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"Krishna is the visualisation of the
Atma that the repetition of the Name
grants; the vision that was gained by
Yashoda. You must foster that
Krishna on your tongue; when He
dances on it, the poison of the tongue
will be ejected completely without
harming anyone, as it happened when
as a child He danced on the hoods of
the serpent Kaliya."



CONTENTS

- **Arise, Awake and Attain the Goal of Life 258**
Bhagavan's Discourse: 30th June 1996
- **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam 265**
A Report
- **The Footprints of God 274**
From our Archives
- **Equal-mindedness 279**
Chinna Katha
- **Grand Onam Celebrations 280**
A Report
- **Inscrutable are the Ways of God 282**
Effulgence of Divine Glory
- **News from Sai Centres 283**

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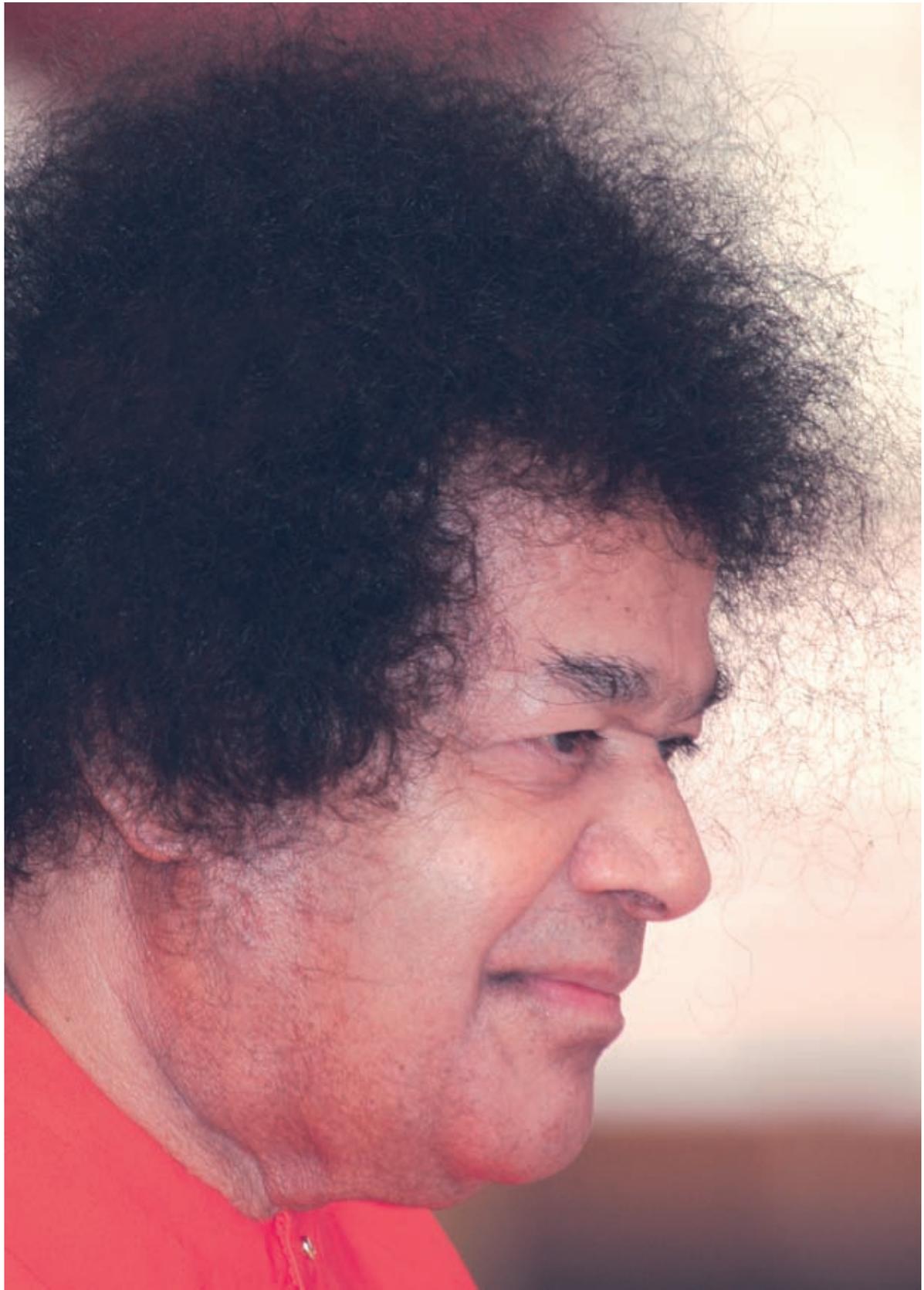
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Cover Page Photograph: Mahabharata scene as
portrayed in Bhajan Mandir, Prasanthi Nilayam.



ARISE, AWAKE AND ATTAIN THE GOAL OF LIFE

You cannot get good results if you perform wicked deeds. Similarly, no bad results will come to you if you perform good deeds. You cannot get mango fruits by sowing neem seeds. Similarly, if you sow a mango seed, it will not bear neem fruits.

(Telugu Poem)

TRUST IN GOD AND DO GOOD DEEDS

STUDENTS! WHATEVER SEED you sow, it will grow into a sapling, become a tree and bear fruits corresponding to the seed. This is the law of Nature and secret of creation. One may agree or disagree, but this truth will not change.

As you Sow, so shall you Reap

Every act of man has a result. As is the action, so is the result. As is the seed, so is the sapling. When you sow a particular type of seed, you cannot get a different type of sapling. So, whatever type of action you perform, you will get similar type of results. Therefore, man should perform only good deeds so that he can reap good fruits. Today people do not perform sacred actions but they want to earn merit.

*Punyasya Phalamichchanthi,
Punyam Nechchanthi Manava,
Na Papa Phalamichchanthi,
Papam Kurvanthu Yathnatha.*

(People do not undertake meritorious deeds, but want to derive their fruits; they indulge in sinful activities, yet want to escape their consequences.) (Sanskrit Sloka)

Man performs sinful deeds but does not want to reap their consequences. This is the

result of the ignorance of man. This is not merely due to human tendency, but due to the impact of circumstances also. When people are unable to bear difficulties, sorrows and troubles, they lament and complain, "Oh God! Why do You put me to such a difficult test"? But God is not responsible for your difficulties and sorrows. The happiness and sorrow that you

Man today depends only on his physical strength, wealth and power of intelligence. He does not take refuge in the power of the Self. Anything can be achieved with self-confidence. How long will the power of wealth last? Wealth comes and goes like passing clouds. Similarly, how long can you depend on people's support? So long as you are in power and rolling in wealth, all your friends and relatives will surround you. Later, who will respect you? You will have all types of powers when you develop the power of the Self.



experience is the result of your own actions; it is not given by God. God is the eternal witness. He is like a postman. Whatever envelopes, postcards or money orders come in your name, the postman will give you the same. He is not responsible for good or bad news contained in the postcards or envelopes. It is you who have to experience happiness or sorrow on receiving happy or sad news; postman is not concerned with it. In the same

Body attachment is the cause of all the sufferings of man. Therefore, man should gradually reduce body attachment. Only then can he experience happiness. He can experience as much happiness as he reduces his body attachment.

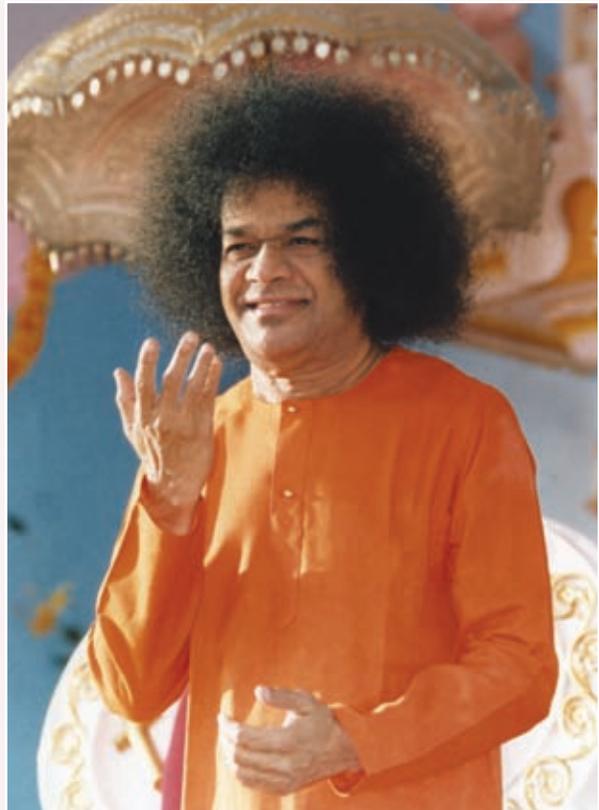
Therefore, everyone who wants to experience happiness must reduce his body attachment. One who has body attachment will also develop ego either due to his wealth or physical prowess or position of authority or the support of people. When the clouds are full of water, they become heavy and come down. When a tree is full of fruits, all its branches bend down. Similarly, when you grow and make progress, your ego and body attachment should become less and less.



way, whatever good or bad deeds you perform, you have to experience their consequences. It is not God who gives you anything good or bad or makes you experience their results. But there is something called special grace. When you pray to God wholeheartedly with sacred feelings, He will come to your help. However, there should be some fundamental basis for God to extend His helping hand. He takes into account the good deeds performed by you in

this birth or in previous births and showers His grace on you.

A few minutes ago, a 12th Class boy spoke about the devotion of Draupadi. Duryodhana put Draupadi to great suffering and tried to dishonour her in the Kaurava court. Draupadi prayed to Krishna and called out to Him, “Oh Keshava! Madhava! Deva! Madhusudana! Narayana! Come to my rescue!” Keshava



means the one who has dark and curly hair and who is the embodiment of Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara. Krishna heard her prayer and thought for a while on what basis He could extend help to her. He viewed the past life of Draupadi and looked at the meritorious deeds performed by her, on the basis of which He could help her. Then a small but significant incident came into His view.



It was the day of Sankranti. Sathyabhama, Rukmini, Jambavathi, Draupadi and many Gopikas were having a blissful time in the divine company of Krishna. All of them were chewing sugarcane on this auspicious day. While peeling a sugarcane, there was a cut on the finger of Krishna and blood started oozing out of it. In fact, Krishna intentionally did this in order to test all of them. God likes to test His devotees and loves the taste of His tests. He showers His special grace on those who pass these tests. Even for admission in the 1st Standard in a primary school, a small child is subjected to a test. This test is meant to decide whether he is suitable for admission or not. God does not test His devotees out of dislike or hatred or for the sake of fun. He gives them tests out of His immense love, compassion and kindness in order to bestow His grace on them. Sathyabhama, Rukmini, Jambavathi and Draupadi saw blood oozing out of Krishna's finger. They could see this as they were all very near Krishna. The servants could not see as they were not so near.

Sathyabhama immediately called a maidservant, asked her to go inside and get a piece of cloth to tie around Krishna's finger, while Rukmini herself ran inside to get a piece of cloth. But Draupadi at once tore the loose end of her Sari and tied it around Krishna's finger. When Sathyabhama and Rukmini saw this, they looked at each other to admire the devotion of Draupadi. They felt mortified and thought to themselves, "We don't have the love, devotion and discretion that Draupadi has. We are only attached to Krishna's physical form but do not really understand His requirements". When Draupadi prayed to Krishna for help, He remembered this incident and decided that the time had come to reward her for the act of sacrifice she performed on that day.

God Incarnates to Redeem Entire Mankind

In this physical world, if you want to have something, you have to give something else in return. When you want to buy a handkerchief, you go to a shop, give the shopkeeper ten rupees or so and he gives you the handkerchief. You must offer something to God also to earn His grace. Even for your little offering, God will give you bountiful reward. Kuchela offered a fistful of beaten rice to Krishna, and He gave him enormous wealth in return. Sathyabhama tried her best to weigh Krishna in gold, but she could not do so. An offering of a Tulasi leaf with devotion by Rukmini could outweigh Krishna. Before putting the Tulasi leaf in the balance, she prayed thus:

One may offer You a leaf or a flower or a fruit or even water,

But, if it is true that You offer Yourself to one with devotion,

Oh Krishna! May You be weighed by this Tulasi leaf!

(Telugu Poem)

What does the leaf signify? This physical body with three attributes of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas (serenity, passion and sloth) is the leaf. What does the flower convey? It is the pure heart full of fragrance. Similarly, the fruit means the mind. The fruit of mind is full of sweet juice, but the mind does not know its taste, just as a tree does not know the taste of its fruit and a creeper cannot taste the nectar of its flowers. In the same way, a worldly man cannot know the taste of the essence contained in sacred texts. An offering of a mere Tulasi leaf with devotion and without any expectation by Rukmini was enough to earn the grace of the Lord of the universe. In the same way, Draupadi made a sacrifice for Krishna without any expectation. When she had to face a great ordeal in the Kaurava court, she closed her eyes and prayed



only to Krishna, “Keshava! Madhava! Deva! Madhusudana! Save me”. Though her mighty husbands were very much present there, they could not ward off the situation. She prayed, “Oh Krishna! There is no other refuge for me than You”. Krishna remembered how she tore her Sari to put a bandage on His wounded finger. In return for this small piece of cloth, Krishna gave her unending length of Sari to protect her honour. Hence, if you make a small offering to God, you will become deserving to receive His bountiful grace.

As per the divine law, nobody can escape the consequences of his actions. As are your actions, so will be the result. It is only God’s grace that can save you from the consequences of your actions.

*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)*

The grace of God you earn depends on the vessel of your heart. You can make the vessel bigger by the special grace of God. You can achieve nothing without God’s grace.

*One may have physical prowess and the
power of intelligence,*

*But one will come to grief if one lacks divine
grace,*

*Karna was a great warrior but what was his
fate?*

Never forget this truth. (Telugu Poem)

***Perform only good deeds. See to it
that the actions you perform do not
harm or hurt anyone in any manner.***

***But this seems to be impossible
because of your body attachment.***

***Only those who have given up body
attachment can perform such actions.***

***In fact, your worldliness is the cause
of all your sorrows. So long as you***

have body attachment, you have

***worldly outlook. As long as you have
worldly feelings, you are subjected***

to sorrow and grief. As soon as

***you give up body attachment, your
worldliness disappears. When there is***

no worldliness, there is no sorrow.



God showers His grace on all. It is like rainfall. Does it rain for the sake of a particular individual? No. It rains for all human beings; it gives coolness to all and quenches their thirst. Similarly, air flows for all, not for a particular individual. In fact, all elements are meant for the sustenance of all beings. In the same way, God does not incarnate for the sake of a particular individual, race or country. He incarnates to redeem entire mankind.

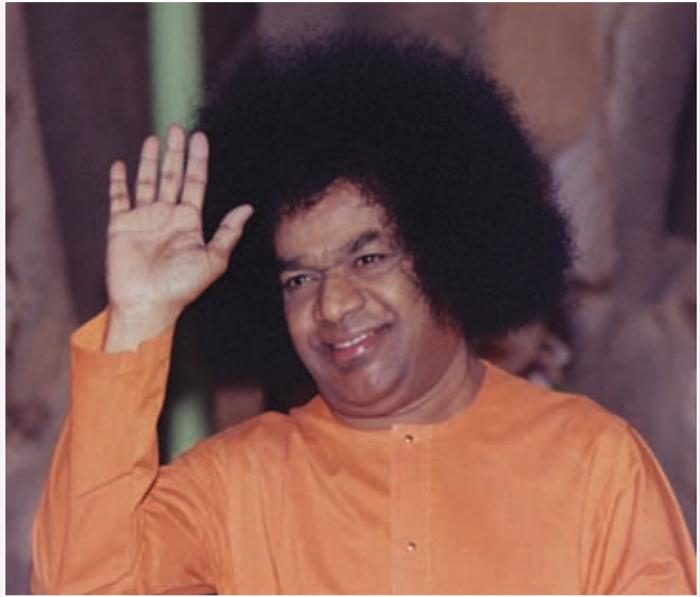
Avoid Bad Company

Karna was endowed with power of intelligence, power of all types of weapons and physical power. But he lacked divine power. What was the reason? Evil tendencies took root in him because he associated himself with bad company and became one of the wicked foursome. As he joined the company of three wicked persons, namely, Duryodhana, Dussasana and Sakuni, he became the fourth wicked person. Therefore, you should never



join bad company. Wicked company gives rise to wicked tendencies. Wicked tendencies lead to wicked actions. Therefore, the company you associate with has a great influence on your life. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* I can tell you what type of person you are when you tell Me what type of company you associate with. Karna by nature was noble and virtuous. You should try to know the nobility of Karna.

During the Mahabharata war, Krishna decided to make Arjuna realise the greatness of Karna. What was the reason? Arjuna was full of ego, thinking that he was the greatest archer and there was none equal to him. Moreover, Krishna was his close friend and brother-in-law who could grant him any wish. Krishna wanted to subdue his ego in a discreet manner. Therefore, He took him to Karna who was lying wounded in the battlefield. They approached Karna in the guise of Brahmins. Karna was severely wounded and was in a critical condition. Krishna approached him and said, "Karna! You are known as a man of great charity. As I have to perform a sacred ceremony in my house, I have come to you to ask for your charity though it is not proper on my part to ask you for help in this situation". Karna, even when he was lying on the ground asked, "What do you want"? Krishna said, "I want a little gold". Then Karna told him, "Oh Brahmin! Go to my house and tell my wife that I have sent you to her. She will give you as much gold as you want". Krishna said, "I have not come here to get involved in this type of business



During the waking state, you have body attachment and also worldly feelings. As a result, you experience pleasure and pain. In the deep sleep state, you forget your body and also the world. When there is no world, there is no sorrow. In fact, in this state, there is neither sorrow nor happiness. As you develop more and more attachment to God, your body attachment will go on diminishing more and more. Gradually, your worldly feelings will also reduce. You can get rid of your sorrow only when you are able to reduce your worldly feelings.

transaction. Don't tell me to go to your wife or mother-in-law or father-in-law. I have come to ask you directly. Give me if you can or else I will go my way". Karna closed his eyes and thought for a while how he could procure gold in the battlefield. He remembered, he had two teeth covered by a sheet of gold. It was quite common in those days to cover the teeth with gold sheet in spite of the fact that there were no dental surgeons. Then Karna



told Krishna, "Pluck my two teeth which are covered with gold". Krishna said, "What is this? Is it possible for me to pluck out your teeth? Do I have to commit violence on you to take this small quantity of gold from you? How can you call this charity? It is not charity at all. I will not even touch your teeth". Then Karna took a small stone, broke his teeth and offered these to Krishna. But Krishna wanted to test him further. He said, "I am a Brahmin. How can I touch gold soaked in blood? This is against my practice". Immediately, Karna took a bow and shot an arrow into the earth. A fountain of water gushed forth from the earth. He washed those teeth in water and offered them to Krishna with his right hand. At this moment, Krishna gave a meaningful look to Arjuna who was standing with his head bent in reverence to the greatness of Karna. Arjuna said to Krishna, "I have never seen such spirit of sacrifice, nobility and devotion in anyone. Even I cannot match the greatness of Karna. I apologise to You for my impudence". People of those days considered it as their foremost Dharma to offer anything and everything to God.

Every action has some result or the other. It is like a seed. There is a tree in every seed and there are fruits in every tree. The tree will bear the same type of fruits as is the seed. Therefore, you should resolve to undertake sacred actions. You feel happy when you perform a wicked deed, but shed tears when you have to bear its consequences. Therefore, before performing any action, you should determine whether the action you are performing is good or bad. Perform only good actions. But you speak and act without thinking. As a result, you suffer.

Body Attachment is the Cause of Man's Sorrow

Before undertaking any task, take time to enquire whether it is good or bad. Perform only good deeds. See to it that the actions you perform do not harm or hurt anyone in any manner. But this seems to be impossible because of your body attachment. Only those who have given up body attachment can perform such actions. In fact, your worldliness is the cause of all your sorrows. So long as you have body attachment, you have worldly outlook. As long as you have worldly feelings, you are subjected to sorrow and grief. As soon as you give up body attachment, your worldliness disappears. When there is no worldliness, there is no sorrow.

How does it happen? During the waking state, you have body attachment and also worldly feelings. As a result, you experience pleasure and pain. In the deep sleep state, you forget your body and also the world. When there is no world, there is no sorrow. In fact, in this state, there is neither sorrow nor happiness. As you develop more and more attachment to God, your body attachment will go on diminishing more and more. Gradually, your worldly feelings will also reduce. You can get rid of your sorrow only when you are able to reduce your worldly feelings. Does the forest fire burn only the neem (margosa) trees and leave the mango trees? No. It burns everything. Likewise, when you give up body attachment, you will transcend both happiness and sorrow. The mansions and buildings that you see in a dream will cease to exist once you open your eyes. That is why the Upanishads exhort man, *Uttishtha, Jagratha, Prapya Varannibodhata* (arise, awake, go to the noble men and learn from them the secret of attaining divinity).



Wake up from the sleep of ignorance. See your reality in the light of wisdom. Unable to realise that you yourself are the embodiment of truth, you are going in search of truth elsewhere. Truth is not anywhere outside. You yourself are Sachchidananda (existence, knowledge, bliss). Suppose there is a prime minister or a president or a king. But he will not have the feeling that he is the prime minister or the president or the king in his sleep. Only when he wakes up from his sleep will he be able to realise, "I am the prime minister", "I am the king", or "I am the president". Likewise, one who is lost in the sleep of ignorance of worldly feelings will not realise the truth, "I am the embodiment of Sachchidananda". Therefore, wake up from the sleep of ignorance. Open your eyes and see the path of wisdom. Then only will you be able to recognise your reality.

You do not know who you are in your sleep. It is only when you are awake, you will know your name, form and position. What is your present situation? You are lost in the sleep of worldliness and ignorance. That is why you are unable to know that you are the embodiment of Sachchidananda. Arise, awake and attain the goal of your life. Suppose, you are bitten by a snake in your dream and you start crying. Can your pain in the dream subside when a medicine is applied on your body directly? No. When someone wakes you up from your sleep, the pain of snake bite in the dream will disappear at once. You have the fear of snake and the pain of its bite so long as you are asleep. When someone wakes you up, there will neither be snake nor its fear nor the wound of its bite. How is your life today? Man is lost in the sleep of ignorance and body attachment. That is why Krishna says: *Anityam Asukham Lokam Imam Prapya Bhajasva Maam* (as the world is temporary and full of misery,

contemplate on Me constantly). This world is like a dream. You are undergoing many types of sufferings in this dream. What is the remedy and cure for this? The only remedy is to wake up from this sleep of ignorance.

Body attachment is the cause of all the sufferings of man. Therefore, man should gradually reduce body attachment. Only then can he experience happiness. He can experience as much happiness as he reduces his body attachment. Therefore, everyone who wants to experience happiness must reduce his body attachment. One who has body attachment will also develop ego, either due to his wealth or physical prowess or position of authority or the support of people. When the clouds are full of water, they become heavy and come down. When a tree is full of fruits, all its branches bend down. Similarly, when you grow and make progress, your ego and body attachment should become less and less.

Develop the Power of the Self

What is it that man today considers as his support? Here is a small example. A little bird is perched at the edge of a tender branch of a tree. It is not afraid even when the branch moves to and fro with the blowing of the wind. What is the reason? The reason is that the bird relies more on its wings than the branch on which it perches. Therefore, the branch may move, shake or break, the bird is not afraid. It is confident of the support of its wings. But man today does not have even that much self-confidence as a bird has. Sitting on the tree of the world, he is afraid of even small dangers. What is the reason? The reason is that he lacks self-confidence. He has no faith in himself. Even a bird is fearless because it has faith in its wings. But man has no faith in

Continued on page 278...



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF BAL VIKAS CHILDREN OF SIKKIM

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED BAL Vikas children of Sikkim along with their Gurus and parents came to Prasanthi Nilayam on a pilgrimage from 26th July to 1st August 2010 and prayed to Bhagavan for His grace and benedictions.

Bhakti Samarpan: An Offering of Devotional Songs

On 30th July 2010, these Bal Vikas children made an excellent musical offering of devotion and love appropriately titled “Bhakti Samarpan (a devotional offering)” at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan. The programme began with chanting of Vedic Mantras by the children after Bhagavan’s Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. What followed this was a sumptuous feast of well-rendered devotional songs set to sweet music and accompanied by beautiful dances of children, which included a Bhutia and a Lepcha dance, showcasing the cultural heritage of the



Bal Vikas children of Sikkim presented an excellent programme of devotional songs and dances on 30th July 2010.

aboriginals of this region. Bhagavan watched the entire presentation, blessed the children at its conclusion, posed for group photos with them and distributed Vibhuti Prasadam to them. He also materialised a gold ring for the choreographer of the programme. The programme which began at 5.55 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

YOUTH CAMPS OF PUNJAB AND JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir organised their youth camps at Prasanthi Nilayam and jointly presented a cultural programme on 31st July 2010 in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Cultural Programme

The first item of the programme was a Sufi song accompanied by a beautiful dance by the children of Punjab. This was followed by a Bhangra dance by the youth of Punjab which they performed with great elan. The last item



The youth of Punjab performed a vibrant Bhangra dance on 31st July 2010.



of the programme was a set of four devotional songs rendered melodiously by Smt. Kailash Mehra, Head of the Department, Government Music College, Jammu. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the participants, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands. The programme which began at 5.50 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.10 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF SOUTH EUROPE DEVOTEES

As part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan, about 700 devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam on a pilgrimage from ten countries of South Europe, viz., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland and experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's proximity from 25th July to 8th August 2010.

Unity in Diversity: A Devotional Music Programme

On 2nd August 2010, these devotees presented a devotional music programme which they most befittingly named "Unity in Diversity". Though the choir consisted of devotees of ten different countries of South Europe and devotional songs were in many languages, e.g., English, Italian, Swiss, Spanish, French, Greek and Hindi, the entire group sang all the songs in unison, demonstrating how the Divine Name of Sai was unifying people of all cultures, races, languages, faiths and nationalities. The programme began at 6.10 p.m. with chanting of Om followed by invocatory prayer to Lord Ganesh in Sanskrit. In total, the choir sang ten songs, each one of which enraptured the audience by its enchanting melody, scintillating music and devout rendition. This was followed by Bhajans which were also led by singers of these countries, both ladies and gents. Though all the Bhajans were in Hindi, the singers sang them with perfect rhythm,



A choir of ten countries of South Europe presented a soul-stirring devotional music programme in eight languages on 2nd August 2010.



intonation and pronunciation. This soul-stirring musical presentation came to a close at 7.10 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

YOUTH CAMP OF HARYANA AND CHANDIGARH

About 200 Sai Youth, Bal Vikas children and Gurus came from various parts of Haryana and Chandigarh and participated in the youth camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Haryana and Chandigarh at Prasanthi Nilayam from 2nd to 8th August 2010.

Hari Ka Haryana: Songs and Dances of Haryana

On 3rd August 2010, these Bal Vikas children and youth presented a beautiful cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first item of the programme entitled “Hari Ka Haryana (Haryana, the land of the Lord)”



Bal Vikas children of Haryana and Chandigarh presented an excellent programme of songs and dances on 3rd August 2010, depicting the cultural ethos of the people of this sacred land.

comprised songs and dances of Bal Vikas children, showcasing the cultural heritage of Haryana and the cultural ethos of the people of this sacred land where Sage Vyasa compiled the Vedas and Lord Krishna gave the Divine Message of the Bhagavadgita. Excellent choreography, enchanting music, thrilling dances of children, melodiously-rendered

songs, colourful costumes, appropriate commentary, superb direction and meticulous execution of the entire programme kept the audience spellbound for nearly 30 minutes. This programme of dances which began at 5.35 p.m. after Bhagavan’s Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall concluded at 6.00 p.m.

Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara: A Drama

This was followed by a drama entitled “Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara (speak truth, practise righteousness)” enacted by Sai Youth of Haryana and Chandigarh. Based on the episode of the encounter of the Pandavas with a Yaksha (celestial being) during their exile and the famous Yaksha-Yudhisthira dialogue, the play made an attempt to resolve the dilemma of modern youth through the lessons of controlling the mind contained in



A scene from the drama “Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara” presented by Sai Youth of Haryana and Chandigarh in Sai Kulwant Hall.

this dialogue, which reflected the teachings of Bhagavan as also the Bhagavadgita. At the conclusion of this drama, Bhagavan blessed both, the cast of the drama and Bal Vikas children who performed dances, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.10 p.m.



PILGRIMAGE OF U.K. DEVOTEES

As part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan, a group of about 1,500 devotees including more than 300 children came from U.K. on a pilgrimage from 30th July to 8th August 2010 to experience the bliss of staying in the sacred precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam and participating in Darshan, Bhajan and other programmes.

Musical Presentation by Children and Youth of U.K.

On 6th August 2010, Children's Choir and National Youth Choir of U.K. presented a programme of devotional songs and Bhajans which was compered by the renowned singer, Dana Gillespie. Beginning their programme at 5.10 p.m., first the children sang the glories of God in group songs and ended it with a vibrant

Qawali. This was followed by an excellent devotional music programme presented by the National Youth Choir of the United Kingdom. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the group. He also materialised Vibhuti and distributed it to the conductors of the programme. The programme came to a close with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.20 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

A FEAST OF CLASSICAL CARNATIC MUSIC

Renowned mandolin maestro, U. Shrinivas along with his brother U. Rajesh, presented a sumptuous feast of instrumental Carnatic music on 6th August 2010 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The musical duo began their concert at 5.35 p.m. with "Vatapi Ganapatim" of Muthuswami Dikshitar. What followed



Children's Choir and National Youth Choir of U.K. presented a programme of devotional music in Sai Kulwant Hall on 6th August 2010.



this was a bonanza of Carnatic music which included the immortal compositions “Endaro Mahanubhavulu”, “Telisi Rama” and “Rama Nannu Brovara” of Thyagaraja, “Raghuvamsa Sudha” of Patnam Subramaniam Iyer and “Venkatachala Nilayam” of Purandaradasa. The masterly rendition of these compositions of legendary composers on the mandolin by the musical duo kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour and created a mood of piety in them.

At the conclusion of their concert, Bhagavan blessed the artistes, honoured them with shawls and posed for photographs with them. He also



Overseas devotees from Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary presenting their choir programme “We are One” in Sai Kulwant Hall on 7th August 2010.

gave them clothes and to the musicians who provided musical support to them. After a short session of Bhajans, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF NORTH EUROPE DEVOTEES

More than 300 devotees came on a pilgrimage from 12 countries of North Europe, viz., Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary, and basked in the ambience of Bhagavan’s Divinity from 1st to 10th August 2010 at Prasanthi Nilayam.

We are One: A Choir Programme

On 7th August 2010, these devotees presented a choir programme “We are One” in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Before the programme began, Bhagavan called one of the singers to the dais and materialised a gold chain for her amidst a thunderous applause of devotees. Beginning their programme at 5.40 p.m. with chanting of Om three times followed by Ganapati Prarthana (prayer to Lord Ganesh), Gita Slokas (verses) and a peace chant in Sanskrit, the choir consisting of about 200 ladies and 100 gents sang in all 17 songs in six languages, viz.,

Swedish, Lithuanian, French, Polish, German and Sanskrit, immersing each heart in an ocean of devotion by their mellifluous rendition of soul-elevating lyrics set to sweet soothing music. With their hearts saturated with love and devotion, the singers enveloped the entire milieu with an aura of Bhakti and transported the listeners to a divine plane. Bhajans followed this, which were also led by the singers of this overseas group of devotees. At the conclusion of this programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the entire group. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.50 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.



PILGRIMAGE OF WEST INDIES DEVOTEES

A group of more than 300 devotees including 24 children came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from West Indies and experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's proximity for ten days, from 1st to 10th August 2010.

Unity in Diversity: A Musical Offering

On 8th August, these devotees made a devotion-filled musical offering to Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme entitled "Unity in Diversity" began at 5.10 p.m. with Veda chanting by the entire group. This was followed by seven beautiful songs on sublime themes which included the legacy of Bharatiya culture to West Indies, unity of all faiths and glory of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. After this, Bal Vikas children of West Indies presented a thrilling programme of instrumental music to the delight of one and all. The presentation of West Indies devotees concluded with Bhajans which were also led by them. Meanwhile, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the entire group. Arati was offered



More than 300 devotees from West Indies including Bal Vikas children offered their musical tribute to Bhagavan on 8th August 2010.

to Bhagavan at 5.55 p.m. which marked the conclusion of the programme.

YOUTH CAMP OF DELHI-NCR

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Delhi-NCR organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam from 9th to 15th August 2010. During the course of the camp, the Sai Organisation organised a music programme and a drama.

A Sumptuous Feast of Sufi Songs

The music programme was presented by a popular Sufi singer Lakhwinder Wadali on 10th August 2010. The presentation included popular Qawali "Dama Dam Mast Kalandar", apart from the compositions of Sant Kabir, Amir Khusro and Bulleh Shah. This musical extravaganza enthralled the devotees for nearly 90 minutes, at the conclusion of which Bhagavan felicitated the singer with a shawl and materialised a gold ring for him. Bhagavan also gave him clothes and to all the accompanying artistes who provided musical support to him. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.20 p.m.

Guru Kripa: A Drama

A drama entitled "Guru Kripa (grace of preceptor)" was the second presentation of Delhi-NCR which was made on 11th August 2010. The drama began at 6.05 p.m. with a beautiful song of Sufi saint Bulleh Shah, exhorting man to awake, arise and contemplate on God instead of making his life a long slumber. The drama brought forth the importance of Guru (preceptor) in the life of man by depicting the story of a modern egoistic officer who misbehaved with his teacher and was brought on the right path by his righteous father by telling him the life story of Bulleh Shah and his teachings. Simple story, excellent choreography, well-rendered





Sai Youth of Delhi-NCR performed an excellent drama "Guru Kripa" on the life and teachings of Bulleh Shah in Sai Kulwant Hall on 11th August 2010.

songs of Bulleh Shah, appropriate costumes and make-up and good direction made the drama very impressive and absorbing. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast and gave them the rare opportunity of a prolonged photo session. He also materialised a gold chain for the youth who played the role of the mendicant and sang Bulleh Shah's song in the drama. Followed by a brief Bhajan session, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.30 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

PILGRIMAGE OF MIDDLE EAST DEVOTEES

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation representing Zone 94 of International Sathya Sai Organisation organised a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 8th to 18th August 2010, in which about 900 devotees from 11 countries, viz., Oman, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ruwais, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran came to take part. During their stay at Prasanthi Nilayam, these devotees participated in daily Bhajan and Darshan programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall and experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's proximity. As part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan, the Sai Organisation of this region organised the distribution of 85 pieces each of

five useful items, viz., water filters, solar lamps, sewing machines, mixer grinders and tricycles to needy persons selected from rural areas by Sri Sathya Sai Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust. The programme began at 6.00 p.m. after Bhagavan's Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall on 12th August 2010. As their names were announced, the beneficiaries came near the dais, offered their salutations to Bhagavan and received the items.

Divine Songs from Turkey

This was followed by an excellent music programme presented by a group of 48 musicians and singers, both ladies and gents, from Turkey. The musicians commenced their programme at 6.30 p.m. with chanting of Om three times followed by a Bhajan in Hindi dedicated to Lord Ganesh. What followed this was a feast of divine music, the melody and rhythm of which kept the audience spellbound for nearly 40 minutes. The singers poured out their hearts in these divine songs and offered a befitting tribute to Bhagavan as part of His 85th Birthday celebrations. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the singers and musicians and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close at 7.15 p.m. with Arati to



Singers and musicians from Turkey presented an enrapturing programme of devotional music in Sai Kulwant Hall on 12th August 2010.



Bhagavan after distribution of Prasadam to the entire assembly of devotees in the hall.

Prema Tarangini: An Offering of Devotional Songs

The devotees of Middle East countries made their second presentation on 13th August 2010. The programme began at 6.15 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first item of the programme was "Prema Tarangini (waves of love)", an offering of devotional songs to Bhagavan by Bal Vikas children from the Sai Centres of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ruwais, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Commencing their presentation with recitation of Sainath Ashtakam (Sanskrit verses in praise of Sai), the children poured out their hearts in five more songs, the melody, music and

rendition of which filled the entire milieu with divine vibrations. It was difficult to judge which song was better than the other because every song was a piece of perfection from every point of view. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the children and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for one of the children and Vibhuti for another. The second item of the programme was Bhajans which were led by adult singers, both ladies and gents, from these Middle East countries. As all the Bhajans were those which were commonly sung at Prasanthi Nilayam, the entire gathering in the hall followed them in chorus, surcharging the environment with spirituality and sacredness. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.10 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.



Bal Vikas children from Sai Centres of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ruwais, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia presented a soul-stirring programme of devotional songs on 13th August 2010.



SWAARAJYA GAT HA: A PATRIOTIC DRAMA

As part of 63rd Independence Day celebrations of India, the second year postgraduate students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning enacted a patriotic drama "Swaarajya Gatha" on 15th August 2010 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The drama commenced at 6.55 p.m. with a patriotic poem of Bhagavan describing the glory of Bharat and valour and virtues of the Bharatiyas.



As part of Independence Day celebrations of India, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning enacted a drama "Swaarajya Gatha" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 15th August 2010.

As the story of the drama unfolded, it brought forth the spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice of freedom fighters, highlighting the role of Bal Gangadhar Tilak who led the freedom struggle from Maharashtra, united the Bharatiyas by organising Ganesh Chaturthi festival as the symbol of unity, gave the message of Karma Yoga by writing a commentary on the Gita and sought the guidance of Shirdi Sai Baba who explained to him the real meaning of freedom and taught him that Swaarajya (freedom of the Self) was necessary for the Bharatiyas to attain Swarajya (political freedom). Excellent script, powerful dialogues, good acting of the

students and appropriate choreography added to the success of the drama. The episode of Abhimanyu from the Mahabharata introduced in the drama highlighted the message of Karma Yoga given by Bal Gangadhar Tilak for achieving India's Independence. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation, blessed the students at the conclusion of the drama, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.20 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

VARALAKSHMI VRATA

A solemn function was held in Sai Kulwant Hall on 20th August 2010 to perform Varalakshmi Vrata (ritual to worship goddess Lakshmi). An idol of the goddess was installed on the dais for this purpose amidst exquisite floral decorations. The function was inaugurated by Bhagavan by lighting the sacred lamp in front of the idol at 5.35 p.m. The programme started soon after this with chanting of sacred Mantras by the priest who also spoke about the importance of celebrating Varalakshmi Vrata.

As the priest gave instructions for the performance of the rituals, worship was offered to goddess Lakshmi and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in whose Divine Presence the Vrata was conducted. After the performance of the rituals, 108 Names of goddess Lakshmi and Bhagavan Baba were recited with great devotion. At the conclusion of the Vrata, Smt. Bhagyalakshmi from Chennai offered a garland of devotional songs at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan, which created an aura of piety and divinity in the hall and filled the entire milieu with devotional fervour. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.



THE FOOTPRINTS OF GOD

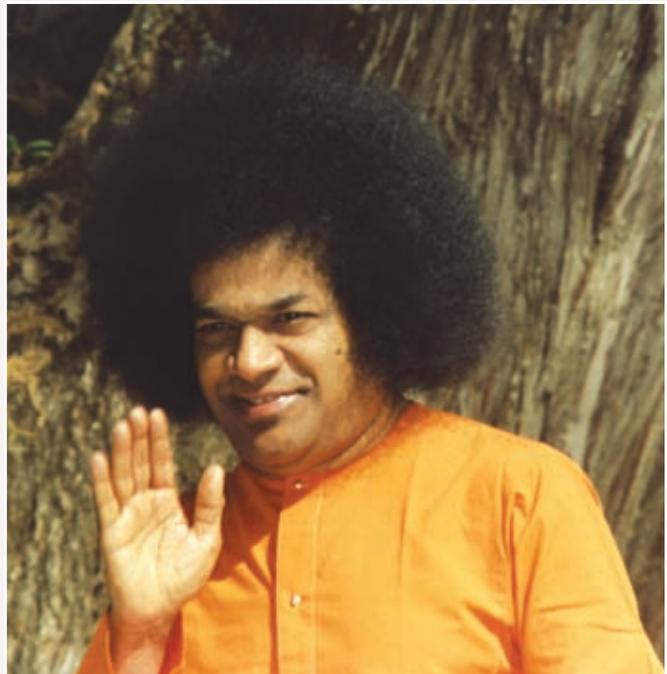
“The Lord is most pleased with Dharma. For, in order to save Dharma and restore Dharma to its ancient purity and clarity, He condescends to assume human form and walk among mankind as if He was one of them! Therefore, if you yearn for the grace of God, let Dharma be the inspiration behind every thought, word and deed of yours,” said Bhagavan in the Divine Discourse delivered by Him on the sacred day of Sri Krishna Janmashtami on 16th August 1968.

HAVE GOD IMPRINTED ON YOUR HEART

THIS IS THE DAY WHEN THE world celebrates the advent of Lord Krishna who came down to earth in order to transmute it into heaven and make gods of men. Hundreds and thousands of times has this day been celebrated, but does man shine today with the jewels Krishna poured

into his lap? Has he implanted His Message in his heart and has it blossomed into his higher life and aspiration? No. The reason lies in hypocrisy that parades as devotion! Words emanating from his tongue belie the activities of his mind and senses.

Unless you practise what you profess, you stand condemned as “Drama Bhaktas” (stage-play devotees). India would not have fallen so low if only her sons and daughters had put into practice a fraction of what each one declares to be his or her duties and obligations towards others and towards God. As the river flows silently and steadily towards the sea, however long and arduous the journey, man too must keep the Lord in view and move every moment nearer and nearer to Him until the ultimate merger.



God is Bliss, Ecstasy and Sweetness

Man forgets that with each sunrise and sunset, a day is clipped off his allotted span of years; he leads life in a wobbling line from the cradle to the grave. He denies himself the light of Jnana (wisdom) when struggling through the trackless jungle of matter. That light will reveal the Spirit which resides in every thing and being; it will deify and therefore unify.

The Krishna whose advent you should celebrate is not the cowherd boy who charmed the village folk with His flute, but the Krishna, the indefinable, inscrutable Divine Principle, that is born in the navel of the body (Mathura) as the product of the Divine Energy (Devaki), that is then transported to the mouth (Gokul) and fostered by the tongue (Yashoda) as its source of sweetness. Krishna is the visualisation of the Atma that the repetition of the Name grants; the vision that was gained by Yashoda. You must foster that Krishna on your tongue; when He dances on it, the poison of the tongue will be ejected completely without harming anyone, as it happened when as a child He danced on the hoods of the serpent Kaliya.

Yashoda traced Krishna to the place He hid in, by the footprints He left when He broke the curd-pot which she was churning. This is the symbolic story to illustrate how the Lord breaks our identification with the body and leads us on to Himself, by signs and signals that He provides all around us. These signs are ever present in Nature around each one of us, in the beauty of the rising sun, the ecstasy of the rainbow, the melody of the birds, the lotus-spangled surfaces of lakes, the silence of snow-crowned peaks – in fact, since God is Rasa (sweetness, ecstasy), all Nature which is but Himself in action is sweet and ecstatic.

Krishna told Uddhava that the supreme stupidity of man lay in his “Dehatma Buddhi” (the belief that the body is the Self). That is the fundamental fault. When that is removed, liberation follows. India has the secret of this process of liberation. Nevertheless, Indians are enamoured of the glitter and glamour of the west, with its insatiable greed for sensation and for competitive triumph of every kind. They do not realise that the western nations are weltering in anxiety, fear and frustration.



With or without form, He is Ananda. Welcome Him into the heart as Rama – He who is joy and grants joy or as Krishna – He who attracts you by means of joy He imparts. Live all your moments with Him, offering Him your Dhyana, your Puja (worship), your Japa (chanting of God’s Name). That will open the doors of Jnana (wisdom) and of liberation. This is the mark of the wise, while those who are otherwise wander in the wilderness, filling their moments with meaningless trifles, toys and geegaws.

Fundamental Fault of Man

“What am I to bewail?” asked Harishchandra to himself that night when a corpse was being cremated in the Ghat (crematorium) where he was a watchman and fee-collector. He was once the sovereign of a vast empire; a sage asked from him his vast treasure and the kingdom, and he gave them to him. He held truth as the highest ideal. And when he was left with nothing, the sage demanded Dakshina (money offerings).

Harishchandra sold his belongings, sold his wife and son into slavery, and himself served



as a watchman in order to scrape together the amount for the sage. “Am I to bewail the loss of the empire or the fate of my wife and child or my own heinous occupation? No. I shall weep, I shall shed tears only because I have not yet realised Him, visualised Him”, he cried. “I for You, You for me” – that is all one needs, one need pray for. This is what the sages have discovered after years of agony and travail;

The Gopikas had Krishna (the Lord) the very breath of their lives, the very sight of their eyes, the very sound of their ears, the very taste of their tongue, the very touch of their skin. While tending the cows and calves, attending to their husbands and children, doing the thousand and one chores of worldly life, they lived in Krishna, with Krishna and by means of Krishna only.

Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances contemplate on God). How then could God deny them His grace?

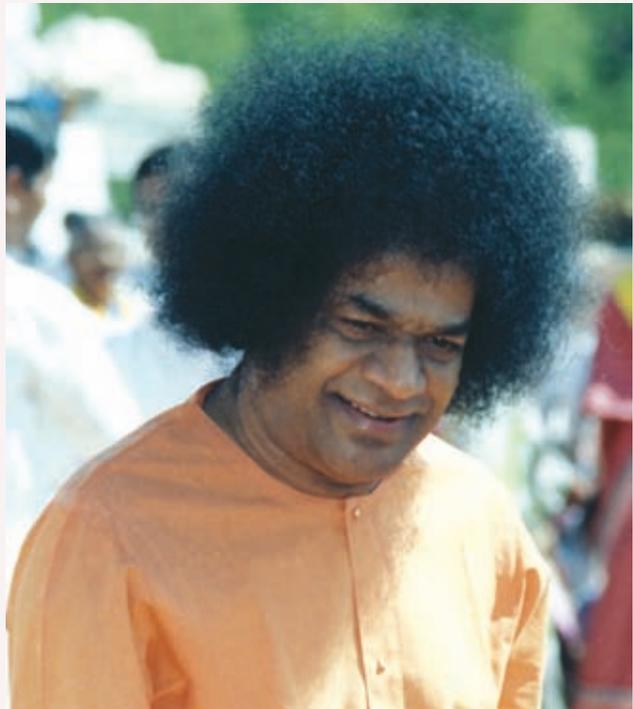


this is what they have taught mankind. Man must repay the debt he owes to them by treading the path they have cleared, and observing the limits laid down by them in order to ensure a safe and victorious journey.

When Uddhava went to Gokul and called the Gopikas to gather around him so that they could listen to his teachings about the attainment of Jnana, the Gopikas paid no heed to him. They did not like to waste their precious minutes and said, “The hours of day and night are not enough for us to dwell

on the Name of the Lord. We do not require your verbal acrobatics to convince us that God is Sachchidananda Swarupa (embodiment of existence, knowledge, bliss absolute); we know, we feel, we experience the bliss every moment.”

Krishna told Uddhava that the supreme stupidity of man lay in his “Dehatma Buddhi”



(the belief that the body is the Self). That is the fundamental fault. When that is removed, liberation follows. India has the secret of this process of liberation. Nevertheless, Indians are enamoured of the glitter and glamour of the west, with its insatiable greed for sensation and for competitive triumph of every kind. They do not realise that the western nations are weltering in anxiety, fear and frustration. There is a story, wherein Lakshmi asked Vishnu one day whether mankind would ever turn towards God, since He had provided



them with the skills and materials necessary for comfortable living. Vishnu replied, “I have endowed them with two qualities, which will draw them towards Me: detachment and discontent”. When man turns towards God, detaching himself from the bondage of the world, he will suffer no more. Between these two embankments, attachment to the Divine and detachment from the mundane, the stream of life can flow unimpaired in speed and direction, towards the Ocean of Divine Grace. See yourself as divine; see others as divine. Turn away from all else in you and in others. That is the essence of Sadhana.

Supremacy of the Devotion of the Gopikas

Narada once asked Vishnu: “The Rishis (sages) who had attained the purest wisdom relating to the Atma could not win Your grace; but illiterate milkmaids of Gokul who were charmed by Your beauty, Your sport, Your music, Your prattle, Your sweetness, Your inscrutable mystery – they won Your grace. How did this happen”? Narada himself came to know later that the Gopikas had Krishna (the Lord) as the very breath of their lives, the very sight of their eyes, the very sound of their ears, the very taste of their tongue, the very touch of their skin. While tending the cows and calves, attending to their husbands and children, doing the thousand and one chores of worldly life, they lived in Krishna, with Krishna and by means of Krishna only. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam* (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances contemplate on God). How then could God deny them His grace?

It was after this revelation of the supremacy of Bhakti that Narada composed the

Bhakti Sutras, which have become the guiding lamps for aspirants. The Vedas save by the power of Nada (sound) with their mystic echoes in the cavity of the cleansed heart. The music of the flute, which Krishna played, to draw the Gopikas representing the cleansed souls, is but the Veda-Nada (sound of the Vedas) in another form.

Rama drew the heart through the thrill of joy He gave. Krishna attracted the heart and got Himself installed therein through the divine delight He conferred. They are but different expressions of the same compassion. From the inexhaustible reservoir of grace, you draw joy through one outlet, Rama; another derives the same delight and the same strength from the other outlet, Krishna. That is only a distinction with no difference. My emphasis on Nama Sankirtan and Nagar Sankirtan is prompted by this reason. Mere dialectical skill is being paraded now as spiritual instruction and scriptural interpretation for the common man. And this is mostly done by people who have no faith in the doctrines they uphold, in the value of the disciplines they recommend. They are like Harishchandras on the stage, propagating by deft histrionics the supremacy of truth, but off stage they live lives full of stratagems and subterfuges.

Move every Moment Nearer to God

Unless you practise what you profess, you stand condemned as “Drama Bhaktas” (stage-play devotees). India would not have fallen so low if only her sons and daughters had put into practice a fraction of what each one declares to be his or her duties and obligations towards others and towards God. As the river flows silently and steadily towards the sea, however long and arduous the journey, man



too must keep the Lord in view and move every moment nearer and nearer to Him until the ultimate merger.

The Lord is most pleased with Dharma. For, in order to save Dharma and restore Dharma to its ancient purity and clarity, He condescends to assume human form and walk among mankind as if He was one of them! Therefore, if you yearn for the grace of God, let Dharma be the inspiration behind every thought, word and deed of yours. Let the knowledge that all are repositories of the Divine inspire you with love, tolerance, sympathy and reverence. Through work filled with Dharma, you progress towards worship that is filled with the consciousness of divinity in all, and through that worship you attain wisdom when you experience the divinity

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himself. That is why he is perturbed even by a small problem. He is not able to bear or withstand even a small difficulty. On the other hand, birds and animals are able to lead their life without any fear as they lead a very natural life. Man today depends only on his physical strength, wealth and power of intelligence. He does not take refuge in the power of the Self. Anything can be achieved with self-confidence. How long will the power of wealth last? Wealth comes and goes like passing clouds. Similarly, how long can you depend on people's support? So long as you are in power and rolling in wealth, all your friends and relatives will surround you. Later, who will respect you? You will have all types of powers when you develop the power of the Self. Therefore, resolve to lead your life relying on the power of Atma and God.

that fills all this. Work, Worship, Wisdom – raw fruit, mature fruit, juice-filled fruit; this is the order of spiritual progress of each individual. When the fruit is saturated with sweetness, it drops. That is the consummation.

Narada once asked Krishna the secret of the attraction that His flute-play had on the cowherds of Brindavan. "Do they run to You or You run to them?" he queried. "Among us, there is neither I nor they; how can a picture be separated from the cloth on which it is painted? I am imprinted on their hearts so inseparably, so inextricably", replied Krishna. Have God imprinted on your heart; be ever so inextricably established in Him – that is My Message to you on this day.

– From Bhagavan's Discourse at Prasanthi Nilayam on 16th August 1968.

Trust in God and do good deeds. As are your actions, so will be the result. As is the food, so is the belch. As is the flour, so is the bread. Therefore, engage yourself in sacred actions and experience eternal and heavenly bliss. This is the primary goal of man and his prime objective. It is not possible to get good results when you perform wicked deeds. Therefore, do good. Make efforts to attain divine proximity. Your every step should take you near God and make you dear to Him. Only then can you be victorious in life.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajans, "Rama Jayam Raghu Rama Jayam..." and "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin...")

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

Cultivate Jnana (supreme knowledge) and visualise the Lord in things and activities. That makes this human birth worthwhile.

– Baba

Equal-mindedness

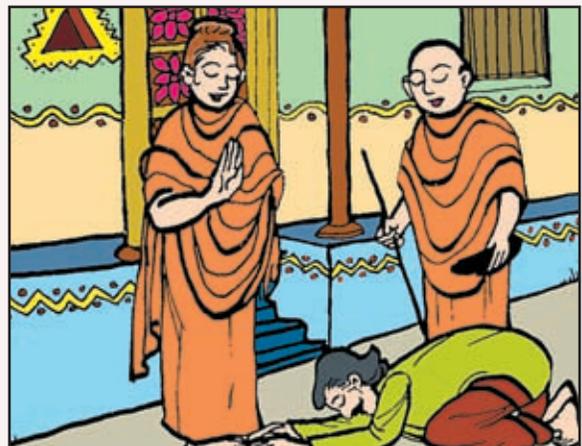
WHILE TOURING THE COUNTRY to impart his teachings to people, Gautam Buddha once reached a village, the headman of which disliked Buddha. He was very much irritated when anybody talked about Buddha. When this village headman came to know that Buddha was coming to their village along with his disciples that day for begging alms, he called a meeting of all the villagers and ordered them, "Nobody should offer alms to Buddha when he comes to our village to beg alms today; don't even open the doors of your houses when he comes". He himself also put a lock on the door of his house and sat on the porch in front of it. Buddha came to the house of the headman, stood in front of it and called out without any inhibition whatsoever as if he did not know anything, "Bhavati! Bhiksham Dehi (mother, give alms)". The village headman at once flew into a rage on hearing this. Deprecating Buddha, he said

to him, "Oh lazy mendicant! You have no work to do except to fill your belly by begging. On top of it, you are ruining the lives of so many young men by making them your disciples. Go away from here and earn your living by hard work". Without even a bit of agitation, Buddha said smilingly to the headman, "Sir, I have a query. Will you kindly resolve it"? "What is the query?" thundered the headman. Then Buddha said, "Suppose, a beggar comes to your house and begs for alms and you very kindly offer him all the things of your choice. If the beggar declines to accept what you offer, then to whom will you give these things"? "Is this only your question? Since all these things belong to me, I will take them back into my house," replied the headman. Buddha then smiled and asked, "Are you sure, all these things would become yours then"? "Certainly, all these things would be mine only," said the

Continued on page 281...



Buddha remained calm and unperturbed when the village headman hurled abuses at him.



The village headman did not know what to say. He fell at the feet of Buddha and prayed for his forgiveness.



GRAND ONAM CELEBRATIONS

THE HOLY FESTIVAL OF ONAM was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great piety and gaiety on 23rd August 2010. A large number of devotees came from various parts of Kerala to celebrate it in the sacred precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated for the festive occasion. Elaborate decorations were made on the dais which presented a charming spectacle with the replica of a temple with floral decorations.

Bharata: the Embodiment of Supreme Love – A Drama

On the eve of Onam, Sai Youth of Kerala presented a drama entitled “Bharata – the Embodiment of Supreme Love” on 22nd August 2010. The drama which commenced at 6.05 p.m. after Bhagavan’s Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall demonstrated the ideal of supreme love and sacrifice exemplified by Bharata who attained the divine identity of Rama by



As part of Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, Sai Youth of Kerala presented an excellent drama “Bharata – the Embodiment of Supreme Love” on 22nd August 2010.

contemplating on Him and chanting His Name constantly. Superb direction, excellent acting of the cast, good choreography, efficient stage management, appropriate costumes and make-up and beautiful sets made the drama attractive and absorbing. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance, showered His blessings on the cast at the conclusion of the drama, gave Prasadam to them with His Divine Hands, provided them the coveted opportunity of Padanamaskar and group photos with Him in a prolonged photo session and distributed clothes to them. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 7.25 p.m. which marked the conclusion of the programme.

Glorious Onam Function

On 23rd August 2010, the auspicious Onam day, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession led by a Panchavadyam music troupe, girl students band and boy students Veda chanting group of Kerala. Another group of girls standing on both sides of the passage of Bhagavan offered traditional welcome to Him with lighted lamps in their hands as He came to the hall at 5.10 p.m. The programme started after Bhagavan was seated on the exquisitely bedecked dais. At the outset, Bhagavan gave Sri Sathya Sai Gold Medals to two meritorious girls of Kerala who excelled in essay writing competition organised earlier by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala.

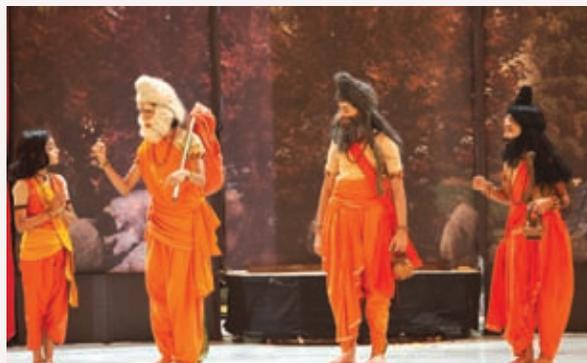
Cultural Programme by Bal Vikas Children of Kerala

The first item of the programme comprised dances of Bal Vikas children of Kerala, showcasing the cultural heritage of Kerala. While the singers sang excellent thematic





On the auspicious day of Onam, Bal Vikas children of Kerala performed thrilling dances, depicting various aspects of the life of the people of Kerala and its rich culture.



A scene from the drama "Margathara" performed by Bal Vikas children of Kerala on 23rd August 2010 as part of Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

songs set to thrilling music, various groups of children performed scintillating dances, portraying various important aspects of the life of the people of Kerala and its rich culture. Superb direction and excellent stage management helped depict the entire spectrum of the life of the people of Kerala in dances of children in appropriate costumes and make-up in just 20 minutes.

Margathara: A Drama

This was followed by an inspiring drama entitled "Margathara (pole star)", portraying the life of Dhruva who attained God-realisation in childhood itself by his deep and unflinching devotion to Lord Vishnu. The drama depicted

how Dhruva left the palace, went to forest, performed intense penance at such a tender age undaunted by all dangers and ultimately attained the Darshan of Lord Vishnu. Excellent direction, sweet music, innovative stage management and beautiful dances of the children made the drama very absorbing and enrapturing. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the children, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.15 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all. With this, Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam came to a happy conclusion.

...Continued from page 279

village headman. Buddha said again, "You have given the correct reply. I came to your house and begged for alms. But you gave me the alms of abuses, which I decline to accept. To whom will these abuses then return? You yourself give the answer". The village headman

did not know what to say. He fell at the feet of Buddha and prayed for his forgiveness.

Accept praise and abuse with equal-mindedness. Do not become the victim of anger and agitation, attachment and hatred.

Use the tongue with great care. The softer you talk, the less you talk, the sweeter you talk, the better for you and the world.

- Baba

INSCRUTABLE ARE THE WAYS OF GOD

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, I left home on an evening stroll towards the newly-constructed Sathanarayana Swami Temple on the outskirts of my village, with “Sanathana Sarathi” and “Pradeepa” as my companions.

As the temple door was locked, I sat on the steps and was immersed in the pages of the Sathya Sai Bhagavadgita. Suddenly, I was accosted by the headmaster of the High School who happened to come that way. “What are you reading, all alone, here”? he enquired.

The talk naturally centred on Baba. He said, “I have heard many wonder tales of your Baba but until I see Him personally and get personal experience of His Almighty Power, I will not blindly believe all the stories”. I retorted, “My dear friend, the chief characteristics of the Lord are Srishti, Stithi and Samhara (creation, sustenance and dissolution), Sarvajnatva, Sarvantaryamitva and Sarvashaktitva (omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence). Baba has all these powers, and the world at large has been witnessing countless miracles everyday as a proof of His Divya Leela (divine sport). I am convinced that He is Poornavatara (incarnation of God in His full glory), Harihareswara (embodiment of Vishnu and Siva), Lord Narayana”...

Even while I was talking thus, we were both stunned into silence by the loud ringing of the



Loud ringing of the bell from inside the locked temple door made the headmaster realise the omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence of Baba.

temple bell from inside the locked door! We were riveted to the spot in sheer amazement. Baba was confirming my statement in ringing tones! The bell rang for about three minutes!

We could scarce speak after that most thrilling experience. The headmaster could not walk even a few steps; such was his exhilaration. Half an hour later, the priest came and opened the door of the temple and we went inside. I must add here that it is a stone structure, with a cement concrete roof and not even a rat or fly can get in when the door is closed and locked!

Inscrutable are the ways of Baba!
Indescribable is His grace!

*– Besagarahalli Raghavan
“Sanathana Sarathi”, January 1962*

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

MALAWI



MEDICAL CAMP WAS organised from 26th to 30th April 2010 in a hospital in Malawi. Over 4,600 patients were provided loving medical services by Sathya Sai volunteers and medical professionals from Malawi and the United Kingdom. Medical specialities included general internal medicine, infectious diseases,



In addition to dispensing over 15,000 prescriptions, 30 surgical procedures were carried out in a medical camp held in Malawi from 26th to 30th April 2010.

gastroenterology, general surgery, anaesthesia, paediatrics, cardiology, immunology, dentistry, optometry, ophthalmology, gynaecology, nursing, physiotherapy, pain management and pharmacy. Several operations including 70 cataract operations and 30 surgical procedures were carried out. Children were treated for various illnesses including AIDS-related illness, severe anaemia and malnutrition. Children from a local school were provided various medical services and the school headmaster wrote a letter of gratitude to Sathya Sai volunteers.

About 1,500 eye glasses were distributed and over 15,000 prescriptions were dispensed free of cost during the medical camp. Chocolate milk and nutritious food packets were distributed to children. Food was served to all patients and families attending the medical camp as well as to all other patients in the hospital where the medical camp took place. New clothes and footwear were distributed to many villagers as several patients did not have any footwear and had infection on their feet. Mosquito nets were also distributed after the camp.

ITALY

About 200 Sathya Sai youth from 21 European countries took part in the European Youth Conference 2010 at the Mother Sai complex in Italy during Easter weekend from 2nd to 4th April 2010. The conference theme was "The Power of Being". Proceedings began with an opening ceremony, in which one youth from each country came on stage, holding the flag of his or her country, while a short movie



European Youth Conference on the theme of "The Power of Being" was held in Italy from 2nd to 4th April 2010, in which Sai Youth from 21 European countries took part.



depicting typical characteristics of that nation was shown. This was followed by a marvellous choreography performed to the melody of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy". A beautiful dramatic performance focusing on the conference theme portrayed the awakening of youth. The performance ended with the lighting of candles, singing of the Vedic prayer, *Asatoma Sadgamaya* (lead us from unreality to reality) and making of heart-shaped offerings to Bhagavan's Divine Lotus Feet at the altar. The youth presented their national activities through inspiring Powerpoint presentations, posters, and sharing of their spiritual experiences. In her opening address, Smt. Petra von Kalinowki, Central Coordinator for Region 7, stated, "Bhagavan has prepared us over many lifetimes and reassures us that He is always with us". She expressed the need for the youth to lead an ideal life, following the teachings of Bhagavan. In his opening remarks to the workshops sessions, Sri Ivan Bavcevic, Youth Coordinator for Zone 6, reminded the youth that in Sri Sathya Sai Organisation bearing the Name of the omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient Sathya Sai Avatar, nothing was impossible. He stated that whatever goal the youth set their mind to, they would succeed because they have the loving support of Bhagavan.

Workshops on practising Bhagavan's teachings in daily life were conducted each day. The conference included instrumental music, devotional singing and dramas focusing on transformational stories. The Love All Serve All (LASA) choir performed nine devotional songs filling the conference with Bhagavan's love. Alumni from Sri Sathya Sai University living in Europe shared their experiences with Bhagavan which captivated the audience. The



Workshops on practising Bhagavan's teachings in daily life were conducted daily during the European Youth Conference in Italy from 2nd to 4th April 2010.

conference also included human values-based games and physical activities.

U. S. A.

On 27th March 2010, a free health fair was organised at St. Paul's Missionary Community Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where over 150 patients were served. More than 100 volunteers representing primary care, cardiology, gastroenterology, optometry, paediatrics, psychiatry, dentistry and nursing provided loving service. Volunteers came from different cities in North and South Carolina,



A free health fair was organised in Charlotte, North Carolina on 27th March 2010, in which 150 patients were provided loving medical care.



Georgia and Florida. Services offered included screening for blood cholesterol, glucose, vision, dental health, HIV and syphilis. Free prescription eyeglasses were distributed. Free back-packs with water bottles, pairs of socks and toys for children were also distributed. Breakfast and lunch were served following patient care. There was a meditation room with Bhagavan's photo for those who were curious to know the source of inspiration for the health fair. Many people who visited the health fair did not have ready access to healthcare. The patients were very thankful and one even remarked, "It is unbelievable that you came to our community to help. You are true angels".

On 26th January 2010, out of the hundreds of nominations, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation received the "2010 Gold Award" for its Elkins High School Tutorial Service for Community Partnerships, in the academic impact category. Every year, the Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE), a non-profit organisation, recognises individuals and organisations contributing to education in Texas. Since January 2008, approximately 15 to 20 volunteers from Sri Sathya Sai Centre of South Houston, Texas have been tutoring grades 9 to 11 students from Elkins High School on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The tutorial service was designed to help the students requiring additional tutoring in maths and science to pass the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) examinations. Although Sathya Sai volunteers are of varied professional backgrounds, including doctors, research scholars, professors, teachers, information technology professionals, college students, accountants and engineers, all of them have a common attribute, intense love for Bhagavan and determination to put His teachings into practice. Sathya Sai

volunteers felt that Bhagavan, through this award, had recognised their dedicated efforts and reinforced their ongoing responsibility to conduct this tutorial service in an increasingly effective manner.

CANADA

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Toronto was recognised with a Volunteer Excellence Award for its service activities at the Carefree Lodge. During the award presentation on 23rd April 2010, City of Toronto Mayor David Miller commented on how much he liked the philosophy behind Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings and its emphasis on the fundamental values of truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence. For the past nine years, volunteers from Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Toronto have been conducting a lively sing-along of old-time familiar songs and spiritual songs twice a month at the Carefree Lodge. They also help the Carefree Lodge residents celebrate special occasions. Residents, who were not known to converse and interact with staff and other residents, would be seen singing and dancing at the sing-along. For the hour-and-a-half sing-along, residents were able to forget their physical ailments and troubles, and enjoy sweet and meaningful songs.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: On 11th July 2010, Srikakulam district started Sri Sathya Sai National Narayana Seva Programme which provides cooked food daily twice at the doorstep of 85 selected people.

Anantapur district Sai Youth conducted a Job Mela at Rodam on 20th June 2010 with the cooperation of Employment Officer of Hyderabad and incharges of six companies,



interviewed about 900 aspirants and offered jobs of different nature to 460 persons. The district gave Amruta Kalasams to 93 selected poor families.

Mahaboobnagar district constructed drinking water tanks of 2,000 litres and 3,000 litres capacity in Srirangapuram and Chevireddy Ghanapur villages respectively to facilitate water supply. Similarly, the district constructed a water tank in Harijanwada of Pedda Palli village. The district started computer training programme in Achampeta village for 25 students on 25th July 2010.

Assam: Easwaramma Day was celebrated at Guwahati with a colourful programme at Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir to attract attention of children who had not yet joined the Bal Vikas classes and were not familiar with the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



A grand cultural programme was organised at Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir, Guwahati to celebrate Easwaramma Day.

and His Mission. Started with Veda chanting by a student of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School of Prasanthi Nilayam, the cultural function included offering of welcome to audience, chorus by a group of students, speech making, recitation and dance items based on cultural ethos and devotional background of Assam. All the items were presented by Bal Vikas

students drawn from different units of Sri Sathya Sai Samithi of Guwahati city. On this occasion, students from local Blind School also made a musical presentation, which was highly appreciated by the audience. Incidentally, the Sai Organisation organises Bal Vikas classes in the Blind School.

Gujarat: On 9th May 2010, 22 houses were completely burnt to ashes by a devastating fire in Bhesla village near Amalsad (Gujarat). Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Navsari stepped forward to help by providing cooked food to the affected persons twice daily. On 13th May, necessary utensils, household articles and 25 kg rice were given to each family. In all, 95 people were provided help.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Bardoli (Gujarat) organised free Sarva Dharma Mass Marriages at Radha Govind Temple, Ninat village, Bardoli on 23rd May 2010, wherein nine couples belonging to Halpati and Adivasi tribes got married. The brides and bridegrooms were given clothes and jewellery along with Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn by married women) and 56 household items. These marriages were registered on the spot.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Surat organised the 8th Annual Award function on 8th August 2010 in Gandhi Smruti Bhavan between 3.00 to 6.00 p.m. in the memory of Late Dr. Rameshchandra Upadhyaya. These awards are inspired by his wife Smt. Jahnavikaben Upadhyaya, an ardent devotee of Swami. The chief guest, Dr. Tushar Chaudhary, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs (Government of India) in his speech thanked the Sai Organisation for the heart camp. He said, as a Minister, he could have at the most requested the Government to give some letter, so that the patient might get some concession in the



amount he had to spend for operation, but the Sai Organisation did the operation totally free, due to which some of his Adivasi family members were leading a healthy life today. Sri Manohar. G. Trikannad, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat briefed the gathering about the activities carried out by the Sathya Sai Organisation at the State level as well at Prasanthi Nilayam. The awardees in this function were rankers of final year in MBBS, BHMS, BAMS, Nursing, Research Scholars from the Department of Bio-Sciences, NGO's who collected maximum blood units, trust which gives free service in the cremation ground, Sathya Sai Health Centre which renders free service to people and Sri Sathya Sai School which imparts value-based education.

On 15th August 2010, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Surat organised a function at Prasanthi Hall in Sri Sathya Sai Seva Campus, Surat, in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare, Government of Gujarat, wherein 85 physically challenged persons were given implements for self-employment which included 21 sewing machines, 61 hand carts and 3 cycles. Along with this, 85 Amruta Kalasams were given to them.

Haryana and Chandigarh: A mega medical and preventive healthcare camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Haryana and Chandigarh on 30th May 2010 in adopted village, Palsora Colony, Sector - 56, Chandigarh from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in which 12 doctors from the departments of gynaecology, paediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology and general medicine offered free consultation to 450 patients. Clinical investigations of blood and urine were conducted by the clinical laboratory staff free of cost at the spot.

The patients were given free medicines as prescribed by the doctors. Besides, Narayana Seva was arranged, wherein about 1,000 people took meals. A Sarva Dharma (all faiths) Nagar Sankirtan was also conducted in the village streets and a temple was cleaned by 50 devotees and 20 youth.

On 2nd June 2010, a devastating fire destroyed 92 huts belonging to poor labourers in Sector-53, Mohali, Chandigarh. As the



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Haryana and Chandigarh provided relief to fire victims who lost their belongings in a devastating fire on 22nd June 2010.

labourers lost all their belongings in the fire, the Sai Organisation of Haryana and Chandigarh arranged for cooked food immediately, and distributed packets of dry ration, clothes and articles of daily need to all the hut dwellers on 5th June 2010.

Jammu and Kashmir: Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) in the form of dry ration is being provided to 20 underprivileged families in nine villages being served by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of the State under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme. Other Seva activities being carried out by the Sai Organisation in these villages include marriages of needy couples, shelter to



homeless families, provision of drinking water, teaching of moral values to Bal Vikas children and Veda recitation, Bhajan singing, meditation camps, etc. In addition to above activities, veterinary and medical camps, once a month, are being organised in these villages, wherein free medicines are being distributed after proper medical check-up by expert doctors of the Sai Organisation.

In the field of animal husbandry, free dosing and vaccination of cattle are being carried out by expert and qualified doctors at the doorstep of the deserving farmers so as to improve their economic viability and maintain their livestock on proper scientific basis.

Under National Narayana Seva Programme, 283 food packets and 150 sets of clothes were distributed by Sai Youth in the slum areas of Gandhi Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Digiana and Satwari on 21st March 2010 and 321 food packets were distributed in Jeevan Nagar, Cantonment, Senailpur, Railway Road and Channi areas on 28th April 2010.

In addition to above, about 75 inmates of Leprosy Home are being served cooked lunch

on each Sunday of the month by the Sai Youth of Old City Samithi of Jammu, and about 70 inmates of Mother Teresa Home are being provided dry ration on each 2nd Sunday by the Janipura, Roopnagar and Muthi Samithis of Jammu.

Odisha: A one-day workshop of the District Youth Coordinators of 31 districts of Odisha was held on 20th June 2010 at Bhubaneswar. The State Trust Convener and State Youth and Communication Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Odisha provided valuable inspirational guidance and two alumni of Bhagavan's educational institutions shared their direct experiences with Bhagavan.

The Project Director, Odisha State Aids Control Society and their expert team imparted detailed input on blood science, skills to motivate and retain donors, method to spiritualise blood donation camps, etc. More than 80 delegates participated in the workshop with enormous interest throughout this one-day interactive programme and expressed their commitment to carry Bhagavan's message to every nook and corner of the State.

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital

Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134

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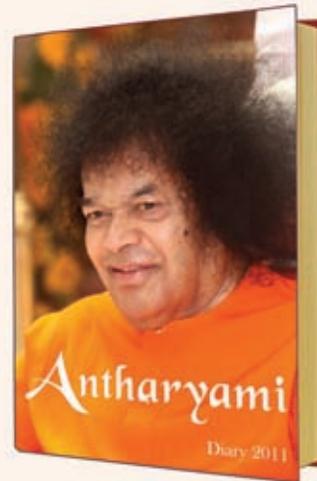
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The one object of this human existence is to visualise that reality, that Atma, that relationship between the wave and the sea. All other activities are trivial; you share them with birds and beasts; but, this is the unique privilege of man. He has clambered through all the levels of animality, all the steps in the ladder of evolution, in order to inherit this high destiny. If all the years between birth and death are frittered away in seeking food and shelter, comfort and pleasure, as animals do, man is condemning himself to a further life-sentence.

– Baba

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