Sanskrit scholar who could take on such an unusual task, it would be almost impossible to produce so many messages corresponding with the professional and psychological drama taking place between the patient and myself that progressed over a month and a half. How could she learn to speak these messages with such genuine feeling – sometimes in a trance, sometimes while in a highly emotional state; messages that seemed to be timed to appear just when a particular situation developed? It seemed that the “director” of this drama had unique control over languages and the timing of unfolding events, and was producing a remarkably constructed message for mankind.

The question an objective scientific observer has to ask is, could I have worked with a Sanskrit scholar myself to construct the messages and then teach the Sanskrit words to my disabled patient and have her repeat them, sometimes in a trance or a highly emotional state, and paralleling so perfectly the unfolding drama? I would have had to work very closely with her over those 1½ months, including 10 days

when she was in a psychiatric hospital for treatment of her severe pain syndrome and in an unstable emotional state with suicidal impulses. I think it is clear that I was not the one constructing this drama.

Then, a final extraordinary event occurred on Guru Purnima day, when I was treating the patient for her pain syndrome at the home of a devotee caregiver. At that time and with many people observing, ash and nectar appeared on the patient’s head and body and over numerous pictures, statues, and many other objects in the devotee’s home. It was like the Vibhuti storms in the homes of devotees which we have all heard about and which signal Swami’s omnipresence.

I began to present this material to scientific audiences. Last time, I reported on how unusual it was for the American Psychiatric Association to accept the case for a three - hour media workshop in their large (15,000 attendees) annual meeting held in May 2013 in San Francisco. The acceptance of our presentation was unlikely (as this organization is most interested in statistical analysis of the effectiveness of medications and treatments), yet the organization’s promotional staff wrote a supportive piece to be mailed in advance to attendees of the conference. It was free advertisement!

And, by coincidence, Dr. Venkataraman (of Radio Sai) and Dr. Narendra Reddy (of the Prasanthi Council) were in the San Francisco area at the time to participate in the presentation. In addition, our Sanskrit



scholar and a well-credentialed and respected psychiatrist from Boston were discussants as well. We were a resounding success. Most of the room was filled, no one left, and there was active discussion with the audience.

Since then I have presented this case to the Society For Scientific Exploration (SSE), held in the San Francisco area in June 2014. They applauded after seeing a section of our documentary video. The first question after the documentary was, “Did Sai Baba say that He was the one producing the messages?” The next question came from a woman whose friend was cured of an illness in India by Sai Baba, and upon returning to the US was repeatedly visited by Sai Baba in her home and given support and comfort. “Had I known of similar cases?”

Radiating Sai’s Divine Love into the World

The next person questioned why we were focusing on Sai Baba when he had heard that Sai Baba tricked people by giving them ash that was secretly concealed in His palm. I mentioned that he had heard or read accounts from people he most likely did not know while I, having spent thousands of hours in Sai Baba’s presence, was just now describing, analyzing, and showing video about a case that clearly refuted such gossip. He had a choice to make: what to believe. This kind of discrediting gossip shows the urgent need for our organization to have well-documented, analyzed, and articulated material to present to the world.

What I have been working on so far is the tip of the iceberg – only about 1½ hours of 12½ hours of video material. Still to come is the miraculous appearance of Vibhuti, evidence that it is Divine Will and love that created and create matter. In my article last year, I urged scientists to report in scientific literature their observations of Sai Baba’s abilities and achievements that uphold Dharma. I encourage you to send reports of such incidents to me as well, because if a door is open for more fruitful communication with scientists, I would like to have reports by credible observers to share. If you would like to see a documentary of this case (produced for scientists and representing only a small fraction of the large amount of video material we have) please go to the following online address <http://goo.gl/V8LYs5> and enter the password Sai.

I hope that this case can help establish better communication between our Sai family and the scientific and world communities. How crucial it is for us to find ways of bettering this communication – of radiating Sai’s extraordinary love into a world torn by chaos and despair! I pray for Swami’s guidance and for all of us to be kept close to His heart and to be worthy instruments of His divine love and peace.

–The author, Dr. Samuel Sandweiss, is a retired psychiatrist from California. He is the author of three books, “Sai Baba: The Holy Man and the Psychiatrist”, “Spirit and the Mind”, “With Love Man is God”.



A GLORIOUS ERA, THE SAI ERA, started on 23rd November 1926 when God Almighty descended on earth in answer to the prayers of many, many yogis, Munis, Rishis (sages). He took birth in a small remote village Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, India. As He grew, so did His following; year after year, millions across the globe were impacted by the existence of “Love and Truth” in a beautiful physical form, the magnificent, charming form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba... “Swami” to all of us.

Puttaparthi to catch a glimpse of the Avatar of the Age. ‘Bangaru’ He would address us all. That one word, with an enchanting smile that lit up the depths of our soul, was sufficient to make us part of His Divine Mission and become part of Him whether we knew it or not. We have all become part and parcel of the Divine Mission. We are the legacy He has left behind.

Over and over again, He spoke in a simple and easy way to make us understand the profound truths of life. Swami is love personified, love in action.

Dr. J. Geeta Reddy

THE DIVINE MISSION ... BEING A PART OF IT

He is everywhere, in you and me, in the moon and the stars, in the sun, the earth, the sky, the winds and water. He is our formless One, who took a beautiful human form for our sake, came down on earth and took us all with Him, holding our hand and walking with us on life's journey, so that we carry on the torch of His Divine Mission forward as we are His legacy!

Bhagavan's Mission and Legacy

It was a sight for the gods of heaven to see. Bhagavan in His flaming red robe, His thick dark curly mop of hair forming a halo around His eternally beautiful face! And we mortals were truly blessed (by that awesome presence), seeing Him, hearing Him and touching Him – Darshanam Sparshanam and Sambhashanam for 85 blessed years of His sojourn on earth. Millions around the world came to

God is love, live in love, He exhorted us. He made His life His Message and handed over to us His legacy of Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness) Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). We carry forward His Mission.

He is Present in the Hearts of His Devotees

Every being that came into His presence was touched; He touched the lives of millions and millions over the years, till He



decided to leave His physical form. Don't you remember, Sai brothers and sisters, for years Swami has been preaching in His Discourses about body consciousness? He wanted us to give up body consciousness. The body is not everything, He would say. It is ephemeral and transient. Was this not an indication of things to come, that soon we would not be seeing Him in body form and have to prepare

ourselves to get over our attachment to His physical presence? The loving Father was preparing His children to feel His presence in their hearts. For true to His words, He would say, He would be in us, around us, below us and above us! We all have heard Him say this to us many times.

He Touched the Lives of Millions all over the Globe

But we in our attachment to His physical form never ever had enough of Him. However frail He became, sitting in Sai Kulwant Hall for Darshan, we longed for



a small glimpse of Him. He started to wean us away. His Darshan days became fewer; Darshan would be over in a few minutes. But yet we would wait and wait and keep waiting for that one glimpse! When He decided to leave His divinely beautiful frame, He did so slowly and compassionately. Swami could have simply left, but no, He knew we would not be able to survive if that happened

suddenly. He, the compassionate Lord God that He is, gave us time, prepared us and chose finally to leave His physical frame. The world came to pay homage to Him. The high and mighty in worldly terms came to pay their respects, while those who could not, stayed and sent their love to Him. This oneness the whole world felt in His passing away was the biggest miracle of Swami.

Unknown to us, He had touched our lives and transformed us for the better. We

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SWAMI AS DIVINE MOTHER

Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad

THE AVATAR OF THE AGE, OUR Beloved Swami, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, took birth in human form for the redemption of the world. Unlike Rama Avatar or Krishna Avatar, the purpose of which was the annihilation of the wicked and anti-social elements, the present Avatar has declared that transformation of human beings and in turn the world is the chosen path, as selfishness, jealousy, enmity, absence of love for fellow human beings have taken an upward trend. Annihilation cannot be the route as the number is very large. Therefore, Swami has chosen the path of transformation.

The path of transformation implies that Avatar has to play the role of mother who takes care of the child showing love and affection, responds to the needs of the child and admonishes the wrong steps. Also, the Avatar exhibits the innocence of a child to drive home the fact that we should be as pure in our thoughts without hatred, jealousy, selfishness as a child which is close to God. Baba always therefore

stresses that His life is His Message. I would like to share a few experiences with Swami which reflect Him as a loving and caring mother.

After assuming charge as Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in the month of July 2010, I mentioned to Swami during dinner time that the next day was the birthday of my son Shivasundara Sathyendra. Swami as a loving mother asked me if he was in Prasanthi Nilayam to be blessed. I brought to the kind attention of Swami that he was having dengue fever and was in Mysore. Immediately, Beloved Swami blessed a few packets of Vibhuti and asked me to go to Mysore and spend a few days with him and that he will be free from dengue fever.

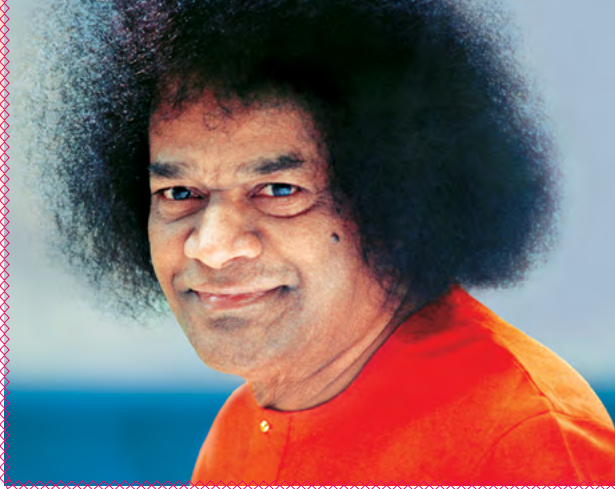
Yes, it was the Divine Sankalpa (Will) and any statement and blessing of Mother Sai could not be proved wrong in any way.

During the month of October 2010, as I was entering the dining hall in the evening, Swami asked me if I had enquired the health of my father. Half an hour back, I was informed by the doctors of our

I am sharing these experiences of mine to indicate how the all-pervading, all-knowing and all-powerful God in human form exhibits the love of a million mothers to the devotees. We have to imbibe the qualities of Divine Mother which in turn will transform the world to be a happy place to live.



hospital that my father had a fall and was unconscious for a couple of minutes. They had identified by scanning studies that there was a blockage in the carotid artery to a great extent.



in Puttaparthi.” Next day, when scanning was repeated, the observed block in the carotid artery of my father was not to be found. The Divine command was to be obeyed by the

I had discussed about the treatment with my brother, a senior cardiologist of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiological Sciences. He had mentioned that it would be difficult to do angioplasty at my father’s age and that he would go to Mysore to take care of him. When I mentioned these facts to Swami, His immediate reactions were so assuring and filled with the love of a dear mother. “Bangaru, you are dedicated to Me and serving Me and My Institution. When good children are put to great stress and difficulties, parents will be worried. It is My responsibility to take care of your loved ones. Also tell your family members that I will be taking care of you as you stay alone

elements. The love and care of Swami as Divine Mother are beyond words.

I am sharing these experiences of mine to indicate how the all-pervading, all-knowing and all-powerful God in human form exhibits the love of a million mothers to the devotees. We have to imbibe the qualities of Divine Mother which in turn will transform the world to be a happy place to live.

– The author, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad, is the Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (deemed to be university).

...continued from page 41

became better Hindus, better Christians and better Muslims. All His organisations across the world are running extremely successfully, fulfilling their duties towards a better society.

Thousands of devotees, old and new, throng Prasanthi Nilayam daily for Samadhi Darshan where one feels His loving presence. He is everywhere, in you and me, in the moon and the stars, in the sun, the earth, the sky, the winds and water. He

is our formless One, who took a beautiful human form for our sake, came down on earth and took us all with Him, holding our hand and walking with us on life’s journey, so that we carry on the torch of His Divine Mission forward as we are His legacy!

– The author, Dr. J. Geeta Reddy, former Minister in the Andhra Pradesh Government, is an ardent devotee of Bhagavan.

Swami's Mission of Transformation of Man

Dr. Choudary Voleti

I really could not understand or accept how despite being one of the best cardiologists, Thumati confidently and calmly waited for Swami to make all the decisions relating to the management of his own mother's heart disease. It was Swami who decided the treatment; it was He who decided where the surgery should be done and who would be performing the surgery. This was a demonstration of absolute faith.

WE ALL PRAY FOR GOD'S grace but what does Swami's grace actually do for us? Well, it certainly doesn't make us a millionaire, definitely not. If we go to Him to become a millionaire, we are going to Him for the wrong reason.

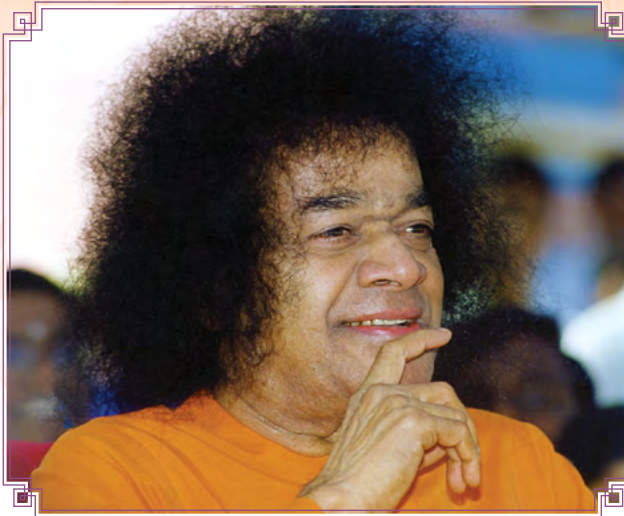
Swami's Grace

I think what Swami does for us is to help us become a better person. Ego, greed, jealousy, anger, lust, all these characteristics are there; we are born with them. However, if we follow Swami's teachings, we can get rid of them. It is not very easy, but we should try. Anger is the worst thing because it destroys you. It is not that I am telling at a psychological or super-psychological level; it is a practical thing. When you get angry, the worst damage is done to you, not to the other person. It is the same with jealousy and greed.

Because I had worked hard all my life, I used to become very jealous. For example, if I saw somebody driving a bigger car, a better car than mine, I would worry, "How come I work so hard and that guy has a bigger car"? Now, when I look at somebody being more prosperous, driving a bigger car I automatically think, "Drive it, enjoy it, you deserve it". That gives you a very nice feeling. In the same way, when I see somebody working hard for the benefit of other people, I feel so happy. I used to feel so jealous thinking, "Oh, God has given him so many opportunities to help everybody". No, God gives all of us opportunity to help others; some of us take it and some of us don't take it. That particular person took it and he is able to serve. This is what Swami does to us, wakes up that instinct to help other people in need. If you miss that, you miss the boat.



Swami says, He has come here to metamorphose us, make us better people, really make us better people. His grace is always there. A lady in one of the Sai Centres in the United States had a very interesting



mother. Thumati is probably the busiest and the best cardiologist I know. At the time of this story, his mother was seventy-two years old. She lived in her native village in South India.

Unfortunately, one winter night, she had a major

heart attack and a stroke. Thumati was in Los Angeles at that time. With Swami's grace, she survived both the heart attack and the stroke despite the fact that her village had only basic medical facilities. Although she had some residual weakness on the left side of her body, she was able to mobilise. Her doctors did an angiogram but wanted Thumati's guidance regarding further treatment. Thumati, however, was adamant that his mother should receive no further treatment till he came to India for his next visit to Puttaparthi and then we would take care of his mother. In those days, Thumati and I used to generally go to Puttaparthi together. We reached Puttaparthi on Sunday and were able to review the angiogram on Monday. I asked Thumati his proposed treatment plan for his mother. His immediate answer was that Swami would decide what needed to be done. Those were my first few years with Swami when I was still just getting

question. She said, "Doctor, I had an emergency the other day and I had to call 911 first and then think of Swami". I said, "No, that is not the way it should be, they are not mutually exclusive. They are complementary. You can say Sai Ram, Sai Ram, Sai Ram and still call 911". This is one of the things Swami tells us, 'You don't think of Me enough, you don't ask Me for the right things'. We should always remember that Swami is our best friend, maybe He is the only friend we have because of His most unselfish love. All our other relationships are at a worldly level.

Faith

Faith is an abstract concept. It cannot be learnt; it cannot be gained from a book. Faith originates from within and can only be experienced. I will relate here my first encounter with true unquestioning faith. This story goes back to 1997 and relates to Dr. Ramakrishna Thumati and his



to know Swami and so I was troubled by this answer. Thumati was undoubtedly the best cardiologist I knew and when he said that Swami would decide what to do, I was absolutely flabbergasted. I said to him, "Ramakrishna, you are the best cardiologist I know and you want to let Swami decide about an angiogram and the line of treatment for your own mother? I don't understand the logic behind your plans". Thumati, of course, did not continue this conversation. A whole week went by without Thumati or Swami mentioning anything about this problem. As we were there for only two weeks, the following Sunday I told Thumati, "Ramakrishna, we are here for only one more week; you should at least write a letter to Swami about your mother". So, on Monday morning he wrote a letter to Swami but Swami did not accept the letter.

Normally, our work in the hospital would finish around five o'clock in the afternoon but that particular Monday we both finished work at three-thirty and were able to come and sit in the verandah in Sai Kulwant Hall. The interview room door was closed and I thought Swami must be with some fortunate devotees. As usual, the windows were also closed to Swami's interview room. Fairly soon after we sat down, Sri S.V. Giri, the Vice Chancellor, came out of the interview room, walked straight to us and said, "Swami wants to see both of you inside". I could not understand how with the door and windows closed Swami could have known that we were both sitting

outside. Anyway, we went inside, closed the door after us and sat at Swami's feet, one on either side; a very rare opportunity. Without any discussion or prelude Swami said, "Ramakrishna, send for your mother, she needs an operation. Choudary will do the operation and I will take care of her". At this point, I was totally lost. First of all, I had no clue how Swami knew we were waiting outside and then how He even knew about Thumati's mother's condition. The other thing that really bothered me at that stage was that one does not normally operate on one's own family or close friends. Then I thought carefully about what Swami had actually said. Swami had said, "Choudary will do the operation and I will take care of her". Appreciating the true meaning of Swami's words, greatly relieved me of my anxieties about operating on one of my closest friend's mother. Swami then talked to us about our work and some hospital issues, and ended the interview as abruptly as it began.

Thereafter, the logistical nightmare of actually bringing his mother to Puttaparthi began for Thumati. His mother was in their native village some two hundred plus miles away. She had to be brought in a taxi; a minimum eight hour's drive. Also she was not keen on undergoing the heart surgery nor was she a true believer in Swami. Anyway, by Tuesday evening she was admitted to the hospital. As I examined this frail seventy-two year old lady, barely three months from a stroke involving the whole of her left side, doubts again crept



into my mind. She was the kind of patient we would think twice about, even in the United States, to submit to surgery. To everybody's surprise, Swami came to the hospital that evening, materialised Vibhuti and smeared it on the paralysed left side of her body. The plan was to perform a two or possibly three vessel heart bypass, preferably without using a heart lung machine. The biggest surprise though was yet to come. When we opened the pericardium, which is the lining of the heart, not only was the pericardium thickened, but the cavity around her heart was filled with thick brown pus. My hands literally froze at that point. I looked up at Swami's photograph in the operating room and with renewed courage proceeded further. We washed the entire heart cavity with warm saline, removed as much of the thickened, diseased pericardium as we could and did a three vessel bypass without using the heart lung machine. Subsequent test confirmed my suspicion of tuberculosis of the pericardium and we started her on anti-TB treatment.

By Swami's grace, she was awake the next morning, completely stable, the left side of her body no worse than before, breathing on her own and strong enough to be disconnected from the ventilator. Two days later, she was transferred out of the intensive care unit onto a regular ward.

Her main complaint was the number of medicines she had to take. With support, she was able to walk and ten days after surgery, she was back in her village. Her only remaining wish was to see her grandson become a doctor; she was not interested in anything else. Her wish was granted and she lived a contented life watching her grandson become a fully qualified physician. She passed away peacefully twelve years after surgery.

If anybody would have tried to explain to me the meaning of faith or if I had read about faith, there is no way I would have had the faintest idea what it really meant. Through this invaluable experience, Swami made it possible for me to appreciate what faith truly is. I really could not understand or accept how despite being one of the best cardiologists, Thumati confidently and calmly waited for Swami to make all the decisions relating to the management of his own mother's heart disease. It was Swami who decided the treatment; it was He who decided where the surgery should be done and who would be performing the surgery. This was a demonstration of absolute faith.

– Dr. Choudary Voleti is the Director of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi.

I must tell you that total adherence to truth, absolute selflessness, universality and spontaneous outpouring of Love are to be seen only in Sai and nowhere else. Sai has not an iota of self-interest. Sai is motiveless.

- Baba

LOVE IN ACTION

Dr. Swarna Bhardwaj

Whenever asked how far we should extend ourselves for our patients, Swami would tell us, "Do everything that is necessary". The cost of the treatment was never a factor in His decision, if the consequence of the treatment was a healthy patient. Swami constantly directed us to put the "Patient first, Institution next and individual (meaning, ourselves) last". And it is this lofty principle that inspires us to always do the best we can. Ensuring that the patients we treat return to health when they leave the hospital is our primary goal.

ON GURU PURNIMA DAY IN July 2011, when our Beloved Bhagavan's Samadhi was unveiled, I decided I would not be able to live in Puttaparthi any longer. It was Swami's boundless love that had created deep yearning in my heart and brought me to His hospital in Puttaparthi in 2008. Now the Samadhi was an inadequate source to heal my aching heart.

Why do I feel so sad today?

I lost physical contact with You this day.

My heart stops beating

Eyes are forever weeping

Oh! Where is my Master so merciful and giving?

There is no reason for me to be living.

I contemplated returning to Delhi – my home of over seventy years - to grieve and reminisce, to cherish quietly what had

been given to me. But when I was asked to take charge as the Director of SSSIHMS, Whitefield instead, it came as a mixed blessing. Swami says, "Much is expected of those to whom much is given". With these words ringing in my heart, I arrived at Whitefield. Little did I know then that Swami had brought me here to heal me. Here, I found myself among several brothers and sisters who all shared my irrevocable loss, and suddenly, my heart seemed light. All of us had been touched by Him, and now we were united by a single thought – "How best can I show my love and gratitude to my God and Master"? I was no longer alone. I felt His Living, Loving Presence in my heart and from now on, I just had to shut my eyes and touch my heart for Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan.

Suddenly I hear Him saying that I am wrong,



To complete His Mission is the reason that is strong.

I was planning to leave with sadness;

He desired that I serve with madness.

There is no time for lament and despair,

Showering His grace on the Director's chair.

Is the Hospital Working Okay?

Ever since Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi, my staff and I are frequently asked by both anxious devotees and curious non-devotees, whether the work at the hospital is being sustained. Swami's towering physical Presence brought confidence and reassurance and quite naturally, this concern surfaces about His institutions after His Maha Samadhi on 24th April 2011. To all these queries, I have a single reply. In pushing us to let go of His physical form over three years ago, He has only engraved His message of service deeper into our hearts. While we all deeply miss His constant physical guidance, yet His

life and teachings speak to us, bringing answers and strength.

At the inauguration of our hospital in January 2001, Swami blessed the institution and said, "This hospital will live for hundreds of years." Swami's word and Sankalpa brook no doubt. And so it has been at SSSIHMS. The hospital continues to scale greater heights and symbolises light and hope for thousands. Over the next few passages, I hope to share my insights with you on how Swami's hospital remains a unique, shining example of medical service in the world today.

A Rising Graph

The unaffordable costs of cardiac and neurologic treatment, both requiring super speciality level of care, make these diseases untreatable for most Indian families. In the infant years of SSSIHMS, Swami would often enquire how many patients had been treated in a given period. We knew that it was never about the statistics

	Patients from January 2001 to March 2011	Average per annum	Patients from April 2011 to September 2014	Average per annum	% increase in per annum work	Commercial Value of Work Done so far
Out Patients						
Cardiac Sciences	468,941	45,750	175,748	47,931	5%	₹ 322,344,500
Neuro Sciences	237,702	23,190	115,369	31,464	35%	₹ 176,535,500
Surgeries and Cath Procedures						
Cardiology	30,075	2,934	14,713	4,013	37%	₹ 2,239,400,000
Cardiac Surgery	11,660	1,138	4,590	1,311	15%	₹ 1,625,000,000
Neurosurgery	13,239	1,302	6,747	1,846	41%	₹ 1,998,600,000
Total Commercial Value of Work Done						₹ 6,361,880,000

really. To Swami, each patient who went back home healed, meant a family that would resume living a normal life. The numbers on the previous page reflect the continuing commitment of SSSIHMS to making a difference. As may be observed from this, there has been an increase in the number of patients served across all departments. The 41% increase in neurosurgery and 37% increase in cardiology diagnostic and interventional procedures highlight the growing pace of work at SSSIHMS. Commercial value of work done so far at SSSIHMS, Whitefield in the last 13 years amounts to ₹ 636 crores.

Harbinger of Health and Hope

Swami tirelessly worked to bring cheer to the ones who had become despondent, and our patients are often those who have little to look forward to. To many of them, life, that is already a day-to-day economic struggle, becomes unbearably hard when poor health arrives as an unwelcome guest. Take, for example, the new-born child, who should have brought happiness to the family, arrives with a hole in the heart. A growing child whose developments don't match milestones is diagnosed with neurological disorders. A young mother discovers that the chronic fatigue she has been suffering is because of a narrowed heart valve. Middle-aged fathers, suddenly put down by coronary disease or spinal



degeneration, are unable to provide for their families. To each of these people, SSSIHMS is the single candle in the dark. A glimpse into the demographic profile of our patients reveals that more than 70% of our patients lie below the global standard for poverty, earning less than \$2 a day (₹ 36,000 per annum). More than 67% come from other States in the country, many travelling for as much as 3-4 days to get to the hospital. The hospital clearly is a lighthouse in a dark world for the indigent.

Patient First

Whenever asked how far we should extend ourselves for our patients, Swami would tell us, "Do everything that is necessary". The cost of the treatment was never a factor in His decision, if the consequence of the treatment was a healthy patient. Swami constantly directed us to put the "Patient first, Institution next and individual (meaning, ourselves) last". And it is this lofty principle that inspires us to always do the best we can. Ensuring that the patients we treat return to health when they leave the hospital is our primary goal.

At SSSIHMS, advanced techniques are introduced so that our patients benefit from scientific progress. Thus, children with holes in their hearts who required to undergo painful open-heart surgeries, now can get these holes closed using catheters through a small puncture in the thigh. Even where patients are compelled to have cardiac surgeries, minimally invasive procedures are performed where feasible. Patients needing complicated brain surgeries – craniotomies, now “stay awake” during certain surgeries, and adenosine-induced cardiac standstill is adopted for complex aneurysms and certain fusions. These sophisticated techniques, offering quicker recoveries, better results and shorter hospital stays, are employed by very few centres in our country.

Millions of dollars have also been spent over the past three years to acquire state-of-the-art medical investigation equipment. Our hospital now has a high-end 1.5 Tesla MRI and a 128-slice CT Scanner to detect disease faster and more accurately. We are among the few in the country to have a modern biplane cath lab with fractional flow reserve and intra vascular ultrasound capabilities that allow us to image the heart and brain with greater precision. Our cardiac investigations have been enhanced by top-of-the-line electrophysiology equipment used to diagnose faults in the electrical conduction of the heart and 4D cardiac ultrasound machines.

Our dedication to high quality of care can be gauged by several indicators. One of these is our low infection rate of less

A glimpse into the demographic profile of our patients reveals that more than 70% of our patients lie below the global standard for poverty, earning less than \$2 a day (₹ 36,000 per annum). More than 67% come from other States in the country, many travelling for as much as 3-4 days to get to the hospital. The hospital clearly is a lighthouse in a dark world for the indigent.

than 2%, which is comparable to the best hospitals in the US, and has been achieved by setting protocols and implementing proactive systems aimed at preventing infection.

Also, SSSIHMS is a pioneer in the country in offering holistic medical care. Swami always taught that true healing encompasses the body, mind and spirit. SAI Counselling, a special programme inspired by Swami and put together by a dedicated team of counsellors enables the hospital to be responsive to each patient's personal circumstances, looking beyond clinical parameters and medical files. Counsellors teach patients simple, universal techniques in breathing and relaxation to help them heal themselves. The counselling team has also begun to share this model of healing with other institutions in India and abroad, demonstrating the role of a more integrated approach to medicine.



Academic Excellence

Another equally significant aspect of medical excellence is peer reviews by the medical fraternity which is indicated by academic and research success. This reflects whether we are sharpening our saws and remaining current in a field that is constantly evolving. SSSIHMS has received consistent recognition for excellence in post-graduate medical training, with our students receiving gold medals at the national level in the DNB Programme in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. Our nursing and paramedical students too have been obtaining the highest ranks at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

Inspired Workers

Swami always emphasised that people were truly what made up an organisation, not just equipment or infrastructure. The divine magnet that He was, He also drew to Himself some of the most distinguished and reputed medical professionals to participate in His Mission.

I am also fortunate to have a number of highly accomplished physicians heading and working in all the departments. Each one of these individuals, having forsaken the rewards of a corporate career, has chosen to work with single-minded determination to further Swami's medical mission. We have a number of distinguished faculty from around the world visiting us periodically. In the last one year, we have had teams from Australia, Canada, USA, UK and Sweden visit and work hand-in-hand with our specialists to provide the best possible care to all our patients. Each one of them travels thousands of miles to give their

best to our patients and often they leave wistfully, for their stay here lights a spark setting them off on their own inner journey.

Our Patients are our Swami Now

On 19th January 2014, when we celebrated our anniversary and gathered at our Master's Feet in Parthi, one of our young patients, Shreya, came along with us. She offered a flower to our Lord – a flower that completed the circle of love that Swami had initiated by setting up His Medical Mission. She was treated here for a hole in her heart and now wanted to return as a doctor. A receiver of care had just become a potential care-giver.

Whenever I look back at the disquiet I experienced in September 2011, words of Haji Allah Baksh, a 57 years old patient from Uttar Pradesh, bring me peace and strength. Visibly emotional as he was being discharged after a successful bypass surgery and a valve replacement, he remarked, "Mein Teen Baar Haj Pe Gaya, Lekin Meine Khuda Ko Yahan Paayaa". I went on a pilgrimage thrice, but it was here in SSSIHMS that I found God.

The poet in me can't help but reaffirm our commitment to Him with these words.

*Let us all pray for His love and grace,
And brave all challenges with a smiling
face,
Our devotion will fail Him never,
His Mission will go on forever.*

**– Dr. Swarna Bhardwaj is the
Director of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of
Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield,
Bengaluru.**



Y. ARVIND

GOD IS THE ONLY DOER

IT IS SAID THAT LIVING WITH GOD is true education. I was fortunate to have spent eight years as a student of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam and 12 years working in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences. All these years have been an intense learning experience.

We do climb the steps, we do evolve, each at our own pace, but sometimes... sometimes we slip, unaware that we are slipping. It is at those junctures that God creates a unique circumstance. He arranges for us to go through an 'unforgettable experience'. This experience is so vivid, strong and impactful that it stays with us for the rest of our life and comes to the fore each time we are faced with a situation where we are liable to 'slip'. One such experience I had was when I was working in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru.

In the year 2000, Bhagavan sent 13 of His students to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, for training under Dr. P. Venugopal, then Head of Cardio Neuro Centre and also Director of AIIMS. After our training, we returned to Puttaparthi and worked for a

while at SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram. Once Bhagavan felt that we were sufficiently trained, He sent us to Whitefield to help in setting up the super speciality hospital there. On 19th January 2001, Bhagavan arranged for the hospital to be inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India, Sri Atal Behari Vajpayee.

I was a technical officer in the Cardiac Operation Theatre, performed managerial duties and also ran the heart lung machine, a machine that did the job of the heart and the lungs during open heart surgery. With time I became adept at my tasks and earned the praise of the surgeons as a dependable person. Bhagavan has always taught us that God is the only Doer and we are instruments in His Divine Hands. I did not realise that I was slipping into the 'doer' mode, till one day Bhagavan decided to teach me a hard lesson.

It was the second case for the day and was scheduled post lunch. It was a straight forward coronary artery blockage condition. The patient was a non-smoker, non-alcoholic and vegetarian – in other words a clean case. All the blood reports, X-rays, and doctors' observations pointed out that the surgery would be a straightforward one.



We went on bypass and the surgery was underway. Suddenly, totally unexpectedly, things began to go out of control. The blood pressure shot up, the patient began to lose fluid in excess, the oxygen saturation was falling, haemoglobin level was below normal... everything that could go wrong was going wrong. The surgeon was obviously very disturbed. The anaesthetist was called into the theatre and was trying to help me but nothing was working. We tried everything technically possible in the textbook but to no avail.

The surgeon turned to me and shouted, "Arvind, do something!"

"I am doing everything I can, sir," I replied.

"Do something else... get the situation under control," the doctor yelled.

And he was fully justified in his fury. He would be held responsible if anything went wrong and the patient would suffer for the rest of his life. I was unable to do anything, nothing seemed to work. It was a terrible situation. I was sweating in the air conditioned theatre, my hands were shaking, I was at my wits end. I did not know what else to do. Then the words of Bhagavan popped into my head: "When you do not know what to do, pray to Me." I



A Trayee Session in progress.

immediately raised my head, looked across the operating room at the photograph of Bhagavan on the wall and prayed for help. Actually, I screamed for help. At once, I threw myself at Bhagavan's feet. I prayed hard... "Swami I am sorry, I am sorry, I am sorry... You are the master, I am nothing. Please help us." The words kept repeating in my subconscious while I began chanting the Sai Gayatri Mantra.

Five agonising minutes later, as suddenly as the chaos had started, it stopped. The blood pressures and blood gases normal, fluid balance normal, haemoglobin normal... everything that was going wrong suddenly set itself right.

Experience of Bhagavan's Omniscience

We came off bypass, and with the rest of the team staring at me with accusing eyes, I left the operating room and went straight to Swami's room. In the operation theatre complex, we have a room for Bhagavan that also serves as a prayer room. I went in, closed the door, sat down and prayed for



forgiveness and offered my gratitude. My hands continued to shake from the stress and tension of the past hours. I could do nothing but breathe deeply and try to calm myself.

Bhagavan was at Brindavan and soon it was time for us to go and present ourselves to Him. I was a nervous wreck. He was aware of everything that happened in the operating theatre and I did not have the courage to face Him. But, I had to go to the Ashram, my presence may not matter but my absence would definitely be noted and Bhagavan expected us to be there. We reached the Ashram, and the Trayee Session was already in progress. I crept silently into the central hall, sat at the far end with my back to the wall, hiding behind the students. In no shape to present myself to Swami, I just wanted to get through the session in one piece. I sat with my head bowed, eyes closed. But Swami had other plans.

A couple of minutes later, I was nudged from all sides. I jerked up and saw Sri Narasimha Murthy Garu, then warden of the Brindavan Campus, on his knees, beckoning me. It was obvious that Swami had asked for me. I made my way through to Swami who was seated on the Jhoola (swing). He looked up at me as I peeped around the door, and nodded. I entered the Jhoola room sure that I would get a thorough dose from Bhagavan. He gestured towards the microphone on His right hand side and said, "Speech ivvu" (give speech). I was in no condition to

give a talk after the afternoon's harrowing experience. But having been instructed, one has no choice. When I bent down to take His Padanamaskar, He asked me, "Emi Cheputavu"? (what are you going to talk about?) I had no response. To my blank stare, He responded, "Ivaala Jarigindi Cheppu" (tell what happened today).

That was it. He wanted everyone to know about the event that I was trying hard to get over. It was painful enough for me to go through it once, now He wanted me to relive it in the presence of all the students, teachers and elders in Trayee Brindavan. Looking back now, one understands that Bhagavan was using my experience to drive home a point to everyone present there. But for me, at that moment, standing there in the presence of so many people having to speak about it... well! I did not have to speak because Swami spoke through me. For the next 30 minutes, the audience listened to the afternoon's happenings. The conclusion was the lesson taught and learned.

I prayed to Bhagavan, "Swami, I am nothing, You are everything. I am just an inanimate instrument. It is You who are working through me. Pardon me for my ego. Forgive me for causing You so much of discomfort. To teach me a lesson You had to arrange such an elaborate scene. Swami, I am sorry! Without You I would have been a street dog, with You I may become a street lamp..."

Immediately Bhagavan turned to me. "Not street dog... street lamp, street



lamp!" He said, and one could see that He too was moved. I bowed to touch His feet, struggling to hold back my tears. As a Father He had put me through the grind for my benefit; He made me narrate the experience to ensure that the lesson would never be forgotten. Then...the heart of a Mother! Bhagavan could not see His child in pain. He consoled me patting me on my back, and blessing me profusely.

This instance for me is one unforgettable experience where Bhagavan taught me a lesson, in a live situation, in my work environment, with people I dealt with

everyday, and not just taught me but ensured that I remember it for a lifetime. Once Bhagavan holds our hand, He will never ever let go. Once we go to Him with an open heart ready to receive what He is willing to give, He will never stop giving. When we are willing to learn, He is always ready for us. Living with God is true education and for those of us fortunate to have been blessed with His proximity, a double blessing and an opportunity to learn from the Lord Himself!

– **Sri Y. Arvind is a former student of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.**

Cyclone Relief Service in Andhra Pradesh

A severe cyclone Hudhud lashed many areas of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh on 12th October 2014. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh immediately rushed to the help of the victims of this calamity and provided to the affected people food and other items of need which included milk powder, biscuits, water packets, candles, match boxes, mats and diesel. In addition to this, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam sent as an immediate relief a large quantity of clothes which included 5,000 Saris, 2,000 Dhotis and 5,000 blankets for distribution in these areas.



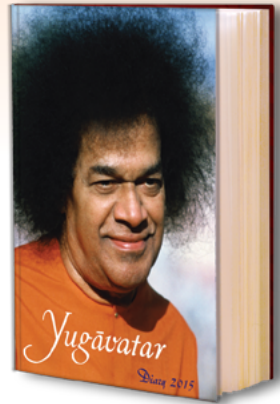
Providing relief material to the people affected by the cyclone Hudhud.

DIARY 2015 – YUGAVATAR

The earthly sojourn of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Yugavatar, was an unparalleled saga of divine love and service. His vast, loving teachings of lofty ideals embraced the whole spectrum of humans. Diary 2015 contains in a nutshell Bhagavan's divine life and His messages to parents, teachers, women, youth, Bal Vikas Gurus, Sadhakas, doctors, scientists, leaders, Seva volunteers, students, artistes and sportspersons. **Features:** 14.5 x 21 cms; shrink wrapped, multi-coloured wrapper with gold foiling, artwork, spot lamination and knurling, with curved binding and page marker. It has 418 pages of which 26 pages have beautiful multi-colour pictures of Bhagavan, Mandir, and Maha Samadhi apart from 8 pages of text in 130 gsm art paper; it has over 300 Divine sayings in double colour.

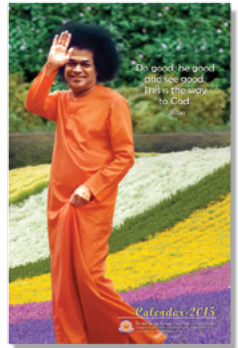
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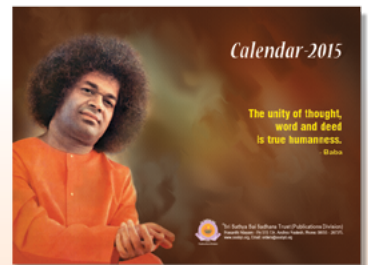
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- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries, educational software etc for the benefit of visiting 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.
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– Baba

