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Sanathana Sarathi

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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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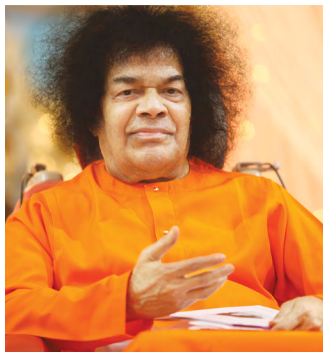
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"If you firmly establish Sathya and Dharma in your heart, no evil tendencies will be able to find entry into it. On the other hand, if one moment you have Sathya and Dharma in your heart and the next moment, Adharma and Asathya (unrighteousness and untruth), then how can you call yourself a human being?"

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Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 18th October - 24th October Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna**
- 10th November 6 p.m.**
- to 11th November 6 p.m. Global Akhanda Bhajan**
- 18th November Rathotsavam**
- 19th November Ladies Day**
- 22nd November 31st Convocation of
Sri Sathya Sai Institute
of Higher Learning**
- 23rd November 87th Birthday of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**
- 25th December Christmas Celebrations**



AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
24TH JULY 1996

SATHYA AND DHARMA ARE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF MAN

A man bereft of the qualities of charity, righteousness, truth, compassion and morality; a man without good thoughts and good character will ruin himself completely here and hereafter.

(Telugu Poem)

ATTAIN GOD'S LOVE BY PRACTISING SATHYA AND DHARMA



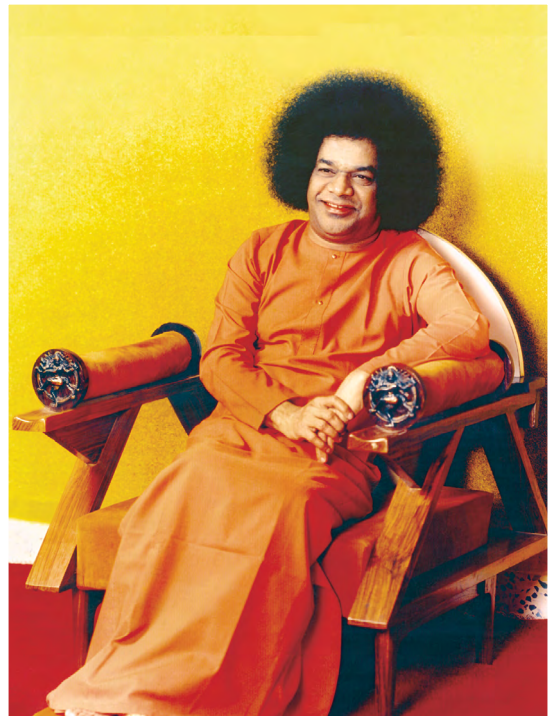
STUDENTS ARE THE inheritors of the legacy of Sathya and Dharma (truth and righteousness), and it is the responsibility of the students to uphold

them. They should undertake to establish peace and prosperity in society by promoting Sathya and Dharma. For this, the students should have broad-mindedness. The value of education does not lie in

What the tongue speaks, the hands should perform. The mind should also be in harmony with speech.

The unity of thinking, saying and doing is real Dharma. There should be unity of thoughts, words and deeds. Where there is unity, there is purity. Where there is purity, there is divinity. Unfortunately, unity and purity are nowhere to be seen today. Wherever you see, you find enmity.

Due to prevalence of enmity, the whole world today is in turmoil. If you cultivate Sathya and Dharma in your heart, there will be no scope for enmity in it.



acquiring merely bookish knowledge. Education, in fact, is the divine lamp which destroys the darkness of ignorance.

Practise Sathya and Dharma

Truth is verily God. God is the embodiment of Sathya and Dharma. God is none other than Sathya and Dharma. There are many people who think that they are making efforts to spread Sathya and Dharma. You can spread something at a place where it does not already exist. But, how can you spread Sathya and Dharma when they are present everywhere? Hence, there is no need to promote and publicise Sathya and Dharma. What is needed is to practise them.

How is the word Dharma derived? It comes from the root 'Dhrit' which means to uphold or sustain. *Dharayati iti Dharma* (that which sustains is Dharma). Dharma is therefore that which supports everything. The entire world is sustained by Dharma. Dharma binds the entire universe into a unified whole and rules it. Sathya and Dharma are not related to merely one person, one period of time or one country; they are related to all people, all periods of time and all countries.

Lord Krishna declares in the Bhagavadgita:

*Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya Glanir
Bhavati Bharata,
Abhyutthana madharmasya
Tadatmanam Srujamyaham.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Oh Arjuna! Whenever there is a decline in Dharma and rise in Adharma, I incarnate on earth.)

Dharma can never be destroyed. If it is subject to destruction, then it cannot be called Dharma at all. At certain periods of time, it may seem to have disappeared due to the decline of its practice by man. When thick clouds cover the shining sun, people may not be able to see it for some time. But nothing can ever stop the sun from shining or stop its light forever. In the same way, the sun of Sathya and sunlight of Dharma can never be destroyed.

Sathya and Dharma are interrelated and interdependent like God and Nature, matter and energy. Therefore, it is not possible to separate Sathya and Dharma. Sathya, in fact, is the foundation, on which the mansion of Dharma stands. There can be no danger or hazard to the mansion of Dharma which is built on the foundation of Sathya. Sathya and Dharma are the natural attributes of man. By nourishing and practising Sathya and Dharma, man should himself derive bliss and share it with the world. Some people say that vocation is the attribute of a Purusha (man). But in modern times, many women are also employed in various vocations. Then, can they be called men? Hence, it is not the vocation that is the real attribute of man. His real attributes are Sathya and Dharma. Does merely by wearing a safari suit or a pant and a shirt one become a Purusha? No, no. The term 'Purusha' signifies divine consciousness which permeates the entire 'Pura' (body) from top to toe.

Sathya and Dharma are Verily God

Dharma is the attribute of all human beings. However, from the



worldly point of view, there are many divisions of Dharma, such as Dharma of Brahmacharya (celibate stage), Grihastha (householder stage), Vanaprastha (recluse stage) and Sannyasa (renunciant stage). In this way, one divides Dharma according to various stages of one's life. But all these are only worldly and empirical divisions of Dharma. These divisions relate to external forms of Dharma.

What is the nature of the internal form of man's Dharma? *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam; Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones; those who lack harmony of these are wicked). This means that man should attain unity of thoughts, words and deeds. This is the true Dharma of every human being. This does not relate to various empirical divisions of Dharma; it relates to the life of all human beings. However, the Dharma of birds and beasts is different. Similarly, the elements and objects have their own Dharma. For example, the Dharma of fire is to burn, that of water is to flow and sugar, sweetness. All objects have been endowed with their specific Dharma in this way from the time of creation itself. But this relates only to worldly and external Dharma. The internal Dharma is true and eternal and comes from the heart of man. However, human beings have to perform certain other Dharmas of worldly nature also with regard to their heart, speech, hands, etc. What is it that

Your heart is the Tantra (esoteric doctrine), your body is the Yantra (instrument) and the feelings of your heart are your Mantra (incantation). The Mantra of Soham (That I am) emerges from the Yantra of your body, utilising the Tantra of your heart. Hence, you yourselves are Yantra, Tantra and Mantra. What greater Mantra is there than this?



endows beauty to your hands, throat, ears, etc.?

Hastasya Bhushanam Danam

Sathyam Kanthasya Bhushanam

Srotrasya Bhushanam Sastram

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Charity is the true ornament of the hand, truth is the true necklace and listening to the sacred texts is the true ornament of the ears.)

What better ornaments do you require than these? These are your permanent ornaments which give you real beauty. Nothing can be more beautiful than these.

Man should work hard to develop and practise Sathya and Dharma, and derive happiness therefrom. Since ancient times, the Bharatiyas have been protecting Sathya and Dharma, considering them like their two eyes. How should you revere Sathya and Dharma? Revere Sathya and Dharma as your mother and father. *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava* (revere



your mother and father as God), says the Upanishad. Hence, Sathya and Dharma are verily God. Since ancient times, our elders have been instructing us to give importance to Dharma in every field of human endeavour. Dharma should be the guiding spirit in your vision, hearing, speech and conduct. It has been said, *Dharma Moolam Idam Jagat* (righteousness is the basis of the entire world). The entire Jagat (world) is sustained by Dharma. What does the word Jagat signify? Jagat has no separate form. It is the assembly of human beings. The word 'society' has a name but no form. When many people come together and form a group, it is called society. Though it has no form, it does have attributes. What are the main attributes of society? Sathya and Dharma are the main attributes of society. Society condemns that which is not accepted by it. We throw away the fruit which does not taste good. Similarly, society disapproves the actions that do not bring happiness to it.

As has already been said, true Dharma comes from the heart. If you put a seed in a pot and pour water over it, will it grow into a plant? No, no. It cannot grow into a plant. It has to be sown into soil. Only then can it become a plant. Similarly, Dharma does not develop merely by teaching and propagating. The plant of Dharma has to be grown in the soil of the heart. Then only can you derive the fruits of peace and prosperity from it. People of different faiths propagate their faiths. What is it that holds value for you? How can you decide about it? You value something if it satisfies

your conscience and your heart approves it. That only is truth which receives the approbation of your conscience. Your conscience is your master. Your teacher is not your master. Your Guru who whispers a Mantra into your ears is also not your master. Your conscience is your master. Follow the master. The real Mantra comes from your heart.

The Mantra of Cooperation

Your heart is the Tantra (esoteric doctrine), your body is the Yantra (instrument) and the feelings of your heart are your Mantra (incantation). The Mantra of Soham (That I am) emerges from the Yantra of your body, utilising the Tantra of your heart. Hence, you yourselves are Yantra, Tantra and Mantra. What greater Mantra is there than this? How useful and valuable is this Yantra of the body!

Here is a small example. A fruit is seen on a tree. What is it that sees the fruit? It is your eyes which see the fruit. You desire to possess the fruit as soon as your eyes see it. The fruit does not come into your belly as soon as you desire it. First your feet take you near the tree. Can you possess the fruit merely by going near it? No, no. You bend down your back, pick up a stone and hit the fruit using your arm. Then only does the fruit fall down on the ground. After this, your fingers pick up the fruit from the ground and put it into your mouth. When it reaches your stomach, your digestive fire helps it to assimilate in the body. Which limb of your body performs the task of bringing the fruit from the tree to your stomach? All your limbs work equally to perform this



task. Even if one of these limbs does not perform its task, the fruit from the tree cannot reach your stomach. What does the stomach do after receiving the fruit with the cooperation of various limbs of the body? It does not keep to itself all that it receives. It supplies the essence of the fruit to all

find division and non-cooperation. This non-cooperation is the cause of lack of unity in the family, country and world. This has led to increase in dissensions in society. All should be one and all should be united. Great tasks can be achieved by unity. But people today lack Sathya and Dharma.



True Dharma comes from the heart. If you put a seed in a pot and pour water over it, will it grow into a plant? No, no. It cannot grow into a plant. It has to be sown into soil. Only then can it become a plant. Similarly, Dharma does not develop merely by teaching and propagating. The plant of Dharma has to be grown in the soil of the heart. Then only can you derive the fruits of peace and prosperity from it.



the limbs to nourish them. The stomach symbolises God. God is called Angirasa (Divinity that is present in each part of the body as essence). He is propitiated by reciting the Mantra, *Angirasaya Namah* (salutations to Angirasa) because God is the quintessence of everything in this world.

Dharma in this way teaches cooperation. Unfortunately, cooperation is not visible anywhere today. Wherever you see, you

There are many people who just pretend to perform deeds of Sathya and Dharma. They make a show of Sathya and Dharma while actually it is a mere pretension.

Unity of Thoughts, Words and Deeds is Real Dharma

Who can awaken a person who just pretends to sleep by closing his eyes? A person who is really asleep can be awakened by tapping him once or twice. But no one can awaken a person who just



pretends to sleep. It is mere pretence. In the same way, people today seem to make a pretence of teaching and promoting Sathya and Dharma. What is important is practice. All the sacred books are not meant merely for ceremonial reading or for publicising their teachings. They are meant to be practised. The devotees and spiritual aspirants who do not understand this truth perform ceremonial reading of sacred texts both in the morning and evening in a routine way.

Everyone should try to put Sathya and Dharma into practice in his life. The Vedas declare, *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth, practise righteousness). You just say, *Sathyam Vada* but do not speak truth. You just repeat *Dharmam Chara* but do not adhere to Dharma in your day-to-day life. What you say, you do not do; what you do is different from what you say. What the tongue speaks, the hands should perform. The mind should also be in harmony with speech. The unity of thinking, saying and doing is real Dharma. There should be unity of thoughts, words and deeds. Where there is unity, there is purity. Where there is purity, there is divinity. Unfortunately, unity and purity are nowhere to be seen today. Wherever you see, you find enmity. Due to prevalence of enmity, the whole world today is in turmoil. If you cultivate Sathya and Dharma in your heart, there will be no scope for enmity in it.

Students!

If you firmly establish Sathya and Dharma in your heart, no evil tendencies

will be able to find entry into it. On the other hand, if one moment you have Sathya and Dharma in your heart and the next moment, Adharma and Asathya (unrighteousness and untruth), then how can you call yourself a human being? What is the meaning of human quality? Human quality means unity of thoughts, words and deeds. This is the real Dharma of man.

At the time of the marriage of Sita with Rama, King Janaka asked Rama to take an oath that He would share Dharma, Artha and Kama (righteousness, wealth and desire) with Sita. Rama thought: "What does Dharma mean? Does it connote worldly Dharma or inner Dharma? According to worldly Dharma, My happiness is her happiness, My wealth is her wealth and My liking is her liking." Rama promised to Janaka and said, "I accept all the principles of worldly Dharma. But I do not accept to share with her My inner Dharma. That means, if she becomes an obstacle in the performance of My inner Dharma, I will prefer to adhere to My inner Dharma to her." Hence, when a washerman of the kingdom expressed doubts about Sita who spent ten months in the captivity of Ravana in Lanka, Rama immediately exiled Sita from the kingdom. That means, Rama left Sita when He felt that she was an obstacle in the performance of His inner Dharma. Rama strictly adhered to the Vedic injunction, *Sathyam Vada* all His life. He not only adhered to the word given by Him but He also fulfilled the promise given by His father Dasaratha to Kaikeyi. Rama



thought to Himself: “The promise given by My father Dasaratha is not different from My promise.” Hence, He followed the truth that the promise given by His father was His own promise. This is true Dharma. *Ramo Vighrahan Dharma* (Rama is Dharma personified). Rama Rajya (rule of Rama) is actually Thyaga Rajya (rule of detachment). It establishes the principle of detachment. Help everybody and contemplate on the Name of God constantly. That is what is meant by contemplation on Rama forever at all times. Rama is everywhere. It is a mistake to think that Rama is at one place and not at another.

Practise Purity, Patience and Perseverance

In Bharat, there is hardly any village which does not have a Rama temple. There is no one who is not aware of the Name of Rama. Since ancient times, people of Bharat have been practising charity, adhering to Sathya and Dharma in their life and feeling closeness with Rama. It is a common saying about Rama, *Ramayati Iti Rama* (One who pleases is Rama). The Name of Rama delights everyone. Never consider Rama merely the son of Dasaratha. Rama is present in every heart. People commonly say, “My Atmarama knows this,” referring to Rama as their Atma. Atma is the Name of Rama. The same principle of Atma is present in each heart. It is very necessary for you to know this truth and conduct yourself accordingly.

Never break your promise. So far as possible, perform only those actions

Students are the inheritors of the legacy of Sathya and Dharma (truth and righteousness), and it is the responsibility of the students to uphold them. They should undertake to establish peace and prosperity in society by promoting Sathya and Dharma. For this, the students should have broad-mindedness. The value of education does not lie in acquiring merely bookish knowledge. Education, in fact, is the divine lamp which destroys the darkness of ignorance.



which satisfy your conscience. This is the true way of living. Sage Vyasa wrote 18 Puranas (mythological texts). When each one of them is so big and voluminous, how can anybody study all the 18 Puranas even if one spends one's whole lifetime? Lifespan of man in Kali Yuga is very short. In Dwapara Yuga, it was much longer. At the time of Mahabharata war, Krishna was 76 years old, Arjuna was 74 years old and Bhishma, the commander-in-chief of the Kaurava army, was 112 years old. See! In Dwapar Yuga, a man of 70 years was considered a young boy. But today even a 17 years old boy is weak like an old man. What is the reason? In those days, the heart of the people was very sacred because they practised three P's – Purity, Patience and Perseverance. By practising these three P's, they remained ever young. Therefore, instead of teaching



and propagating Sathya and Dharma, you should put them into practice in your life. Many changes have occurred in Kali Yuga. Many people enter into clashes with others in the name of constructing a temple for God. Why should there be any clash of opinions for constructing a temple of God? Instead of fighting with those who want to construct a temple of God, one should encourage them. Life becomes meaningful if one acts with patience and perseverance.

Therefore, students, treasure sacred thoughts in your heart. Besides contemplating on God, make efforts to put Sathya and Dharma into practice in your life. When you earn the love of God, you will have everything in life. How can you attain God's love? You can attain it only by practising Sathya and Dharma. God is not anybody else. Truth is God. The word God is not different from Dharma. Dharma is a Sanskrit word. People interpret it in many ways. The Vedas, Sastras (philosophical texts), Itihasas (epics) and Puranas (mythological texts) use the word Dharma in its real sense. Some people call it righteousness or right action. But these are not its real meanings; they are only reflections of its real meaning. The real meaning of Dharma is that which suffuses your heart with bliss. It is said: *Dharmam Purushasya Lakshanam* (Dharma is the attribute of man). Here, the word Purusha does not refer only to men. It includes

women also. Man and woman are only adjuncts to differentiate one form from the other; they do not differentiate one Atma from the other. These days, even women wear a pant and a shirt. Can we call them men only because they wear a male dress? No, no. That is not correct. Why? Dress is an outer covering. Life and death are also like that only. Death is the dress of life, said Jesus. The body is like a dress. You do not die when the body dies. Do not give importance to Deha (body); it is Dehi (Atma) that signifies your reality. Recognise this truth and attain total satisfaction in life.

Remove the restlessness prevalent in society and establish peace and goodness by practising Trikarana Suddhi (unity of thought, word and deed). Wherever you see in this world, law and order is conspicuous by its absence. To revive and establish law and order in the world, practise Sathya and Dharma. Considering Sathya and Dharma as their two eyes, the students should undertake to promote the welfare of society and nation. This is the main responsibility of the students today.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Govinda Krishna Jai Gopala Krishna Jai...*")

– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th July 1996.

Prayer has great efficacy. Vedic seers prayed for the peace and happiness of all mankind, of all animate and inanimate things. Cultivate that universal vision.

– Baba

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

SRI SATHYA SAI VIDYA VAHINI



AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE was covered by Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini project when in a function held in Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam on the morning of 25th August 2012, Tata Consultancy Services handed over the multimedia software prepared by them for this project. This software can be used to impart value-based quality education to students

pressurised by his ambitious father to secure high marks, the skit showcased the shortcomings of the present education system and depicted how Vidya Vahini scheme could remove the pressure on the students and foster values in them for the balanced development of their personality while creating a happy environment of teaching and learning. The second presentation made by the boys students of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Vidyalayam, Nandigama, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh was in the form of a folk dance



Cultural programme by the students of schools under Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini project.

through most modern technology. On this happy occasion, three schools under Vidya Vahini scheme presented a cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall in the evening.

The first presentation was a short skit enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Visakhapatnam. Through the story of a school student who was severely

of Andhra Pradesh. Dancing vibrantly to the tunes of some popular Telugu devotional songs, the students in their colourful attire enraptured one and all with their graceful rhythmic movements. The last presentation was a devotional music offering to Bhagavan by a group of girls students of Sri Viswa Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School,



Vandalur, Tamil Nadu. Beginning their presentation with a popular Hindi song, "Mera Jivan Tere Hawale" (I surrender my life to You, God), the students rendered two more devotional songs with great finesse. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. Meanwhile clothes were presented to all the students who participated in these brief but beautiful presentations. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

JOYOUS ONAM FESTIVAL

The festival of Onam was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotional fervour and piety. A large number of devotees came from all parts of Kerala to participate in the celebrations which were held for three days from 27th to 29th August 2012. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated with colourful cloth hangings, beautiful banners and decorative umbrellas. Special floral decorations were done at the Samadhi of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on all the three days.

A Thrilling Mridangam Recital

Onam celebrations got off to an exhilarating start with a brilliant mridangam recital by renowned mridangam maestro Sri Kuzhalmadam Ramakrishnan on 27th August 2012. Beginning his recital at 5.00 p.m. after Veda chanting, Sri Radhakrishnan kept the audience spellbound for nearly 45 minutes with his non-stop superb performance marked by perfect synergy of rhythm and melody. At

the conclusion of this excellent mridangam recital, the artiste was honoured with a shawl and mementoes were offered to him. The artistes who provided musical support to him were also felicitated. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

An Excellent Devotional Music Concert

The programme on 28th August 2012, the second day of Onam celebrations, began at 5.00 p.m. At the outset, two cardiac patients who underwent heart surgery in Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality hospitals and were provided post-operative care by the Sai Organisation of Kerala under Sri Sathya Sai Rehabilitation Programme, expressed their gratitude to Bhagavan on behalf of about 2,800 patients who have so far been provided medical help by the Kerala Sai Organisation after their heart surgery. Significantly, 700 of these patients came to Prasanthi Nilayam to express their gratitude to Bhagavan. The two patients who spoke on this occasion were Smt. Sarala and Sri Sebastian from Kannur district of Kerala.

This was followed by a devotional music concert by famous Carnatic music exponent, Sri Yogeshwar Sarma. The singer offered musical tributes to Bhagavan through Telugu and Malayalam compositions in serene, stylistic renditions, enthralling the audience for nearly one hour. At the conclusion of this excellent concert, the artiste was honoured with a shawl, and mementoes were presented to him. The artistes who provided musical



support to him were also felicitated. Thereafter, there was a brief session of Bhajans. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

Onam Function

On the auspicious day of Onam, there were special Kerala style decorations in Sai Kulwant Hall and adjoining areas. In fact, the entire Mandir complex and its surroundings bore a festive look with beautiful decorations. Onapookkalam, traditional flower decoration along with Nirapara (traditional Indian measuring cup symbolising plentiful harvest) was arranged in front of the Samadhi of Bhagavan which was also specially decorated with flowers of various hues. The programme began at 5.00 p.m. with a devotional song by the popular singer, Sri T.S. Radhakrishnan which created an aura of piety and devotion. After this, Prof. E. Mukundan, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala spoke about the Seva activities being carried out in Kerala. He stated that in the annual essay competition organised by the Sai Organisation, as many as 17,800 college and school students took part this year. He then announced the names of gold medal winners. On his request, Sri K. Chakravarthi, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust presented the gold medals to two students, Jessey K.S. from Thiruvananthapuram and Surya Raghavendran from Thrissur amidst a loud applause of the devotees and students in the hall.

This was followed by a talk by Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan, a judge of Kerala High Court. Dwelling on the auspiciousness of Onam, the distinguished speaker observed that many projects were started on this day, but more important was the completion of the projects rather than starting them and leaving them incomplete. In this regard, he referred to the projects of Bhagavan who always announced the date of their completion before starting them. Referring to the teaching of human values by Bhagavan, Justice Radhakrishnan exhorted the devotees to put the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa into practice in their lives and spread them everywhere to make the country Sai Bharat.

Parvati Parinayam: A Dance Drama

The last item of the programme was a beautiful dance drama entitled “Parvati Parinayam” (marriage of Parvati) enacted by the Bal Vikas children of Calicut district and the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyapeeth, Srisailam. The entire Pauranic story of Parvati’s birth, her intense penance



A scene from the drama, “Parvati Parinayam.”

and marriage with Lord Siva came alive when the children presented various scenes of the drama through excellent acting, thrilling dances and beautiful songs. Meaningful commentary, sweet music, beautiful sets and prompt stage management enhanced the value and impact of the drama. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were presented to the children. This was followed by a brief Bhajan session. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.40 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.



Singers from Shivamogga district of Karnataka presenting "Sri Sai Sankirtana" programme in Sai Kulwant Hall.

PILGRIMAGE OF SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT DEVOTEES

More than 1,700 devotees came from Shivamogga district of Karnataka on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam for two days, on 1st and 2nd September 2012. On this occasion, famous Carnatic music exponent, Sri Shringeri Nagaraj H.S. and a team of musicians from Sri Guruguha Sangeeta Mahavidyalaya, Shivamogga district presented a devotional music programme entitled "Sri Sai Sankirtana" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 1st September 2012. Starting their presentation at 5.00 p.m. with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh, "Pranamamyaham Sri Sai Ganesh" (I offer my salutations to Sai Ganesh), the singers saturated the entire milieu with devotional fervour with soul-elevating devotional songs in Kannada, Telugu and Hindi which included specially composed songs dedicated to Bhagavan

Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Mira Bhajans, Thyagaraja Kirtans and a Purandaradasa song. They brought their presentation to a close at 6.00 p.m. on an auspicious note by rendering Thyagaraja Kirtan, "Mangala Nagumomo Galavani" (One who has an auspicious and beautiful smiling face). All the songs were superbly rendered and were surcharged with deep devotional feelings of the singers, the chief singer among them being Sri Shringeri Nagaraj himself. At the conclusion of this most enrapturing devotional music presentation, the singers were felicitated and clothes and mementoes were presented to them as well as to the musicians who provided musical support to them. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST

One the auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, about 150 members of



Sai Sannidhi programme in Sai Kulwant Hall.

Sai Sannidhi, a forum of alumni working in various institutions of Bhagavan, made a presentation in Sai Kulwant Hall on 2nd September 2012, offering their gratitude to Bhagavan. The programme began at 4.45 p.m. with the speech of Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Recollecting glorious moments of Bhagavan's unbounding love and grace, Sri Sanjay Sahni said that it was the greatest good fortune to be a student of Bhagavan. This was followed by songs suffused with devotion for Bhagavan and talks of some selected students recollecting sweetest moments of Bhagavan's proximity. The programme concluded with an audio clip of Bhagavan's Discourse, in which Bhagavan exhorted the students to serve their parents and perform their duty with earnestness. This was followed by Bhajans which concluded with the Bhajan, "Govinda Krishna Jai" in the golden voice of Bhagavan. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

Earlier in the morning, a simple function was held in Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.00 a.m. to inaugurate a new facility for devotees to view Mandir programmes and old videos of Bhagavan on giant screens set up on ladies as well as gents side in the hall.

GANESH CHATURTHI FESTIVAL

The sacred festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotion and piety. In this regard, programmes were held both in the morning and evening of 19th September 2012 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically bedecked for the auspicious occasion.

A Devotional Music Presentation by Students

The programme in the morning began at 8.20 a.m. with a soul-elevating devotional music presentation by the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Beginning their programme with recitation of Ganeshashtakam, they followed it up



The students of Prasanthi Nilayam campus making their musical presentation on Ganesh Chaturthi.

with a scintillating instrumental piece, after which they sang the Hindi song, “Mein Ganapati Ke Guna Gavun” (I sing the praise of Lord Ganesh). After another devotional song dedicated to Lord Ganesh, a group of students performed a beautiful dance to the tune of a Stotra in praise of Lord Ganesh. They concluded their programme with the song, “Apne Dil Ki Pukar Aaye Hein Tujh Ko Sunane” (We have come to submit the supplication of our heart to You, Lord).

The Divine Message of Bhagavan in an audio clip followed this musical presentation of the students. In His Message, Bhagavan dwelt on the inner significance of celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi and observed that man should offer worship to Lord Ganesh to develop his intellect, attain spiritual knowledge and remove all obstacles on the spiritual path. Bhagavan brought His Divine Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin” which the audience followed in chorus with great devotion. This was followed by Bhajans.

Parthi Paarijatalu: A Dance Drama

A beautiful dance drama was enacted by the Bal Vikas children of Puttaparthi on the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi. The children started their programme with Veda chanting at 5.00 p.m. which was followed by offer of worship to Lord Ganesh. The drama entitled, “Parthi Paarijatalu” (the blossoms of Puttaparthi) which followed this showcased the Divine Glory of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba through the simple story of two friends



Bal Vikas children of Puttaparthi performing a dance.

who were sceptical about the Avatarhood of Bhagavan in the beginning but were transformed when they came to know about the remarkable service activities being performed by Bhagavan’s devotees to help the needy and underprivileged sections of society. Excellent direction, beautiful songs, good music, perfect choreography and thrilling dances of the children made the drama an impressive presentation. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were presented to the children. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam came to a happy conclusion with the immersion ceremony on 21st September 2012. The decorated idols of Lord Ganesh in vehicles of many beautiful shapes were brought by Bhajan singing groups of students of Bhagavan’s educational institutions and staff members of hospitals and various other departments with due ceremony. By 5.00 p.m., all the idols were lined up in the hall, which



A view of Ganesh idols lined up in Sai Kulwant Hall.

presented a spectacular scene of devotion and jubilation. While there were many vehicles in the form of temples, the grand temple of Dakshineswar was the cynosure of all eyes. Equally attractive were the vehicles in the form of an aeroplane, peacock, Adishesha, sun chariot, a replica of Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports and a chariot surrounded with various musical instruments. The programme began at 5.00 p.m. with a vibrant dance dedicated to Lord Ganesh by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. The Mandir priest thereafter offered Arati to all the idols, after which they were brought one by one before the Samadhi of Bhagavan by the groups of students and staff members who offered their salutations to Bhagavan and took them out of the hall for immersion. This was followed by Bhajans which concluded with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

SRI SATHYA SAI ASHTOTTHARAM: A DANCE BALLET

A very elevating and soul-stirring dance ballet entitled, “Sri Sathya Sai Ashtotthara Navaraga Natya Malika” was performed in Sai Kulwant Hall by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir, Hyderabad on 20th September 2012. Sacred Padukas (sandals) of Bhagavan were placed in the performing area.

The dancers came in groups and made offerings at the Padukas of Bhagavan



The students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir, Hyderabad presenting a dance ballet in Sai Kulwant Hall.

while the Names of Bhagavan from Sri Sathya Sai Ashtottharam were recited reverentially. There was an interlude after chanting of each set of Bhagavan’s Names when beautiful dances were performed to the tune of sweet devotional songs by the children. The superb quality of the music, lyrics and dances of children kept

continued on cover page III...



From our Archives

KNOWLEDGE OF THE SELF IS THE BASIS OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

ATTAIN SELF-REALISATION THROUGH PURITY OF MIND

Embodiments of the Divine Atma!

OF ALL CATEGORIES OF knowledge, the highest is Atma Jnana (knowledge of the Self).

You may acquire knowledge of the natural sciences, of all arts and crafts, of literature and music, dance and painting and every conceivable type of worldly knowledge but all of it will not give you peace or bliss if you

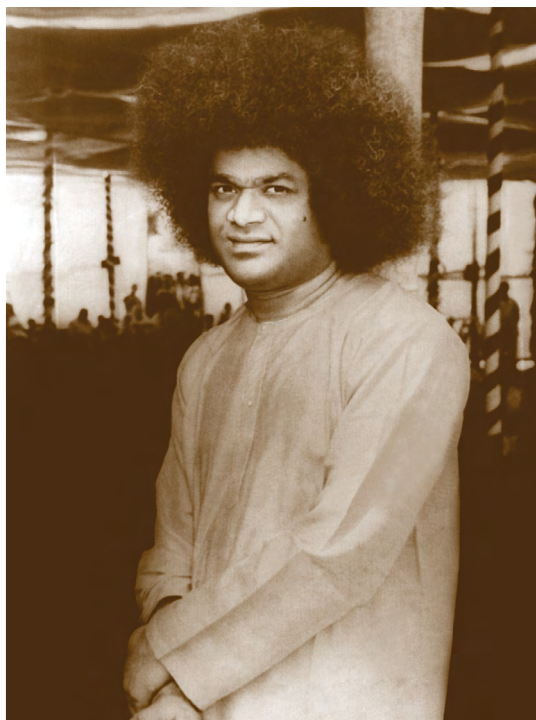
do not have knowledge of the Self. Worldly knowledge may bring you fame and prosperity. But only Atma Jnana can confer the peace that passeth understanding.

Realise God through Pure Selfless Devotion

Atma Jnana is that which reveals the unity in multiplicity, the eternal in the perishable. One who has attained Atma

No spiritual study or Sadhana can help a man to purify his heart unless he makes the effort himself. And when the heart is purified, it becomes a worthy abode for the Divine.

Whatever you do, you must regard it as a duty done without any motive of self-interest or selfish gain. It is only when all actions, whether they be Yagas or Yajnas or Tapas or any kind of Sadhana, are done as offerings to the Divine will they become sanctified and liberating.



Jnana is all-knowing. *Tarati Sokam Atmavit* (the knower of the Self overcomes sorrow), says the Upanishad. All worldly knowledge is concerned with sustaining life. When knowledge of the spirit which is the basis of all other knowledge of the sciences and the arts is acquired, it is easy to get any kind of knowledge. When communion with the Divine, who is the source of all knowledge, power and wisdom, is established, one has access to every kind of knowledge. Hence, each one should strive to attain Self-realisation through purity of mind and heart.

To realise God, it is not necessary to have wealth, gold or other emblems of affluence. Nor is great scholarship necessary. All that is needed is pure, selfless devotion. Today men with selfish and impure minds attempt to worship God. Without purity of thought, speech and action, it is impossible to experience the Divine. God cannot be realised through ostentation and self-conceit. The basic requisite is the shedding of selfishness and possessiveness so that one can engage oneself in actions in a disinterested spirit. Any person is entitled to embark on this quest without regard to sex, age, caste or community.

Standing in the midst of the Ganga, the Krishna or Godavari, people make offerings of water to Kesava, Krishna or Narayana as if they are offering something of their own to the Lord! The very idea that they are offering something is itself misconceived. When they cultivate purity of heart, the Lord will take care of everything like a

The Gita has indicated a three-stage path to Divinity. By engaging the body in good deeds, by using the mind to develop good thoughts and human qualities and by contemplating on God through Upasana (worshipping the Divine), man reaches the stage when, like a river joining the ocean, he merges in Brahman. This is the process by which the human becomes one with the Divine.



mother who attends to every need of the infant. It is the realisation of the unity that underlies the diversity which constitutes Atma Jnana. This is the import of the well-known Upanishadic pronouncements: *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam* (the entire universe is permeated by God); *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings).

Significance of Yajnas

Many verbally accept these statements and even preach them. But in practice, they promote divisions and differences. Some go to the extent of betraying the Divine. But it is not in fact the Divine that is betrayed. They are only betraying themselves and proving false to their real selves. Yajnas and Yagas are performed to invoke the blessings of the Divine for the peace and well-being of the universe. When the Divine responds with grace, the well-being of all is ensured. The Yajnas have yet



another significance. Offering to the Lord what He has given to man is a basic duty of the spiritual seeker. The offering is to be regarded not as sacrificing something but as an act of love and gratitude in which one rejoices.

The individual should cultivate broad-mindedness and serve society, regarding it as a manifestation of the Divine. Peace in the world depends upon peace among individuals. The individual, the community and the world are intimately interrelated. The individual has to discover within himself the secret of peace and joy. This joy must be extended to the community in which he lives. From the community, it should spread to the world. *Adveshta Sarva Bhutanam* (one should bear no hatred against anyone), declares the Gita. This should be the guiding principle for everyone. It is to promote this universal fellow-feeling that the sages of yore devised Yagas and Yajnas.

Atma Jnana dawns in man when he has Chitta Suddhi (purity of the heart). This purity can be achieved only through Nishkama Karmas (selfless actions). The body, the mind and the Atma, all three form the human entity. They are inextricably interdependent. When they become disparate, life loses its meaning. When the body is subject to the mind and the mind is controlled by the Atma, life finds fulfilment. When the body alone is predominant, the human descends to the level of the animal. When the mind prevails over the body and the sensory organs, the human level is

attained. When the Atma prevails over the mind and the body, Divinity is realised.

Purity of Heart is most Important

Recognising this fact, the Gita has indicated a three-stage path to Divinity. By engaging the body in good deeds, by using the mind to develop good thoughts and human qualities and by contemplating on God through Upasana (worshipping the Divine), man reaches the stage when, like a river joining the ocean, he merges in Brahman. This is the process by which the human becomes one with the Divine.

Whatever scriptures one may study, whatever Sadhanas (spiritual efforts) one may practise or pilgrimages one may undertake, unless one succeeds in getting rid of the impurities of the heart, one's life will remain worthless and meaningless. Purity of the heart is the essence of all scriptural teachings and the basic goal of life. One must therefore seek what is permanent and eternal. That can be realised only through Nishkama Karma. Every action done without ego leads to divinity.

No spiritual study or Sadhana can help a man to purify his heart unless he makes the effort himself. And when the heart is purified, it becomes a worthy abode for the Divine. Whatever you do, you must regard it as a duty done without any motive of self-interest or selfish gain. It is only when all actions, whether they be Yagas or Yajnas or Tapas or any kind of Sadhana, are done as offerings to the Divine will they become sanctified and liberating.

—From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourses.



Effulgence of Divine Glory

THE OMNIPOTENT LORD



THINK, THE INCIDENT I am about to describe below, depicting Swami's strange drama, happened sometime in 1964. One evening, when the interviews and Bhajans were all over at Prasanthi Nilayam, at about 8.30 at night, Prof. Kasturi made an announcement: that night at about 10.30 there was going to be a heavy downpour of rain and that all men should go to some safe place to sleep, while ladies may sleep in the Mandir itself. These instructions were from Swami.

Those days, shelters in the form of different buildings were not there. There was the Mandir with rooms on the first floor for Swami to reside, small houses for people like Prof. Kasturi to live, a post office building and a small canteen. Since the roof of the canteen was covered with loose black stone slabs, not secured together, water used to pour in during rains, making it impossible to sit and eat. On the southern corner of the Mandir, there was also a printing press. This was the layout of the buildings at Prasanthi Nilayam those days.

On hearing Prof. Kasturi's announcement, the devotees finished their dinner and women took shelter in the Mandir, while men moved to whatever safe places they could find. The devotees had the firm belief and it was also the experience of many that such announcements, made

under instructions from Swami, always came true. In those days, Swami used to perform many miracles daily, witnessing which, the devotees' divine ecstasy was limitless. My only disappointment is that they experienced and enjoyed thousands of miraculous deeds performed by Swami those days, but did not tell others nor kept notes of them and thus deprived the future generations the chance to know of them. There must be several thousands of wonders and miraculous events that must have happened to lakhs of devotees, who happened to visit there, even to those who did not go there. Most of these went unrecorded. Perhaps Swami's Sankalpa may enable them to flower again for everyone to know about!

It was exactly 10.30 p.m. The pitch-dark sky roared with thunder. The piercing heavy rain soon flooded the earth with water. It rained incessantly till 3 a.m. and there was flood everywhere. There was so much rain that the water in the Chitravathi river touched the precincts of the Mandir! All the devotees, especially the men who were spending the night in various places kept awake, anxiously awaiting the dawn!

As for me and my friend, the verandah of Swami's printing press was the place of refuge for the night. But, since the rain was beating on to the verandah, we sat huddled together in a corner, protecting ourselves with a mat made of date palm leaves. Only



when the rain stopped at 3 a.m. could we get up and straighten and move our legs, which had become stiff by then.

Early morning, at 5 a.m. itself, people had started moving about to attend to their routine. Though the rain water was draining away towards low lying areas, it was collected in pools here and there. It was about 6.30 a.m. when we heard a man and a woman shouting near the Mandir loudly, abusing Swami. To find out what the matter was, I and my friend ran towards the spot. In those days, apart from Swami's canteen there were a few tea shops outside the Mandir. We found out that it was the owner of one of these shops and his wife who were shouting in the Mandir.

They were shouting because their only child, a daughter, was somehow lost during the heavy downpour. The man was abusing Swami alternatively in Tamil and Telugu. The woman beating her head and chest was showering abuses on Swami. The agitated man was shouting loudly and derisively: "I lost my child; we believed that You are God and have been cheated. You said that You would look after our welfare and told us to set up a tea shop in front of the Mandir to earn our living. Now, having lost our only child, what welfare will You offer us?" Hearing the two abusing Swami, the devotees who had assembled there were upset and at the same time felt pity on them saying: "What to do, poor people, they have lost their only child and do not know what to do." Everybody was anxiously waiting to see, what would happen next!

Swami appeared on the balcony above! There was silence all around. Addressing the shopkeeper Swami said, "You thief! You both were careless and did not look after your child and now you are coming here and shouting. Go and search for your child in the well behind your shop." He then immediately went inside.

The couple as well as many others were whispering among themselves: "In the well? How to search for the child in the well? Even if we find her, will she be alive?" Since there was water stagnation all around, it was a tough job even to locate the well. Many people wading through the pools of water finally located the rim of the parapet wall around the well and decided that it must be the well that Swami referred to. When they were contemplating as to how to go down the well, a few capable people came forward to do the job and getting ready, got down into the well. There was lot of low mumbling going on all around. Finally, two of the divers lifting the five-year old girl on their hands came up to the water level. Those around immediately caught hold of the girl's hands and lifted her up. She was alive and laughing! Oh! What a surprise! What a wonder! All those who had gathered started shouting, "Sai Ram, Sai Ram." We were awestruck when we saw that the girl was quite unaffected and appeared normal, even though she was in water at a depth of thirty-five feet for the past few hours. When people enquired from her, she said, "I had no problem; there was no water there and Baba was with me!"

— Excerpted from *"Leela Mohana Sai"*
by T.R. Sai Mohan.

Sons of Immortality

Chinna Katha

ONE DAY, CHAITANYA Mahaprabhu saw a feeble-bodied person wearing torn clothes and having dishevelled hair sitting with closed eyes in front of his house. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu came near him and lovingly asked him, "My dear, who are you? Why are you sitting here? Why don't you come in?" This person became very happy to hear such sweet and amiable words. He opened his eyes and said with great fear and hesitation, "Swami, I am a person who has no deservedness to enter your house. I am an untouchable. I cannot defile your house by coming into it."

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu went close to him and said, "My dear, why do you talk so despondently? Who is high and who is low in this world? All are the sons of immortality.

The same divine consciousness shines within all. Please do come in." This person stepped into the house with great hesitation. Then Chaitanya Mahaprabhu asked him, "What is the purpose of your coming here? What do you want?" The man replied, "Swami, I recite God's Name constantly. But it appears to me a mechanical repetition as my being remains devoid of bliss. I do not know whether the fault lies in me or the Name that I am reciting. You are a great and noble person. It is my desire to receive initiation from you so that my recitation of Name may become potent and resplendent." Chaitanya Mahaprabhu said to him, "My dear! All the Names of God are equally powerful, resplendent and divine. But I will give you initiation in one Name of God for your satisfaction. Come in and sit here." Trembling with fear, that man sat meekly in the corner of the room.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu drew him close to himself and said, "My dear! Why are you afflicted with fear in this manner? Fearlessness is your birthright. Conduct yourself fearlessly, recognising the truth that the same resplendent Atma shines in all." The man said, "Swami! This is an outrage. Please do not touch me. If you touch me, then both of us will be committing a sin by transgressing the norms of society. It will amount to breaking the rules of caste system. As I consider you as my Guru, I



No one could be called high or low when the same divine consciousness was present in all, said Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

do not want that I should cause any harm to you. Due to the sins committed by me in previous births I am born as an outcaste. Now I do not want to commit further sins.”

Then Chaitanya Mahaprabhu imparted this teaching to him, “All this is ignorance and foolishness. How can you call yourself an untouchable? In what way is it true? The same divinity shines in you and me. For God there are no differences of caste and clan. All are the embodiments of the five basic elements. What is the caste of air? To which caste does water belong? Similarly, earth, fire and ether do not have any caste. All beings are constituted by the same five elements. Therefore, all are equal and they have equal right on natural wealth. Hence, differences of caste, class and religion are meaningless.”

How could this man suddenly make himself free from the habit of observing class differences when he was brought up in an environment of class and caste differences since his childhood? He could not get rid of his tendency of fear and hesitation. Thereupon, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu embraced him and said these words of wisdom, “Why should you have fear when you have done no evil and committed no mistake? Fearlessness is divine wealth. If you have money, you will have fear of thieves. Why should you be afraid when you possess nothing? Give up your bad qualities and evil tendencies. This is real renunciation. By renunciation one attains dispassion and by dispassion,



Chaitanya Mahaprabhu embraced the man who thought himself to be untouchable to remove his fear.

union with the Divine.” But this man could not completely make himself free from his old habit. He said to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, “May my sins not touch you, Swami!”

Smiling lovingly, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu thought, “What an innocent man he is!” He then said to him, “Here you and I are one. Look, I give you initiation.” Saying this, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu whispered a Name of God into his ears. As soon as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu whispered the Name of God into his ears, it straightaway touched his heart. In a moment, he was a transformed man. Submerged in bliss, he said to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, “Swami! There can be no greater fortunate person than me. I am not a sinner, I am totally sacred. The body consciousness which debased me for such a long time has left me this very moment. I have now become fully aware that I am I. I am the son of immortality.”



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

MALAYSIA

ON 27TH MAY 2012, 30 Sathya Sai volunteers visited the Sungai Buloh Leprosarium, located about 45 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur. The leprosarium is home to about 115 people who have been cured of the disease but rejected by their families due to their physical deformities. Sathya Sai volunteers visit this leprosarium on a quarterly basis. They lovingly serve home-cooked food, fruits and cakes, preparing



Serving food to residents of a leprosarium in Malaysia.

some of the items on individual requests from the residents. They also provide face towels and ointment for relief from insect bites. While distributing food, the Sathya Sai volunteers sing Bhajans, filling the leprosarium with Bhagavan's divine love.

RUSSIA

From 1st to 3rd June 2012, 14 Sathya Sai volunteers rendered loving service to the community of the Belyaev Township in the Kaluga Region, southeast of

Moscow. Ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs and flowers were planted in the garden surrounding the community chapel. At the chapel's entrance, a flower stand shaped like a lotus was prepared and painted by Sathya Sai Youth in sky blue colour to match the roof. The classroom walls of a village kindergarten and nursery school were painted with pictures from cartoons. Volunteers repaired, renovated and refurbished the apartment of a single mother living with three children. The children and the mother were overjoyed with the selfless service of the Sathya Sai volunteers. Sathya Sai volunteers along with local teenagers painted a gazebo (a freestanding roofed structure usually open on the sides) in a playground. A new wooden seesaw decorated with swans was constructed and installed in the playground.



Loving service by Sathya Sai volunteers in Belyaev Township.

The local residents including children were given therapeutic massages. The villagers were happy and requested the Sathya Sai volunteers to come back soon.

From 10th to 12th June 2012, a second regional work camp in the Siberian Region was organised in village Nizhnii Koen, located 60 kilometres from Novosibirsk. About 30 Sathya Sai volunteers from four cities of the Siberian region (Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, Barnaul and Novokuznetsk) participated. A local medical clinic and a shop were painted. Flowers were planted in the village and playing fields were cleaned up by removal of litter. Free haircuts were given to villagers. Children of the Sathya Sai volunteers inspired the elders by joining the weeding and cleanup crews. Russian songs and dances by the volunteers filled the air with a joyful feeling. At the end of the service project, the heavens blessed the village with a long awaited thunderstorm. The villagers were overjoyed with the loving service offered by Sathya Sai volunteers and invited them to visit again.

OMAN

On 12th, 19th and 26th April 2012, the Serve And Inspire (SAI) Group, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman, conducted an open essay writing and poster making competition on human-values themes for schools in Oman. About 3,600 children from 245 schools participated in the event, titled "Spreading the Light through Human Values." The event was supported by UNESCO as part of its current endeavour – "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World." Ms. Fatima Abdul Abbas



Inaugural ceremony of the essay writing and poster making competition on human values themes.

Noorani, Director General, Directorate of Private Schools, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman, inaugurated the competition. Senior officials from the Ministry of Education, school principals, teachers and guests from corporate houses graced the inaugural ceremony. The event was unique as children from different nationalities assembled under one roof to display their skills in writing and art. The topics of the essay writing competition were: "The Joy of Sharing;" "Good Habits Make a Good Being;" "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" and "The Glorious Culture and Heritage of Oman." On the award day, a colourful movie showcasing the winning



Children taking part in poster making competition.

posters and essays was viewed by officials from the Ministry of Education, parents, teachers and judges of the competition. The Chief Guest at the Award Presentation Ceremony was Sri Hamood Bin Khalfan Al Harthi, Under-Secretary for Education and Curriculum, Ministry of Education. He presented plaques and certificates of merit to the winners of the competition. This service initiative of the SAI Group received full press coverage by the Times of Oman Group of newspapers.

In addition, the SAI Group in Oman has raised awareness of autism among families in Oman. Sai volunteers interact weekly with the parents of autistic children and conduct workshops with the help of experts visiting from the U.S.A.

UNITED KINGDOM

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K., in association with the Brent Indian Association (BIA), organised a Free Health Awareness Day in Wembley (Northwest London) on 20th May 2012. 27 Sathya Sai volunteers and 15 medical professionals including three primary care doctors, three dentists, four ophthalmologists and five nurses lovingly provided medical services to 248 needy people, many of whom had travelled long distances to attend the medical camp. The medical services included screenings for high blood pressure, general medicine, dental health and vision. Presentations were made on preventive health, diabetes, heart disease, nutrition and the hazards of smoking. Food was prepared and served to all those who

came to the medical camp. The attendees were appreciative of the love, care and guidance received from the Sathya Sai volunteers and medical professionals. Sathya Sai volunteers were grateful to Bhagavan for the opportunity to render service to the community.

On 1st July 2012, a Rudra Ekadasi Homa (ritual ceremony offering prayers to a sacred fire) was organised for the



Rudra Ekadasi Homa in Birmingham.

peace and welfare of the world at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Birmingham. About 2,000 Sai devotees from the U.K. took part in this event. The Homa was also an offering of loving gratitude to Bhagavan on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. Intense prayer and contemplation of the Lord was observed at the event by all Sathya Sai devotees embarking on the Sai Jyoti / Journey to Divine Light U.K. National Pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam, scheduled to take place 7th–27th October 2012. The arrangements were reminiscent of Prasanthi Nilayam during the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna of August 2006. After the grand entrance and installation of the ceremonial Lingam, the priests started the

Homa with an invocation to Lord Ganesh. Dr. Anand Venkataramanan, alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions and Spiritual Coordinator of the Merton Sai Centre in London, spoke on the significance of the Homa and chanting of Sri Rudram. Sri Rudram and Sai Gayatri were chanted in unison by a team of 25 men and 11 women of all age groups, belonging to various linguistic, racial, cultural and religious backgrounds. The event concluded with a talk by Dr. Kiran Patel, National Chairperson of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. He congratulated the youth, who actively participated in this event, and exhorted one and all to take part in the Sai Mission and in the "Journey to Divine Light."

U. S. A.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, Sathya Sai volunteers from the Northern Colorado Sathya Sai Centre have been rendering loving service by donating food items and funds to the Weld Food Bank in Greeley, Colorado, with 10 Sathya Sai volunteers consistently offering their services onsite at the Food Bank. Among other tasks, they assist in creating backpacks for youth at risk, building emergency food boxes for needy families and elders, and sorting donated food items. On a more personal note, many of the Centre's devotees grow vegetables in their own gardens and freeze food for family use and compost instead of wasting food or eating out in restaurants. Also, the Sathya Sai Centre organises workshops in gardening, camping, self-reliance, preparing for emergencies and first aid.

On 12th May 2012, about 20 Sathya volunteers from the Seattle Eastside Centre in Washington State volunteered at the Ballard local post office on the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers. The annual food drive, which began in 1993, is the largest one-day food drive in the U.S.A.



Sathya Sai volunteers helping in "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

People are informed well ahead of time about the food drive, and non-perishable food items are left outside individual dwellings for pickup by the letter carriers. These food items are brought to the local post offices. Sathya Sai volunteers assisted in unloading the food items from the letter carriers' vehicles and carrying them in trolleys for placement into bins for delivery to the Food Lifeline Warehouse. The warehouse staff greatly appreciated the loving service provided by the Sathya Sai volunteers. It was a rewarding experience for the Sathya Sai volunteers, as they worked together in unity.

– **Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation**

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: In the month of July 2012, Srikakulam district organisation distributed 677 Amruta Kalasams (food provisions). It also provided cooked food by way of Narayana Seva to 8,751 needy deserving persons.

Adilabad district organisation started Sri Sathya Sai Nityannadana Padhakam for the attendant helpers of patients admitted in Rajeeva Institute of Medical Sciences. This service project was inaugurated by Dr. (Smt.) J. Geeta Reddy, Heavy Industries Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh. This is the second service project in the State, the first one being implemented in Srikakulam district from Ugadi in March 2012.

Saroornagar Samithi of Mahaboobnagar district conducted a free mega integrated medical camp in Rangarajupalli, a tribal village of Paderu Mandal on Sunday, 26th August 2012. A team of 30 persons comprising paramedical staff and doctors led by Dr. G.V.S. Rao examined 430 tribals. Free medicines were also given for different ailments. Eight patients who needed eye surgery for cataract were shifted to NTR Hospital at Anakapalli for operation.

Strict adherence to the Nine Point Code of Conduct given to the organisation by Bhagavan Baba on 14th January 1981 was taken up by all devotees in all the Samithis and Bhajan Mandalis of 23 districts of the State. Also 87 days Deeksha, programme covering the Spiritual, Service

and Education Wings of the organisation has commenced throughout the State. It is hoped that the spiritual base of the organisation will be strengthened with these programmes.

Assam: A free medical camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Sarpara Uparhali, Kamrup district



Free medical camp in village Sarpara in Kamrup district.

on Sunday, 26th August 2012 in Sarpara village. Eleven doctors rendered valuable service in the specialities of urology and dentistry and examined about 160 beneficiaries.

Flood relief camps were organised on 5th August 2012 by the Guwahati and Dibrugarh Sai Samithis in Pubmaloibari, Naharani and Paraliguri villages severely affected by floods in Assam. Seva Dal volunteers and students and teachers of Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Divine Valley School of Dibrugarh came together for this noble endeavour. The flood affected people were provided common daily necessities like rice, pulses, jaggery, soap, etc., and also clothes. About 400 families benefited by this service.

Gujarat: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat (Surat district) organised a symposium on the topic, "Importance of Educare in Day-to-day Life" on 26th August 2012. The keynote speaker of the symposium Sri Nimish Pandya was the first to speak. He emphasised on the harmony of

from their childhood. This was followed by a question-and-answer session, wherein the speakers answered the questions of the participants. Approximately, 900 people which included eminent and highly qualified persons from different walks of life attended the symposium. After the symposium was over, the feedback from the participants was that such symposiums should be conducted more often.

Sri Manohar Trikanad who completed ten years as State President in August 2012 was felicitated on this occasion by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi of Surat and Sri Nimish Pandya, All India Vice President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation.



Participants in the symposium on "Importance of Educare in Day-to-day Life."

thought, word and deed and observed that the greatest problem of India was the crisis of character. He said, after Independence India concentrated on the development of industries, but neglected to develop values in students through education. Actually, India needed character building institutes, he said. The guest speaker, Sri B. Ravi, an alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, shared his experiences as a student of Bhagavan and how Bhagavan lived human values and practised them in His life. Finally, the chairperson Sri I. J. Desai, an advocate of Gujarat High Court, quoted a few instances of corruption which came his way as an advocate and how he witnessed the values being slayed in the court for the sake of money. He laid stress on the values to be imbibed in children

Himachal Pradesh: On 9th September 2012, a medical camp was organised at Junga, wherein 1,100 patients were provided medical services in the specialities of ophthalmology, general medicine, paediatrics, dentistry, etc. The patients were also given free medicines. Doctors were assisted by the paramedical staff and the Seva Dal members of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. All the patients and the participants were served food. A similar medical camp was held in village Seul Khad in Kangra district where 950 patients were treated by doctors. All the patients were provided with free medicines and food was served to all.

On 16th September 2012, blood donation camps were organised throughout the State. In Shimla, the camp was held at "Anand Vilas," the Divine Abode of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. 79 devotees donated blood here. A total of 398 devotees donated blood in different

parts of Himachal Pradesh. Bhajans were going on throughout the period of blood donation.

In village Lunj in Kangra district, the house of a poor widow was washed away on 7th August 2012 due to heavy rains. The members of Lunj Samithi have started constructing a two-room house for her.

On 26th August 2012, 14 houses of Gujjar families were washed away because of heavy rains in village Lagroo. Without any wait and respite, the devotees of Kangra Samithi rushed to their rescue providing them with tents and petromax lamps for their help. They were also given clothes and beddings and provided with cooking Chullahs, utensils and food bags. In the evenings, the Samithi members held Bhajans with them to give them consolation and strength.

Jammu and Kashmir: A medical camp was held in village Hermakund under the supervision of specialists, wherein about 160 patients were examined. The patients were also provided free medicines. A

On every Thursday, Narayana Seva is being carried out by way of serving cooked food to about 1,200 people in Udhampur district.

On every 3rd Sunday of the month, Narayana Seva is being rendered by the organisation in upper and lower outskirts of Jammu by way of distribution of food packets, biscuits, bread, etc., to about 80 deserving families identified for the purpose.

Karnataka: Bengaluru West district organised an exhibition on Bhajans, “Sai Nama Kirtana Kali Yuga Sadhana” at



Devotees and children seeing the exhibition on the significance of Bhajans.



A yoga-cum-spiritual camp for the benefit of villagers.

yoga-cum-spiritual camp was also held in the above-mentioned village.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Kshetra, Sai Krupa Mandir, Karnataka Layout, Bengaluru from 24th to 26th August 2012. The three-day exhibition was visited by hundreds of devotees and Bal Vikas children.

A most modern recording studio was inaugurated at Sai Gitanjali, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru on Friday, 24th August 2012. Sri Gangadhar Setty, Convener, Sri Sathya

Sai Trust (Karnataka), Trust Members, State Coordinators, District office bearers, Samithi Conveners and a large number of devotees participated in the programme. The studio will help in the creation of programmes in Kannada for Radio Sai.

A Vriddhashram (old age home) was opened in Kundapura on Sunday, 12th August 2012, in memory of late Sri A.V.V. Prabhu, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan. The old age home will serve the aged who need support in and around Kundapura and elsewhere in Karnataka, as per the desire of the late Sri Prabhus. The Vriddhashram will function under Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Karnataka and will be managed by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation.

A medical camp was conducted in Makhanahalli village on 26th August 2012. Led by Dr. Krishna Rao, a noted eye specialist, and Dr. Ramkumar from Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Whitefield, around 20 doctors and paramedicos from Narayana Nethralaya and others served in the camp assisted by 25 Seva Dal volunteers. Patients from two SSSVIP villages, Tarabahalli and Bommanabande, as well as Vaagataa and 10 other nearby villages, were screened and names of patients eligible for eye operation were registered. Van with mobile sound system was taken to these villages and more patients were brought during the camp. Narayana Seva was provided to all visitors throughout the day. About 115 eye cases and 180 general/dental cases were screened; 21 persons were selected for eye operation and 38 persons were

provided spectacles free of cost. Surgeries were performed on Friday at Narayana Nethralaya.

Maharashtra and Goa: Flash flood in river Adan inundated Koli, Borgaon (Punji), Chincholi and Chandapur villages with the result that water barged into the houses, many of which collapsed and turned into debris. With the cooperation of other helping groups, more than one hundred volunteers from Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation rushed to disaster-struck places, offered prayers to Bhagavan and started Seva wholeheartedly. Not a single house was left unattended by Sai workers. Medical professionals came forward and provided necessary medical help. Besides clothes and blankets, six quintals of food grains and packets of cooked spiced rice were distributed among affected people. "Only God's messengers can do such kind of service" exclaimed the grateful people.

As part of ongoing multifaitth celebrations by the Sai Organisation, Khordad Saal (birthday of Zarathustra) was celebrated at Dharmakshetra, Mumbai for the first



Birthday of Zarathustra celebrated at Dharmakshetra.

time on 23rd August 2012 with complete religious tradition and fervour. A Jashan ceremony was performed at the prayer hall of Dharmakshetra by the Parsi priests (Dasturs) of the Wadiaji Atashbehran. A short skit by Dr. Farokh Master and his wife set the stage for the remainder of the evening events. An extremely informative keynote address was presented by Dr. Keki Minocher Mistry, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra, on the life and message of Zarathustra and the story of how the Parsis came to India. Parsi speakers from the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Mumbai made presentations on the significance of Parsi customs and Parsi festivals such as Jamshedi Navroz, Iranshah Salgreh, Pateti, Khordad Saal, etc. The contributions made to the society by noted Parsis such as industrialists, freedom fighters, sportspersons, actors, dancers, architects, philanthropists, doctors, scientists and legal luminaries in India were also highlighted. A section of the presentation was devoted to Parsis who have had the unique fortune of receiving Bhagavan's Divine Grace. The programme concluded with a sonorous rendition of the popular Parsi song 'Chhaiye Hame Zarthosti' by the gathering who attended the function. Parsi artifacts, religious and cultural items were exhibited in the hall.

A seminar on parenting was conducted in Sai Prem Mandir in the district of Navi Mumbai on 12th August 2012, in which over 150 parents took part. All the participants appreciated the Sathya Sai Organisation for arranging such programmes which



Participants in the seminar on parenting.

helped many of them in understanding their children better and would go a long way in creating harmony in their homes.

Punjab: A Technology Group meeting was organised at Patiala on 25th August 2012 to highlight the importance of technical aids for solution to various problems being faced by villagers particularly relating to agriculture, water contamination, bio gas burners, etc. Efforts were made to motivate the youth to join the Technology Group meeting, which was conducted by Sri H. Srinivasulu, All India Technology Group Coordinator of the Sai Organisation. Sri Srinivasulu very clearly and explicitly explained in detail the objectives, methodology and achievements of the Technology Group. A few exhibits were also displayed for making the presentation clear enough for better understanding of



Technology Group meeting at Patiala.

the youth who attended the workshop. All this was explained through computer projection which created all the difference in understanding. The idea was to bring home the point that this group acted as an important bridge between knowledge and

need, and as such would be very useful to society. About 150 people including students, District Presidents of Punjab State attended this meeting with great interest and attention.

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the audience glued to their seats for nearly one hour, who expressed their profuse praise of the performance by a loud and prolonged applause at the conclusion of the presentation. Clothes were presented to the children at the end of the dance ballet. This was followed by Bhajans and

distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a happy conclusion with the Bhajan, "Rama Rama Rama Sita" in the golden voice of Bhagavan. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. came to an end with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

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It has been decided that all the patients and their attendants visiting Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, should carry one of the following identity cards when they visit the hospital for treatment:

Voter's card, Ration card, PAN card, Driving Licence, Passport, any other photo identity card issued by Central / State Governments.

Director In-charge, SSSIHMS

For the kind attention of devotees – purchase of 2013 diaries for overseas destination

Due to increase in airmail parcel postal rates we are compelled to change mode of despatch to airmail book post for **Prema Mahima diary 2013** to avoid the impact of increase in rates for overseas as per details given below:

5 diaries - Rs.2215.00; 6 diaries - Rs.2250.00 – will be sent by airmail book post in 2 packets.

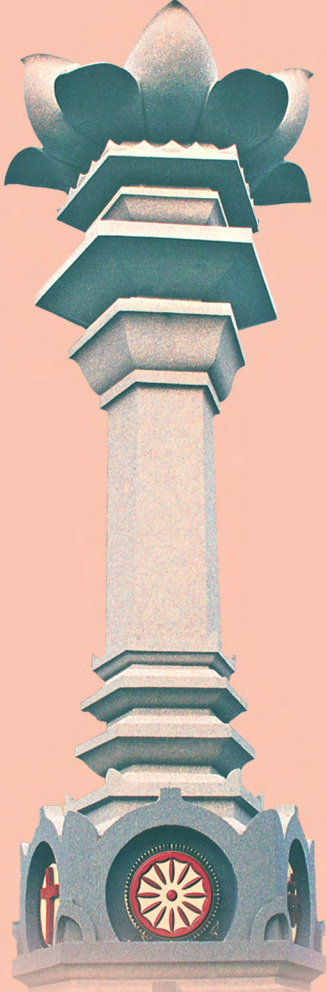
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All earlier rates announced in Sanathana Sarathi / website for diary orders for overseas stand cancelled with immediate effect. All those who have sent money as per previous rates are requested to keep in touch with us at orders@sssbpt.org for additional amount to be paid.

– Convener



Good Deeds Bear Good Fruits

God is no partial benefactor; He gives the fruit from every tree according to the seed. You have planted the sour mango, hoping to use the fruit for pickles; then why lament that the fruit is not sweet to the tongue? Do good and aspire to get the fruit of goodness – that is pardonable. It is not as bad as doing bad and blaming God that He has given you the seed of evil deeds.

– Baba

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