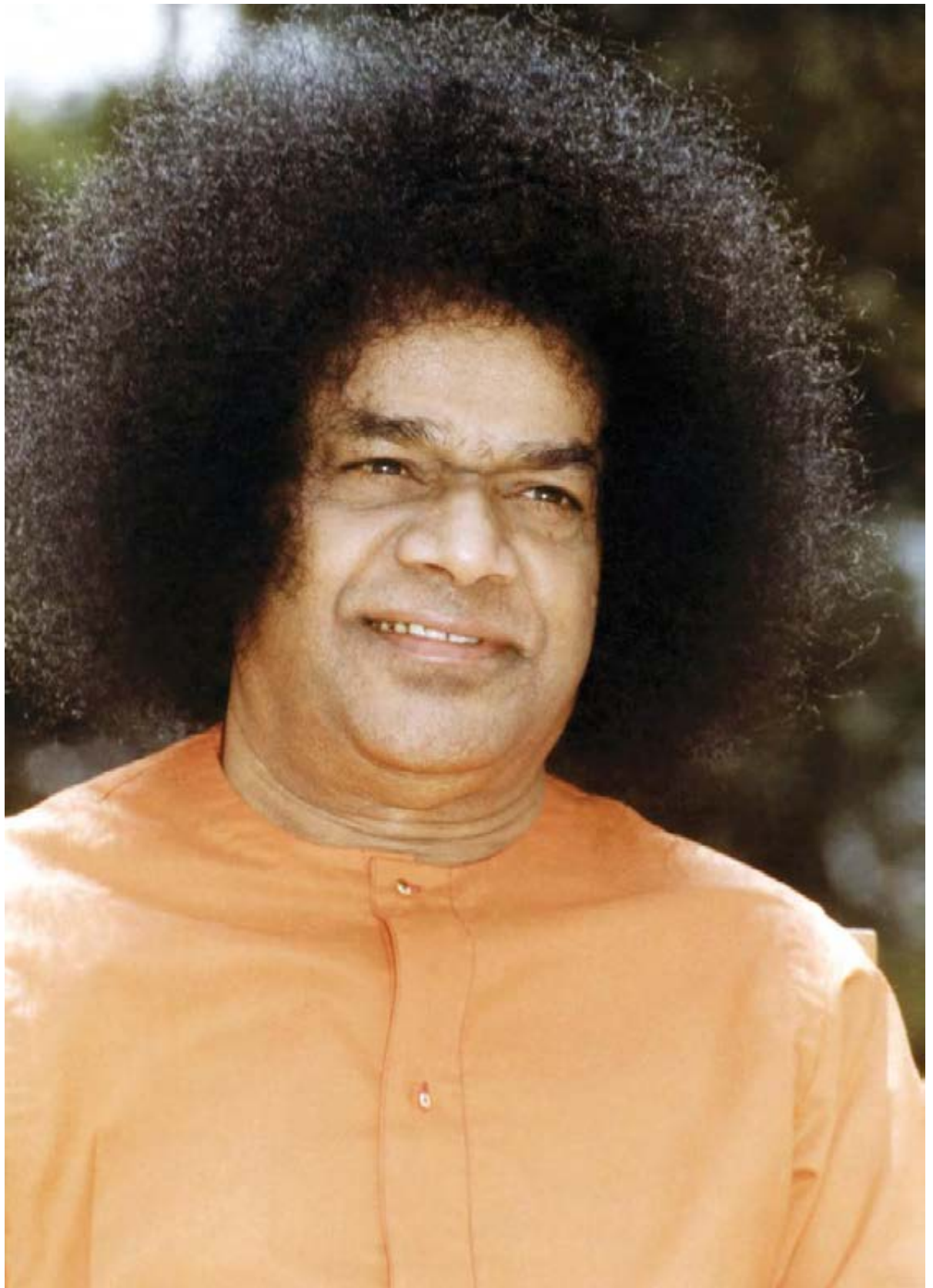




Sanathana Sarathi

SEPTEMBER 2019



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

Vol.: 62 Issue No. 9 Date of Publication: 1st September

September 2019

© Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division
Prasanthi Nilayam

Printed by **K.S. RAJAN**
Published by **K.S. RAJAN**

On behalf of the owner, Sri Sathya Sai
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi
Nilayam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.)
And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises, 136,
4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji Nagar,
Bengaluru 560044, Karnataka
And Published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust,
Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam
515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

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ISD Code : 0091

STD Code : 08555

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Puttaparthi : 287388

SSSIHMS, Whitefield,

Bengaluru : 080 28411500

Annual Subscription
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Bhutan and Sri Lanka ₹ 600

Other Countries: ₹ 850

or US \$19 or UK £13 or €13 or

CAN \$22, AUS \$26

Telugu India: ₹ 60 (12 issues)

Other Countries: ₹ 550 or £9 or US \$13

or €9, CAN \$15 or AUS \$17

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Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi
Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur district,

Andhra Pradesh, India.



"Develop good thoughts, remove differences, foster unity and enhance spirituality. Then only will you enjoy bliss. You should understand first that you are the embodiment of Nityananda (eternal supreme bliss). When you develop firm faith that you are the embodiment of bliss, you will be able to face and overcome all troubles and obstructions that come your way."

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Reporting Website from Prasanthi Nilayam: www.theprasanthereporter.org

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AVATAR VANI

NEVER FORGET GOD*

TO THINK OF GOD IS TRUE HAPPINESS

THE HEART IS CALLED HRIDAYA.

It means the heart should be full of compassion. Instead, the hearts of people today have become hard like stone. Evil deeds are on the rise due to lack of compassion in man. Lack of compassion has become a fashion in the modern world. But we do not need only modernisation. What we need is compassion. Hatred finds no place where there is compassion.

Soham Mantra Reminds Man of his Divinity

There is acute lack of peace in the present-day world. What is the reason for this? The reason is the attachment and differences based on the feelings of mine and thine. Man should develop compassion and eradicate the feelings of I and mine.

We call ourselves I, but what is this 'I'? It is the title which refers to God. Everyone calls himself I. So, everyone has the title



of God within himself from his very birth. That is why the Vedas say *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). When you say, "I am Brahman", it becomes clear that 'I' is the name of God. The names Rama, Krishna, Siva and Hari are not the only Names of God. The first word which refers to God is 'I'. This is the true name. Ask a beggar, "who are you"? he will say, "I am a beggar". Ask a king, "who are you"? his reply will be "I am a king". Similarly, if you go on asking a doctor, an advocate, a businessman, the replies you will get will be only 'I', 'I'. You may ask any person, he will come up with a reply starting with 'I'. In Sanskrit, 'I' is referred to as 'Aham'. People today associate 'I' with a form. But 'I' does not refer to the body. 'I' is God. If you add Aakar (form) to this Aham, it becomes Ahamkar (ego). Ego

**Continued from the previous issue.*

arises when we associate it with the body. The body is subject to birth, growth and death but the true Aham (Self) is not subject to any of these changes. So, 'I' is real, not the body. The body is only an instrument. We should use it as a means to realise God. With every breath, we recite the Mantra Soham (That I am). It reminds us that we are God. The Vedas also propound the same truth in Tattwamasi (That Thou Art). We should realise this truth. But people do not understand this principle of Soham. They associate themselves with the body. That is the cause of their sorrows and miseries.

What is this body? You will realise how inferior this body is when you analyse it. Every cell in the body changes every moment. If you put pickle in a jar, it does not get spoiled even in a year. If you put pickle in the jar of the body, it gets spoiled within two hours. If you put rice, wheat, pulses and other grains in the flour mill, it gives out flour. But in the mill of the human body, even if you put fruits, they turn into faeces. Is not the flour mill superior to the body?

The human body is a machine which contains Yantra (mystic diagram), Mantra (incantation), Tantra (esoteric doctrine). The body is the Yantra, Soham is the Mantra and the heart is the Tantra. Man's life is a combination of these three. The Mantra can function only if the Yantra is there. The Tantra (heart) is like a switch board. The Soham Mantra arises from the Sushumna Nadi (central nerve current). The Mantra here is not the Panchakshari (five-lettered) or the Ashtakshari (eight-lettered). It is made up of two letters – So and Ham. It reminds man 'I am God', 'I am God' 21,600 times a day. But foolish

Do not think that the country of Bharat alone should progress. Wish that the entire world should live with peace and prosperity. The world is a big mansion. India is a room in it. There are several different rooms like America, Pakistan, China, Russia and others. The rooms of this mansion are separated by walls. If all these walls are removed, the mansion will become a large hall. All these walls have been raised by man's attachment. Differences arise because of attachment. If all these walls of attachment are pulled down and removed, all will become one.

persons are unable to understand this even when it repeats itself 21,600 times a day. When a Guru tells you, you immediately repeat Namah Sivaya, Namah Sivaya, like a parrot. It is not chanting from the heart. All this is artificial. You have Japamala in hand, but your mind is in the market. What sort of Japa is this? How will this benefit you? The Mantra should arise from the heart. But the actions of man today have become artificial. That is why he does not have peace of mind. What is the benefit of saying Santhi, Santhi, Santhi at the physical level when it is the mind that needs peace? True Santhi lies in the unity of all the three – body, mind and heart. That is why we say Santhi three times. But look at the way you chant. You say Santhi peacefully when your mind is calm but say it fast when your mind is agitated (laughter). The whole life of man has become artificial. Puja, Japa, Dhyana, all have become artificial.

Yearn for Divine Bliss

Today is the New Year's Day for the people of Kerala. Most festivals last for one day. But you should develop sacred new thoughts on all days and not only on the festival day. Develop good thoughts, remove differences, foster unity and enhance spirituality. Then only will you enjoy bliss. You should understand first that you are the embodiment of Nityananda (eternal supreme bliss). When you develop firm faith that you are the embodiment of bliss, you will be able to face and overcome all troubles and obstructions that come your way.

Brahmanandam, Parama Sukhadam, Kevalam Jnanamurtim, Dwandwateetam, Gagana Sadrisham, Tattwamasyadi Lakshyam, Ekam, Nityam, Vimalam, Achalam, Sarvadhee Sakshibhutam, Bhavateetam, Trigunarahitam (God is the embodiment of divine bliss, supreme happiness, wisdom absolute, beyond the pair of opposites, expansive and pervasive like the sky, the goal indicated by the Mahavakya Tattwamasi, one without a second, eternal, pure, unchanging, witness of all functions of the intellect, beyond all mental conditions and the three attributes of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas).

This Sloka (verse) explains the principle of Brahman. What is Parama Sukhadam (supreme happiness)? Does it mean an air-conditioned room, comfortable sofa and good food? No, it is not true happiness. To think of God is true happiness.

When man has all the worldly comforts such as health, wealth and high position, the happiness that he experiences is called Manavananda (happiness at the human level). A hundred times more than Manavananda is Gandharvananda (happiness of celestial beings). Similarly,

a hundred times more is Devananda (happiness of gods), and a hundred times more than Devananda is Indrananda (happiness of demi gods). The state higher than that is Brihaspatirananda and the state higher than Brihaspatirananda is Hiranyagarbhananda. The highest state of bliss is Brahmananda (divine bliss). All these states of bliss are in your heart only. Worldly happiness is temporary while the bliss is eternal and divine.

Embodiments of Love!

Be prepared to give up even your life, but never forget God. Three things are important in the life of man – he should not forget God, he should not believe in the world and he should not fear death.

Death can happen only once, anytime. One cannot escape it. So, there is no need to be afraid of it. Face it bravely. The world changes constantly. There is no use having faith in it. Can one sail in a boat of stone? It will sink in the sea. The world keeps on changing but God is eternal. So, the world is untruth and only God is Truth.

This is a cloth. It is made of threads. They are interwoven to make cloth. But the cotton which has given them their form does not change. Similarly, in the changing world shines the unchanging principle. That is God.

The Whole World is one Family

Therefore, never forget God. Develop firm faith. But do not criticise others who profess other religions. To whichever religion you may belong, develop faith in God. The more you develop faith in God, the more you develop love for God. Then only your life, your country and the whole world will become good and prosperous.

Embodiments of Love!

Do not think that the country of Bharat alone should progress. Wish that the entire

world should live with peace and prosperity. The world is a big mansion. India is a room in it. There are several different rooms like America, Pakistan, China, Russia and others. The rooms of this mansion are separated by walls. If all these walls are removed, the mansion will become a large hall. All these walls have been raised by man's attachment. Differences arise because of attachment. If all these walls of attachment are pulled down and removed, all will become one. Ekam Sath (Truth is one), house is one, but persons are many! Heart is one! That is divinity. We should think of such a divinity. We should have full faith in God. None in this world with faith in God has been forsaken. Some say, God does not exist. Who is to stop those who have faith in God? If somebody says, there is no God, you should give him proper reply, saying, "God may not be there for you. But for me God exists. If there is no God for you, should there not be for me also? Who are you to say that God does not exist? You may have your opinion. But you have no authority to question my faith". On the other hand, if, because somebody says that there is no God, you also agree and say, "No God", it indicates only your weakness. Those who deny God, unwittingly state that God exists. If someone says, there is no God, the very fact that he is saying 'there is', he is acknowledging the existence of God.

As our faith in God increases, that itself will become our Prana (life-breath). That faith itself is our God! Do not give up faith. The culture of Bharat gives Ananda (bliss) in so many ways. We should not consider our culture and the culture of other nations

You have Japamala in hand, but your mind is in the market. What sort of Japa is this? How will this benefit you? The Mantra should arise from the heart. But the actions of man today have become artificial. That is why he does not have peace of mind. What is the benefit of saying Santhi, Santhi, Santhi at the physical level when it is the mind that needs peace? True Santhi lies in the unity of all the three – body, mind and heart. That is why we say Santhi three times.

as different. There is only one culture for all! The Vedas also teach this only.

*Saha Navavatu,
Saha Nau Bhunaktu,
Saha Veeryam Karavavahai,
Tejaswinavadheetamastu,
Ma Vidvishavahai. (Sanskrit Verse)
(May the Lord protect and nourish us!
May we grow in intelligence and valour
working together!
May we live in friendship without any
conflict!)*

The Vedas propound a broad vision. They do not advocate differences. They teach that the world is one family. The whole of mankind is one. Develop this thought. Then you will have a happy, healthy and peaceful life.

(Bhagavan concluded His Divine Discourse with the Bhajans, "Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma...", "Govinda Krishna Jai..." and "Subrahmanyam, Subrahmanyam...")

– **Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 14th April 1996.**

BHAGAVAN'S GANESH CHATURTHI MESSAGE

THINK OF GOD AND CHANT
HIS NAME CONSTANTLY

SUBDUE DESIRE, ANGER AND GREED

TODAY IS THE SACRED FESTIVAL of Ganesh Chaturthi. 'Ga' symbolises Buddhi (intellect), 'Na' stands for Vijnana (wisdom). So, Ganapati is the master of Buddhi and Vijnana. The universe is sustained by Ganas (gods), and Ganapati is their master.

In this world, everybody has a master, but Ganapati has none. He is the master

by himself. This is the birthday of the Master of masters. Ganapati is also called Mooshika Vahana (one who has a mouse as his vehicle). You may wonder how a small Mooshika (mouse) can carry on its back a hefty personality like Vinayaka. Here, Mooshika does not mean a mere mouse. It symbolises the darkness of ignorance because it is in darkness that the mouse moves about. Hence, Mooshika Vahana is one who subdues ignorance and dispels darkness. It is only when we understand the inner significance of the Vinayaka principle that we will be able to celebrate Vinayaka Chaturthi properly.

Understand the Principle of Unity

As long as man is immersed in body attachment, all types of hardships and miseries haunt him. Body attachment is the root cause of Sankalpas (thoughts). That is why Krishna exhorted man to give up body attachment. The inner meaning of this statement is that man should experience unity in diversity. Without Vyashti (individual), there cannot be Samashti (society). Without Samashti, there cannot be Srishti (creation). So, first of all we have to recognise the role of Vyashti. Only then can we understand the principle of Samashti, which will in turn lead to the understanding of Srishti. One who understands Srishti becomes one with



Parameshti (God). In fact, the principles of Samashti, Srishti and Parameshti are very much present in Vyashti. Hence, one has to make efforts to understand Vyashti in the first instance.

Vyashti symbolises Jiva (individual) whereas Samashti stands for Deva (God). There is not much difference between the individual soul and the Cosmic Spirit. As long as Vyashti identifies himself with the body, he leads a very ordinary life. It is only when he identifies himself with Samashti can he understand the principle of creation. So, firstly man should make efforts to understand the true meaning of Vyashti. This is the message of Vinayaka. Ganapati is another name of Vinayaka. Ganapati is one who grants good intellect and confers wisdom.

People today perform Vinayaka worship without actually understanding its significance. Vinayaka symbolises the qualities of a true leader in all aspects. *Viyate Nayake iti Vinayaka* (He is the master unto himself). In this world, Vinayaka is worshipped by many. However, Vinayaka does not worship anyone since He has no master above him. Even Easwara worships his son Vinayaka, but it does not happen the other way.

Body Attachment is the Main Cause of Man's Worries

Today no one is making an attempt to know the principle of Parameshti, who is the fundamental force behind Vyashti, Samashti and Srishti. Parameshti is the master of all. In this world, man undertakes various activities, of which some are good and some are bad. Man's Sankalpa (thought) is the root cause of this duality. Good thoughts lead to good actions, and vice versa. Man is the embodiment

of Sankalpas and Vikalpas (resolutions and aberrations). True spiritual practice lies in controlling these thoughts and aberrations.

Today man is troubled by worries and anxieties. There is not a moment when he is free from worries. What are the worries that disturb man? To be born is a worry, to be on the earth is a worry; world is a cause of worry and death too; entire childhood is a worry and so is the old age; life is a worry, failure is a worry; all actions and difficulties cause worry; even happiness too is a mysterious worry. (Telugu Poem)

Body attachment is the primary cause of all worries. Man cannot attain happiness without difficulties and worries. *Pleasure is an interval between two pains.* It is impossible to experience happiness without undergoing difficulties. There is divinity in every human being. The power latent in man is not present elsewhere. However, he is unable to make use of the divine power in him. Every man is endowed with Buddhi (intellect) which has immense potentiality. Vijnana (wisdom) is far superior to intellect. The principles of Buddhi and Vijnana have to be properly understood in the first instance.

Subdue Hatred and Anger

Today man is not making proper use of his Mati (mind), Gati (destiny), Sthiti (position) and Sampatti (wealth). As a result, he is losing the sacred energy that God has given him. Not merely this. He is subjected to misery and grief because of his evil traits like Kama, Krodha and Lobha (desire, anger and greed). He has absolutely no control over his desires. When one desire is fulfilled, he craves for another. Anger is another evil trait that ruins man.



One with anger will not be successful in any of his endeavours.

He will commit sins and will be ridiculed by one and all.

His own people will abandon him.

He will lose all wealth and respect.

His anger will ruin him completely.

(Telugu Song)

Anger is one's enemy, peace is the protective shield, compassion is the true relation, happiness is verily the heaven and misery is the hell.

(Telugu Song)

Hatred is more dangerous than anger. It gives rise to many evil qualities, which come in the way of experiencing Divinity. Man is supposed to live for a hundred years, but his lifespan is cut short by these evil qualities. When these evil traits are totally subdued, man can enjoy a long and happy life. He will not lose his life even if he were to meet with a serious accident. Man is tormented by the reaction, reflection, and resound of his own evil qualities. Desire, anger and hatred are not human qualities; they are bestial tendencies. Man becomes a beast if he allows these wicked qualities to overpower him. He should constantly remind himself that he is a human being and not a beast. In this manner, he can keep a check over his bestial tendencies. Unfortunately, the youth of today are developing excessive desires and, consequently, their future is ruined.

Human life can be compared to a four-storeyed mansion. Brahmacharya (celibate stage), Grihastha (householder stage), Vanaprastha

(recluse stage) and Sannyasa (renunciant stage) are the four stages of human life. Brahmacharya is the foundation; if the foundation is strong, the other three stages will be automatically taken care of. But modern youth are ruining three-fourths of their lives because they don't have a strong foundation of Brahmacharya. When elders advise them to pray to God for at least five minutes, they say they have no time, but they have all the time in the world to wallow in bad qualities and bad habits. Students and youth in particular should make every effort to build a strong foundation of Brahmacharya.

Merely remaining a bachelor is not Brahmacharya; constant contemplation on Brahma is true Brahmacharya. Think of God and chant His Name under all circumstances. Lead a life of purity. Dedicate your life to the principle of love. This ensures the safety of the mansion of your life. You see the walls, you see the roof, you see the entire building, but you don't see the foundation. It is hidden underneath. However, the safety of the mansion, which is seen from outside, rests on the unseen foundation. When you build a house, you design the walls and roof in such a manner to make it look attractive. But the foundation that bears the entire building does not require any beautification. Yet, it is the most important part of the building. Today, man is not bothered about the foundation of life. He is more concerned about the external appearance.

– Excerpted from Bhagavan's Ganesh Chaturthi Discourse on 10th September 2002.





BHAGAVAN WRITES FOR SANATHANA SARATHI

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

The article given in this issue forms the first part of the article which was published in August 1984 issue of Sanathana Sarathi. The subsequent issues of Sanathana Sarathi will also carry articles of "Leela Kaivalya Vahini" which expound the profound knowledge of the Vedas. Since Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself is the Veda Purusha and the Vedas have emerged from Him, there can be no greater authority to propound the eternal values and invaluable teachings of the Vedas than Him. The seekers who want to grasp the authoritative and true import of the spiritual truths contained in these most ancient scriptures should read and reread these articles.



వీలాకైవల్య వాహిని

(సాయి సాధకుల సంభాషణ)

ఇంతేకాదు. సకారాస్త పదము వేద బ్రహ్మకు మరొక నామము. దానికే వేదః అనగా ధనము, జ్ఞానము లేక పరమైశ్వర్యము అని అర్థములు.

తొక్కి ధనముకంటే వేదమాతా ప్రసాదరూపమగునట్టి ధనమే విలక్షణమై పురుషార్థ సాధకమగును. దీనినే పరమైశ్వర్య జ్ఞానము అని కూడా అందురు. ఇది వేదరూప బ్రహ్మమును దర్శింపజేయును.

దీనినే వేదములో కూడా, 'దేవా! నీవు వేద స్వరూపుడవు, పశుపుత్రాది ధనముతో లేక పరమైశ్వర్యముతో, జ్ఞానముతో నన్ను నింపుము. అట్టి ధనముతో నేను తృప్తుడనగుదును. ఆ ధనము నీ కైంకర్యమునకు వినియోగింపబడినది అగుటచే నీవునూ తృప్తుడవగుదువు' అని ప్రార్థించిరి వేద ఋషులు.

సాధకుడు : ఈనాడు అట్టి ప్రార్థనతో కూడిన భావములు ఎక్కడా కనిపించుటలేదు. అర్థములు తెలియక కేవలము గ్రామఫోను ప్లేటు పాడినట్లు అలవాటులో దానిని ఉచ్చరించుచున్నారు కదా! వారికి ఈశ్వరైశ్వర్యజ్ఞానము లభించునా?

సాయి : బాబూ! నీవే చెప్పుచున్నావు, కేవలము గ్రామఫోను ప్లేటువలె ఉచ్చరించుచున్నారని. గ్రామఫోను ప్లేటువలె ఉచ్చరించువారికి గ్రామఫోను ప్లేటుకు ఏ ఫలితము లభించునో, ఏ ఐశ్వర్యము లభించునో, వారికీ అట్టి ఐశ్వర్యమే లభించును. సకలైశ్వర్య జ్ఞానము ఎట్లు లభించును? కొమ్మను కొట్టి, నాటి, ఇది చెట్టు అన, అది చెట్టెట్లగును? భావశుద్ధితో, అర్థభావముతో వేదమును ఉచ్చరించువారికి సకలైశ్వర్యజ్ఞానమగు బ్రహ్మవిద్య లభ్యమగును.

సాధకుడు : కేవలము వేదమంత్రము మాత్రమేనా, లేక ఏ మంత్రమైనా భావశుద్ధి, అర్థభావముతో ఉండవలెనా?

సాయి : బాబూ! అందరికీ వేదము తెలియదు కదా! తెలియనంత మాత్రాన, వారికి సకలైశ్వర్యజ్ఞానమగు బ్రహ్మవిద్య, బ్రహ్మప్రాప్తి లభించదని భావించరాదు. ఏ నామమైనా, ఏ మంత్రమైనా భావశుద్ధితో, అర్థభావముతో ఉచ్చరించిన, అట్టివారికి సకలైశ్వర్య స్వరూపుడగు బ్రహ్మ అనుగ్రహముతో బ్రహ్మవిద్య ప్రాప్తి నందించును.

సాధకుడు : స్వామీ! సామాన్యముగా ధనము సర్ధించని వారుండరు లోకమున. అయిన, యెట్టి ధనమును అర్ధింపవలెనో, ఎట్లది వేదరూపమగునో, దీనిని వేదము ఏ విధమున తెలిపినదో సెలవివ్వండి.

సాయి : 'వేదం పరమేశ్వరం, వేదయతీతి వేద సః వేదస్త్యమ్'.

శుభప్రాప్తి సాధనమై అర్ధింపబడునది అగుటచే ధనాదికము అర్థః అని చెప్పబడుచున్నది.

LEELA KAIVALYA VAHINI

Sai Speaks to Sadhaka

The Brahman concept of the Vedas is also denoted by the word that has sa as the end syllable. Veda, for this reason, means wealth (Dhana), wisdom (Jnana) and the highest potency (Param Aishwarya). The wealth here indicated is distinct from worldly gains and possessions. It is the means, by which the supreme goal can be attained. In other words, the wealth acquired through the Grace of Mother Veda (Veda Mata), is the most potent Wisdom itself. For this reason, the Vedic Rishis prayed thus: “God! You are the very embodiment of the Veda (Veda Swarupa). Fill me, not with the burden of cattle and children, but with the Wisdom that is the source of Param Aishwarya. I shall be fully content with that wealth (Dhana). And since such wealth is capable of being utilised for Your service, You, too, will be glad, when I have it”.

Sadhaka: Swami! We do not find today feelings that produce such prayers, anywhere among men. People repeat these Vedic prayers as gramophone records do, without any knowledge of their meanings, out of sheer habit. Is it not so? Do they get the Wisdom that is the most precious treasure of God?

Sai: My dear fellow! You yourself said now that they recite the Veda as gramophone records do, didn't you? So, they gain as much wisdom and Aishwarya as those records get. How can they acquire the treasure of full potency? Planting a branch that has been severed, can one claim that it is a tree growing there? Those, who recite the Vedas with the awareness of their meaning, experiencing at the same time the feelings embedded in the hymns, they alone can earn the Grace of Brahman, the Brahma Vidya, the Highest Wisdom, the Supreme Treasure (Sakalaishwarya).

Sadhaka: Swami! Generally speaking, there will be no one who does not crave wealth. But, what form of wealth is to be craved for? Which form will be approved by the Veda? What has the Veda said about this? Instruct me.

Sai: “Vedam Paramaishwaryam,” (Veda is the highest treasure). “Vedayatiti Veda”, (That, which gives instruction, is known as Veda). “Sah Vedastwam” (Get instructed by that Veda). Wealth (Dhana) is desired and sought out (Artha) as a means for prosperity and progress (Shubha).



DEEPENING OUR FAITH IN SWAMI'S SANKALPA*

Dr. Ramesh M. Wadhvani

AS WE ALL SETTLED DOWN in the interview room, I noticed that one person in the South American group was in wheelchair. Baba materialised a three-studded diamond ring for him, placed it on his finger, and proceeded to take His seat on His chair. Shortly thereafter, Baba instructed the same man to get up. Upon hearing this, one woman from the group exclaimed, "No, Swami"! Baba again commanded him to get up. At this point, the woman sternly said, "No Swami, he has been physically challenged since childhood; he will fall down". Baba simply responded, "I know". He got up from His chair and proceeded towards the man in the wheelchair. Bhagavan gently tapped both his knees three times and commanded him once more to get up. Baba remained by his side. To everyone's amazement, the physically challenged man stumbled at first, and then began walking. With an expression of joy and amazement on his face, he seemed in disbelief at his newly found ability to stand on his own two legs! There were tears of joy streaming down everyone's face, and then cheers and applause resonated in the room with every step he took. It was at once amazing and inexplicable. We could not fathom what had just transpired before our eyes. It seemed like an impossible feat, yet undeniably real.

Baba gave us a glimpse of His omniscience and omnipotence, which reinforced our belief in the potency of



His Divine Sankalpa. His Word is His Command, and His Word is Truth.

A few minutes later, Baba and the group of devotees emerged from the inner interview room. Baba announced, "Not only can the gentleman walk, but he can also sit cross-legged on the floor to do meditation"! This was an emphatic Divine statement and an immense blessing – in one big swoop.

**Continued from the previous issue.*



When He Wills, it Just Happens

Soon it was my turn to be with Baba in the inner interview room – I went in alone. As He sat on His chair, I knelt down and took Padanamaskar. He immediately started imitating the thought process that had started ringing in my mind while I was in the Darshan line outside: “thinking in mind, ‘Baba Dhekhaga yaa Nahi Dhekhaga, Bolega, yaa Nahi Bolega...’ what rubbish! You must have more faith than that”!! I became a bit emotional and told Him, “I am sorry Baba, but mother is in hospital on respirator and in coma. Doctors have given up hope and want her life support removed. How can we take away her life? Swami, we pray for Your Divine blessings and guidance, please”. To this, Baba responded, “Continue to do what you are doing as your Seva to mother and leave the rest to God. Baba will give Prasadam for mother”. Upon these words, He granted me Padanamaskar, and I took leave.

My mind settled immediately upon acknowledging that He was in full control of the situation. It became clear to me that we must take responsibility for all our actions and do everything in the spirit of Seva. However, we must leave the outcome to Him and let Him become the basis of our life. He had just prepared me for whatever outcome lay ahead. At that moment, I accepted that all was undoubtedly His Divine Will.

The interview ended, and Swami distributed Vibhuti to all as we stood in a line. I was last in line, and when my turn came to receive Vibhuti, He took a large handful of packets and pressed them into the palm of my hand with an unusual amount of pressure, saying: “This is for mother”. I was very happy. What happened in this interview is beyond human measure and comprehension. I offered Namaskars

to Baba and informed Him that Sunita was arriving the next day for His summer school programme with USA girls, and then I joined the group again.

As I was leaving, I caught glimpse of the woman who was pushing the empty wheelchair. Only moments ago, that chair carried a completely paralysed man. I marvelled at watching him now walking freely alongside the woman. Devotees outside cheered and welcomed them enthusiastically. I reflected deeply on the miracle of His Sankalpa, “Get Up”, and concluded emphatically that nothing is ever impossible for Baba. When He Wills, it just happens. It seems also evident that as soon as He Wills it - without any delay - the five elements, Nature and all the unseen divine forces gather in perfect harmony and unity at a lightning speed to execute the command of His Divine Will. Divine Ordinance always carries out the task to utmost perfection!! Upon reflection, I knew that mother’s healing was possible if He Willed it – against all worldly odds.

Upon my return to Pune, I briefed my brothers on what had transpired with Bhagavan. I requested that we terminate all traditional medical treatments on mother, and instead give her Swami’s Vibhuti Prasadam through her feeding tube. With this decision, I touched my mom’s holy feet and proceeded to receive my wife and 12 girls at Mumbai airport. After this, I immediately boarded my return flight to New York.

I reached home 24 hours later and promptly called the hospital where my mother had been resting to enquire about her condition. To my utter surprise, I learnt she had come out of coma, moved out of the ICU into a regular room, and was taking her normal meals. Once again, it was an unbelievable miracle!



Trust His Words and Surrender to His Will

My mother visited Baba a few months later to receive His Divine blessings. On landing in Puttaparthi, Swami granted her a personal interview in which she thanked Him for all the grace He had lovingly showered over our family.

Throughout this life-altering trip, Swami taught us a few more lessons about life. It felt as if He had handed me a report card, and granted me a glimpse into the spiritual work that lay ahead.

1. I realised that despite many close encounters with Baba for 15+ years, I had not yet acquired unshakeable faith in Him. Yet, the Lord of Compassion and Mercy was still by my side to take care of my family and me.
2. I also learned that if one removed attachments to life events, one could escape the experience of anxiety.
3. I intimately experienced the fact that Baba is all-knowing, and His Will knows no obstacles.

His Divine Sankalpa is strikingly evident in each of His interventions with my family. He left an indelible mark of love in the heart of each one of us. Our experience of His Sankalpa has healing power in our lives till today, far beyond the immediacy of these events. Trusting His Word and surrendering to His Will count among our greatest lessons learned. On reflecting back, I now realise that He knew He was going to cure my mother and extend her life by a few years. However, how gracefully He intermixed the events and experiences in one trip, so that we, His children, could learn the meaning of duty. He guided my wife to do her duty to 12 USA Sai young adult girls, and He guided us to do our



Baba again commanded him to get up. At this point, the woman sternly said, "No Swami, he has been physically challenged since childhood; he will fall down". Baba simply responded, "I know". He got up from His chair and proceeded towards the man in the wheelchair. Bhagavan gently tapped both his knees three times and commanded him once more to get up. Baba remained by his side. To everyone's amazement, the physically challenged man stumbled at first, and then began walking. With an expression of joy and amazement on his face, he seemed in disbelief at his newly found ability to stand on his own two legs!



duty and serve mother. Moreover, He did His duty out of mercy to His devotee, by extending life of the mother...

We are all becoming a reflection of Bhagavan – both as separate individuals, and as a family unit. Our family is moulded by His love, guidance, teachings and blessings. Baba is at the very core of our family identity.

'Sai Sankalpa is Vajra Sankalpa' (the Will of Sai is irresistible like a thunderbolt). His Word is His Command. His Word is Truth and Truth will always prevail, no matter whatever the worldly obstacles.

– The author, Dr. Ramesh Wadhwani, has been an ardent devotee of Bhagavan for more than four decades. His residence "Sai Nivas" in Shelton, CT, USA has become a full-fledged Sai Centre.



Effulgence of Divine Glory

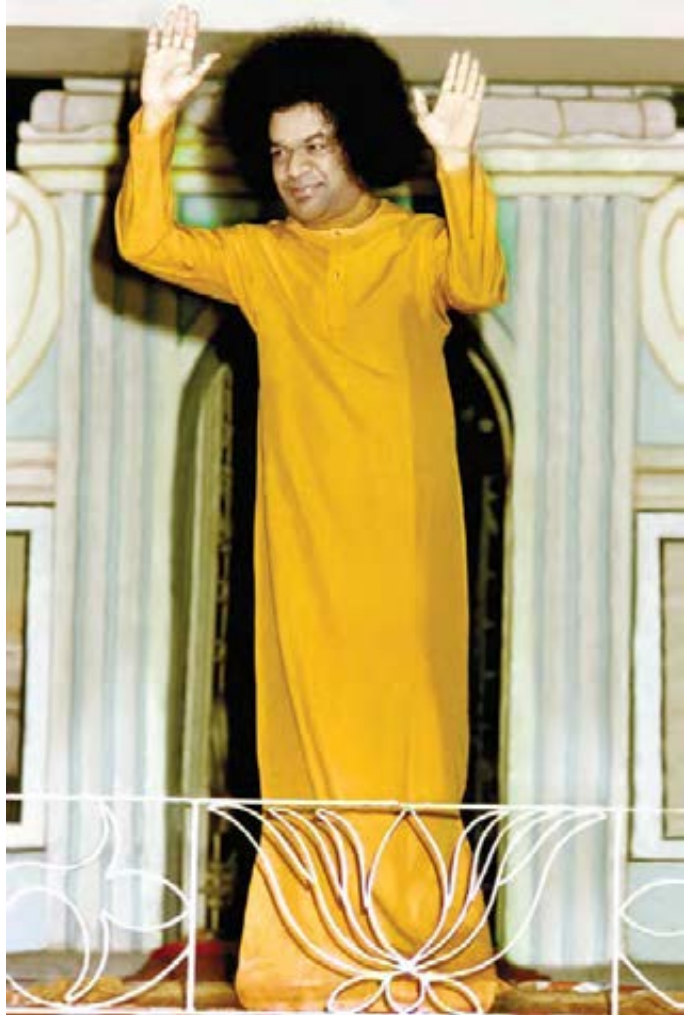
A FILM DIRECTOR'S ENCOUNTERS WITH BABA*

Jeff Grant

THE USUAL ASHRAM accommodation couldn't possibly handle all the people there. Hundreds slept on the floor in the Poornachandra Hall. All around were banners carrying Baba's sayings. One of the most beautiful things I've ever heard was, "Shed just one tear, and I will wipe away a hundred from your eyes".

The day before we were to leave the Ashram, my producer and I sat on the steps of a building. The birthday celebrations were over and a sort of quiet had descended. She was talking about Swami, as she called Him, and said two things that stuck in my mind. First, she said that He will test us as devotees, and on the very things we find most difficult to cope with. Second, she said that He will sometimes materialise a ring or necklace for somebody, put it on the person and ask him or her not to take it off. He had never done that for her, she said, and she was very glad because she would find something like that very difficult to come to terms with.

That afternoon our crew was filming and word came through the walkie-talkie



that if anybody on the unit wanted to have an audience with Sai Baba later that afternoon, we were welcome. I had to go. Two others decided they too would go. We sat on a cold marble slab waiting outside

**Continued from the previous issue.*

that little room in Prasanthi for an hour. My head whirled again. What could I say to this being? What could I ask Him for? Round and round it all went, and in the end, almost in a state of mental exhaustion, I thought, "Oh hell, all I want is to be me. Whatever that is".

The three of us and the producer went in. In bounced Sai Baba. We all stood in a semi-circle. My heart was pounding. He came to me and stood right in front of me. I wanted to cry. He looked at me, put His hand on my stomach and said, "Not so much pain now. But now, you need something sweet to eat. Hold out your hand". I did so, and again with that whirling motion of His hand He deposited in my palm a mound of a sort of red, semolina-like pudding that is common in India. I just looked at it. "Eat it," He said. I did. "Soon I give you complete peace," He said, and moved on, leaving me wondering what on earth He meant.

Finally, He came to the producer. "You return to London on 11th," He said.

"No," she said, "We all go back on the 3rd. I have the tickets".

"I think you'll find you go back on 11th," said Baba. When her attorney met us at the Bombay (Mumbai) airport, one of the first things he said was that there had been a problem and he had booked the flight back one week later.

Baba talked to her for a bit and then suddenly said, "Lean forward". She did. He did that whirling motion with His hand, and from the middle of His palm dropped a large silver necklace. The camera assistant, who was standing next to me (we were about twelve feet from Baba), let out a gasp of amazement. Then Baba put the necklace around the producer's neck and said, "Don't take it off". Her words of that morning came straight back to me, "He has never materialised anything for me that He has insisted I wear. I would find that very hard to come to terms with", and "He tests you about those things you find most difficult to cope with".

As I stood there, in that little room in the middle of nowhere, five thousand miles from home, I felt that I had come home.

About the film: I once had two copies, I now have none and have no idea where they have gone. The producer had a number of copies and she can't find any. The last remaining copy I was aware of was with the cameraman, but he told me recently that his video player chewed up most of it. I had taken a lot of still photos and the camera assistant offered to give them to the film labs along with the actual film. The labs lost the negatives. Make of all that what you will.

– Excerpted from the article of Jeff Grant, a British film director, in "Encounters with Divinity".

The sun vaporises ocean water. Though the water of the oceans is saline, the rain water that falls from the clouds tastes sweet. Similarly, the saline water of bad conduct should be transformed into the clouds of truth by the sun of Buddhi (intellect). Then alone will the sweet water of Prema fall from the clouds of truth and virtue.

– Baba

MY EXPERIENCES IN BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE PROXIMITY ❁

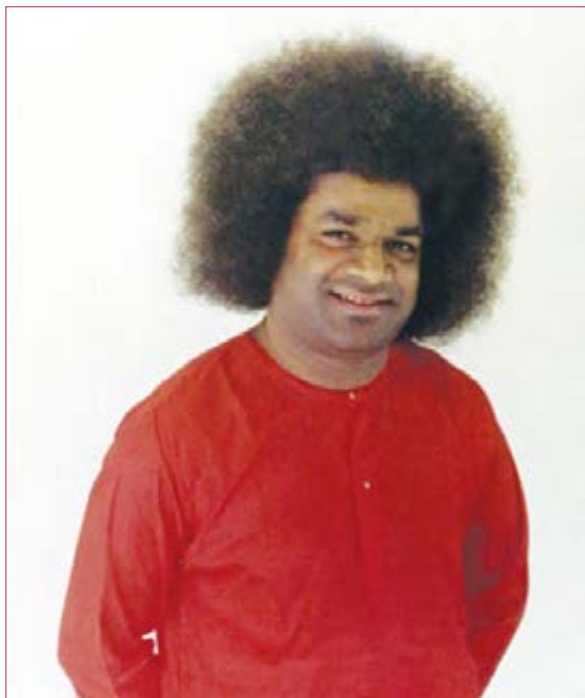
Srivilas Suri



ONE HOT SUMMER, I WAS standing in the portico. Swami summoned me to come up. I was very surprised. I was squatting near the divan where Swami had removed His Jubba and I was massaging His legs. He was having betel leaves and suddenly on one leaf, He started sketching.

Swami Reveals His Divine Plan for Prasanthi Nilayam

He told me: "Orayi Konni Nelalo, Ikkadiki airplanes Vastayyi. Railway line Kooda Vastundi. Prasanthi Nilayam Rupu Rekhalu Maari Pothundi. Moodu Antasthula Illu Vastayi. Illa Meeda Kokalu (Saris) Valadutu Vuntayi. Videshala Nunchi Chaala Mandi Vastaru. Appudu Neeku Erra gown Kanipistundi Swamini Chooda Tanaki Chaala Kashtam. Pedda Hall Vastundi Vela Mandi Bhaktulu Andulo Vuntaru. Mandiram Chuttu Illu Untayi (In a few months, there will be airplanes, railway lines here. The entire Prasanthi Nilayam's contours and landscape will change. There will be houses on all the three sides and devotees from overseas will throng this place. To see Swami will be very difficult, you can see only a distant red gown. A big hall will be constructed, and thousands of devotees will be seated there). He was talking about the plans in the Nilayam. I said, "Swami, Ee Chotuku Evaru Vastaru? Sariyena road Kooda Ledu" (Swami, who will come to this place which does not have even proper approach roads?) To this Swami said, "Vastayyi Ra. Nuvvu Chooda Levu. Pedda hospital Vastundi" (it will definitely come. You will not be able to



witness such a phenomenon. A big hospital will be built). Thus, Swami was talking to me and all the time He was sketching with His nail, the designs of the buildings. I asked Swami for the betel leaf and He immediately swallowed it. His prophetic prediction was fulfilled one hundred per cent in later years but I was not there to witness the monumental constructions and the changes which were done in the Nilayam, as He told me.

He talked to me for over two hours and the time for interview was approaching. Swami had bolted His door from inside and as usual, Kistappa, Surayya and Kasturi were waiting for Swami to come down. They were shocked that I was with Swami all the time. I was known to roam around Nilayam

**Continued from the previous issue. This is the third part of the article of Sri Suri.*

and always difficult to locate. They wanted to know what I was doing in Swami's room. I was completely flabbergasted at the plans of Swami and went away silently, without saying anything. Only in the night, I told Kasturi about what Swami had told me. He did not believe and asked Swami if what I was telling was true. Swami said "Yes". I was wondering if I was the first person to be aware of His plans?

Duty as Doorkeeper of Swami

While doing the duty of doorkeeper of Swami, I had very embarrassing moments to tackle. Dr. Bhagavantam, was the Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and he used to frequent Bengaluru and from there to Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami would always receive him and talk to him.

One day, Dr. Bhagavantam came and sought an audience with Swami. But Swami was not willing to see Dr. Bhagavantam. Bhagavantam sent messages through Kasturi and others for permission to see Swami. But Swami was not moved. Swami called me, as I was on Dwarapalaka duty, to inform Bhagavantam that Swami was not willing to see him. But Bhagavantam persisted till afternoon. Finally, Swami said that He was not going to come down, unless Bhagavantam left the place. Only after he left did Swami come down and resume the interviews.

Later on, we learnt that Bhagavantam was seeking an extension for the Advisory post and he wanted Swami to recommend to the President! It is another matter that after retirement, Bhagavantam became the official translator for the speeches of Swami. Another time E. Satyamurthy, a staunch devotee of Swami had come to the Nilayam along with his wife, but Swami would not see him. I was given

the unpleasant task of telling Satyamurthy that he should go back as Swami was not interested in seeing him. Strange are the ways of Swami, and it was very difficult to understand His ways!

A Unique Drama Presentation

One Dasara, Swami decided to stage "Bhakta Pahlada" drama in the auditorium. He selected the boys from the Veda Pathashala for performance. He wrote the dialogues, songs and also tuned them. Mysore Raghu was trained to render the songs. Rehearsals were held in the gent's shed, after 10 p.m. Swami would call the Pathashala boys to His room and make them practise the dialogues. Swami was the Producer, Director, Script Writer and Music Director!

The D-Day came and Swami had asked me and others to prepare the stage for the drama. We got branches of trees to create a forest atmosphere. Petromax lights were brought as stand by, because there were frequent power failures. He wanted His devotees to direct the lights from the cars on to the stage, in case of power failure!

Then came the tricky question of providing a curtain. Swami asked me to fetch from the village four pulleys, which are used for drawing water from the wells. He then instructed me, how they should be tied and how the ropes for opening and closing the curtain should be fixed. What meticulous planning! Was it not the brains of an engineer? From where did He learn all this technique? Microphones were suspended from the beams of the stage. Thus, the drama was staged and it was a success beyond belief. Anjali Devi and Adinarayana Rao watched this epic drama. They got inspired seeing this drama and produced the film Bhakta Pahlada, which was a huge success. Some of the tunes in

the film were copies from the tunes set by Swami!

Swami's Birthday Celebrations

Before the commencement of the celebrations, it was customary for Swami to hoist the Prasanthi Nilayam Flag on the terrace of the 2nd floor. The celebration of the Birthday was a memorable experience for me. For some reason, Swami did not get garlanded by the VIP's and Kasturi and Surayya. These people with garlands were waiting in the interview room. Instead, Swami asked me to fetch the garlands and garland Him. I told Swami that people were waiting downstairs for garlanding, but Swami said, "Nuvvu Veyyi Valla Sangathi Neeku Enduku" (you garland. Why do you bother about others?) What is this? I had just escaped the punishment, and now He asked me to garland Him.

Then, He took the flowers from the garlands and showered them on the people waiting in the open as if it was a flowery blessing. For the Birthday celebrations, Shirdi Sai idol was brought to the shed as usual and Puja was performed.

One devotee had brought Laddus to be distributed as Prasadam for the Birthday of Swami. Swami asked me to get the silver vessel from His room. This was filled to the brim with Laddus. Swami ordered me to carry the weighty silver vessel with Laddus and asked me to follow Him. He first started in the Gents Wing at 11 a.m. I was not only carrying the silver vessel, but also His handkerchiefs on my shoulder. Around 2 p.m., He went to the Ladies Wing. Normally, only ladies would be allowed in the Ladies Wing. But, here, Swami made it different. He just growled at me when I hesitated to enter the Ladies Wing, saying,

"Yemiti? Enduku Agavu? Raa" (What is this? Why have you stopped? Come).

Carrying the vessel was very difficult because the ladies were clamouring for the feet of Swami. As a result, I was losing balance. Somehow, I managed to hold, and by 4 p.m., the distribution was over. The surprising part was that the silver vessel was not filled again, and it was like an Akshaya Patra (inexhaustible vessel)!

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., neither Swami had a sip of water, nor did I. The Laddus started dwindling as we neared the completion of distribution! Is this not a miracle by Swami, which I had once again experienced and witnessed? He quickly went to His room and I followed Him carrying the empty silver vessel. My hands could not bend and were frozen stiff due to carrying the vessel for almost four hours. Swami looked at me and asked "Yemiti? Ayyo Chetulu Vanga Talleda (What happened? Are your hands not bending?). So saying, He just ran His hand over my hands and lo! I could bend my hands normally! Another personal miracle! I told Swami, that I did not have the Prasadam. He just smiled and said nothing. May be, His company for five hours was itself a once in a lifetime Prasadam, because out of the hundreds that had gathered, why, only I was chosen?

I just took an apple which He gave and that was the first food and water after five hours! By 6 p.m., I was ready for His Discourse as mike man! My father also attended this Birthday.

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

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



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH

DEEP DEVOTION OF THE devotees of the State of Himachal Pradesh came to the fore when they presented three devotional music and cultural programmes on 27th, 28th and 29th July 2019 as part of their three-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam.

A sumptuous feast of Hindustani classical vocal music was the first offering which was made by a noted Hindustani classical vocalist Dr. Hemraj Chandel and his party on 27th July 2019.

Beginning his concert at 5.00 p.m., the talented singer enthralled the devotees for nearly one hour with choicest Hindustani classical compositions, some of which were: "Bigdi Meri Jaaye Sudhar Jo Ho Jaaye Teri Nazar" (my life will be redeemed by Your look of grace), "Pakad Leeni Bahiyan Mori" (the Lord has caught hold of my hand), "Krishna Bhaja Krishna, Krishna Bhaja Krishna" (worship Krishna).

On 28th July 2019, Sai Youth of Himachal Pradesh, both boys and girls, presented a very innovative and enchanting programme of fusion music in the form of medley of Bhajans, devotional songs and Mantras. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. kept the devotees totally absorbed for nearly one hour and concluded with the Bhajan "Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam" in the golden voice of Bhagavan.

"Himachal Se Sai Anchal" (from Himachal to Sai's proximity) was the final presentation of the Himachal Pradesh



Devotional music presentation by the students of Sai Educare Vidya Pratishthan, Himachal Pradesh.

devotees which was offered by the students of Sai Educare Vidya Pratishthan, Dharamshala on 29th July 2019. The programme began with a dance number dedicated to Lord Ganesh followed by two scintillating dances by the students. The students then offered a bouquet of devotional songs which earned the appreciation of the listeners



Fusion music by Sai Youth of Himachal Pradesh.

by their melody and music. Some of the songs rendered by the singers were: "Sai Deva Mahadeva", "Madhura Mohana Ghanashyama Sundara Sai" (Sai is full of sweet charm), "O, Pyari Pyari Maa" (Oh beloved mother). Bhajans followed next and concluded with Arati.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM HARYANA AND CHANDIGARH

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Haryana and Chandigarh organised a two-day Parthi Yatra (pilgrimage to Puttaparthi) on 3rd and 4th August 2019, in which more than 1,300 devotees came to participate.

As a part of this pilgrimage, the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Chaudhrivas (Hisar) along with Bal Vikas Gurus and Sai Youth of Haryana and Chandigarh presented a dance drama on 3rd August 2019, and Sai Youth from Haryana and Chandigarh presented a devotional

than His Name), beautifully illustrated this theme through the depiction of the story of King Shakunta who was saved by Hanuman by chanting the Name of Rama. Interspersed with excellent dances of the children, the drama highlighted the teaching of Bhagavan Baba that service to man is service to God.

On 4th August, Sai Youth (girls) presented a devotional music programme "Sai Geetanjali" (musical offering to Lord Sai) showcasing their deep devotion to



A devotional music presentation by Sai Youth (girls) of Haryana and Chandigarh.



A dance drama showcasing the power of Rama's Name.

music programme on 4th August 2019. The dance drama entitled "Ram Se Bada Ram Ka Naam, Naam Se Bada Ram Ka Kaam" (Rama's Name is more powerful than Rama and His Work is more powerful

Bhagavan and depth of musical nuances. Beginning their programme with Ganapati Vandana (worship to Lord Ganesh), they melodiously rendered a variety of devotional songs which included a classical composition, a Shabad from Gurbani, a Sufi Bhajan and a Haryanavi Bhajan. They concluded their programme with an excellently rendered Bhajan medley.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM WEST GODAVARI

A large contingent of devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from West Godavari district of Andhra

Pradesh and presented two excellent programmes as part of their pilgrimage.

The first programme was a devotional music presentation offered by the Mahila Vibhag (Ladies Wing) on 10th August 2019. Heart-warming devotional songs and sweet music of the presentation surcharged the entire milieu with



Devotional music presentation by the Ladies Wing of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

devotional fervour. The songs rendered by the singers were “Sai Sharanam Sathya Sai Sharanam” (Sai is my refuge), “Vande Vande Mataram Vande Vande Mataram” (salutations to the Divine Mother), “Jai Jai Sai Ram Jai Jai Sai Ram” to mention a few.

The second programme was a dance drama which was presented by Sai Youth and Bal Vikas children of this district. Enriched by the beautiful dances of the children, the drama depicted how the values-based education system of Bhagavan was bringing about transformation in the lives of the students and orienting them to the path of service and spirituality.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Patriotic spirit of Independence Movement of India came alive when the postgraduate students of Prasanthi



A patriotic drama on Independence Day by Institute students.

Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning enacted a drama entitled “Bharat Ki Awaaz” (the voice of India) on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day of India on 15th August 2019. As the episodes of the revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh were enacted by the students, the entire hall reverberated with the slogans like “Inquilab Zindabad” (hail the revolution) and the revolutionary songs like “Sar Faroshi Ki Tamanna Ab Hamaare Dil Mein Hein” (we are imbued with the spirit of self-sacrifice).

The drama concluded with the famous patriotic Telugu poem of Bhagavan in His voice “Khandakhantantara” showcasing the glory of Bharat and elucidating how the voice of Bharat was the voice of courage, valour, truth and righteousness. Singing of the National Anthem by the entire congregation marked the end of this excellent patriotic drama.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM ODISHA

A number of elevating music and cultural programmes were presented by devotees of Odisha as part of their pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam on 17th and 18th August 2019.

Two presentations were made by the Odisha contingent on 17th August 2019.

First, the Odisha devotees presented a dance drama entitled “Shakti: the Dance of Energy” which depicted three mythological stories, in the first two of which Lord Vishnu acted as Mohini (enchanting form of Vishnu) to impart ambrosia obtained from Sagar Manthan (churning of the ocean) to gods and to destroy the demon Bhasmasura to save Lord Siva. The third was the story of Mahishasura Mardini which showed how goddess Durga annihilated the demon Mahishasura. By all accounts,

Bal Vikas children was a wonderful combination of heart-warming songs and thrilling music.

The programme on 18th August 2019 began with a unique drama “Karuna” (compassion) performed by the students of Deaf and Dumb School, Bhubaneswar. The drama which began at 5.00 p.m. kept the spectators spellbound for more than 30 minutes as the students performed various acts of compassion through gestures and movements assisted by appropriate musical sounds without any dialogues.

This superb presentation was followed by another sublime offering “Hridaya Veena” (Veena of the heart) by the Sai Symphony Group of Odisha comprising both ladies and gents singers. Beginning their programme with a song dedicated to



Dance drama “Shakti: the Dance of Energy”.

it was an excellent performance. The second presentation was a devotional music programme “Bhava Naivedyam” (a devout offering) which was made by the Bal Vikas Sai Symphony Group of Odisha. Beginning their presentation with a prayer song dedicated to Lord Siva “Om Namah Sivaya”, they next presented two beautiful songs “Kamal Nayan Wale Ram” (lotus-eyed Rama), “Biswa Jagannatha” (the Lord of the universe). After this, they presented a Qawali and concluded their programme with an excellent Bhajan medley. The entire presentation of the



Devotional music presentation by the devotees of Odisha.

Lord Siva “Siva Sankari”, they went on to present a Mira Bhajan “Baso Mere Nainan Mein Nandalal” (Oh Krishna, reside in my eyes) and followed it with a Qawali. They concluded their programme with a beautiful Kirtan “Haye Krushna Haye Krushna” in Sambalpuri folk language.

SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

Deep devotion and piety marked the sacred festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami which was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd August 2019.

The morning programme began with a an instrumental music offering by Nadaswaram group of students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Thereafter, the Institute students sang the glory of Lord Krishna by their enrapturing rendition of Stotras and devotional songs which included Krishnashtakam, Pandurangashtakam, "Mere To Giridhara Gopal Doosro Na Koyi" (I have none other as refuge than Krishna), "Baaje Muraliya Baaje" (Krishna's flute gives sweet notes).

At 9.00 a.m., the procession of beautifully decorated cows entered Sai Kulwant Hall led by Nadaswaram musicians, Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. As the cows were stationed in two rows by the students dressed as cowherds, some senior Ashram devotees fed them with fruits. After this ceremonial offering of fruits to the cows, the Mandir priest offered Arati to the cows. Meanwhile, Bhajans continued in the hall.



Arati being offered to the cows.



Flute recital by the Institute students and the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School.

An instrumental music presentation was thereafter made by a group of students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on their flutes. The programme came to a close with Arati.

The programme in the evening began with an insightful talk on the teachings of Lord Krishna by Dr. K.M. Ganesh, a Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Giving instances from the life of Lord Krishna, the learned speaker elucidated that Krishna taught mankind the principles of love and surrender. He emphasised the significance of Namasmaraana (chanting of God's Name) and selfless service on the spiritual path.

This talk was followed by a Sri Krishna Janmashtami Discourse of Bhagavan Baba who exhorted one and all to fill their heart with love. Man without love, Bhagavan said, was a living corpse. If man developed love, he would experience unity, purity and divinity, Bhagavan added. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Govinda Krishna Jai Gopala Krishna Jai". Bhajans followed next and concluded with Arati.

Book Review

FROM INDIVIDUAL TO INDIVISIBLE



FROM INDIVIDUAL TO INDIVISIBLE

Rajinder Singh

₹ 60.00 shipping charges extra, pp. 191

THIS BOOK, "FROM INDIVIDUAL TO Indivisible", is a rumination of ideals, values and tenets propounded in Vedas, Smritis and other sacred texts, which were explained and illustrated practically by Bhagavan Baba. With free-flowing ideas on the subject, and with a bold contemporary rationale, the author Sri Rajinder Singh compels the reader's attention towards certain important issues involved in spiritual pursuit. Well founded convictions are recalled with an intent to dispel sincere doubts in the pursuit of Truth. Pick of quotes out of Bhagavan's Discourses, teachings of the Gita and those of great saints like Adi Sankara provide due authentication to explanations involved.

"Though the universe is born by resolution and not by 'reason', yet the created world nowhere violates the reason. It functions in a perfectly rational order. This speaks of a great connect between resolution and reason... Intellect, in constant touch with Cosmic Consciousness, gets purified and the 'Vedic Vivek', as Baba calls it, can go a long way in unravelling the secrets of creation," says the author.

"Avatars never leave but live through. He (Baba) is the ever-living God in us, with us, above us, below us and around us. To Love Him is the best way to experience the Truth," says the author.

The author cites a practical lesson provided by Adi Sankara: Crocodile is a symbol of Maya (illusion) and water a symbol of Jagat (mundane world). Just as the crocodile has a strong grip while in water, Maya too has strong hold on the world. Briefly narrating instances from biographies of illustrious personalities like Nachiketa, Maitreyi, Prahlada and others, the author says that enquiry into death is an enquiry into the reality of life.

Bhagavan's parables and short stories on relevant aspects are cited in consonance with the text. Karma, Bhakti and Jnana paths of Sadhana are likened to three types of train travel; and also likened to three hands of a watch. Knowledge about a thing is not complete until actually its core quality is experienced, says the author. The author's reasoning about 'reason' of a rationalist as against realisation of a spiritualist is a faithful reflection of Bhagavan's exhortation on Truth... All the secrets of creation are not accessible to the mind... The Rishis of the yore have mastered and exercised this (cosmic) power for the sake of human welfare. These pious souls, unlike the men of this age, had no intention to hurt any living or non-living being, says the author.

The author reiterates the precaution of being humble and of restraining the ego that has the tendency to inflate along with the spiritual advancement.

– P.P.S. Sarma

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

ITALY

THE CITY OF FAENZA, LOCATED approximately 50 km southeast of Bologna, is part of the Emilia-Romagna, Marche and Toscana Regions. Members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Faenza practised love in action through



Serving needy families in Italy.

a selfless service initiative on 24th April 2019, when more than 20 volunteers prepared 140 gift packages containing food provisions and articles of daily need. These packages were distributed to 80 extremely needy families identified by the Municipality of Faenza and 60 others who regularly receive meals at the local Sai Soup Kitchen. In addition, SSIO volunteers served hot lunch to 52 guests and dinner to 30 guests.

THAILAND

Nineteen members of the SSIO of Thailand, along with seven others celebrated Easwaramma Day on 6th



Service in Good Shepherd Sisters Home, Thailand.

May 2019 with the residents of the Good Shepherd Sisters Home. Volunteers gave rice, sugar, oil, etc., to the residents of the Home. They also sang devotional songs at the chapel of the Good Shepherd Sisters Home with the Sisters of the facility. Vibhuti (sacred ash) formed on the picture of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which was taken as a blessing for the loving services rendered.

SURINAME

Suriname's coast has extensive low-lying areas, identified as highly vulnerable to climate-induced sea level rise in the future. The coast is also susceptible to flooding and erosion due to the loss of stabilisation provided by mangroves. This area has been losing up to 27 metres of land annually, causing displacement of local habitants with loss of livelihood. On 26th April 2019, SSIO volunteers including eight Young Adults and others planted more than 500 mangroves at Weg Naar Zee in the northern coastal district

of Paramaribo. The project was led by a professor who specialised in climate change and water resources. It was a wonderful and inspiring experience for the Sathya Sai Young Adults to contribute to protecting Mother Earth.

PHILIPPINES

On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, on 18th May 2019, SSIO volunteers in the Philippines partnered with the Philippine Blood Centre (PBC), a government blood bank, to organise a blood donation drive. The PBC aims to



Blood donation, Philippines.

provide safe and adequate blood to the needy, free of charge, by conducting blood drives around Manila. Assisted by two doctors and four paramedics, 25 volunteers donated blood. The donors were a mixed crowd, with a few newcomers and one person having donated blood 40 times! The immense success of this drive has encouraged SSIO volunteers to plan for two more blood drives during 2019.

AUSTRIA

On 6th and 7th April 2019, 11 SSIO volunteers from three regions of Austria offered loving services at two



Service to animals, Austria.

animal shelters run by the Animal Spirit Organisation in Esternberg. These shelters provide compassionate care to old, sick and abandoned animals. Larger animals receive a personal name and all the animals can roam around freely to their heart's content in an open space next to their quarters! The volunteers constructed a new roof from wood collected from a nearby forest and also provided firewood for the facility. They excavated a canal for carrying water and built a small structure to divert rainwater into a meadow. Every participant left with a sense of happiness and joy at serving the helpless animals.

MOROCCO

Tamazouzt is a small town and rural community in the Al Haouz Province of the Marrakech-Tensift-Al Haouz region of Morocco. It is located approximately 300 km south of Casablanca. During a medical camp held at the Tamazouzt public school in December 2018, physicians identified a large number of students in need of dental and vision care. In response, the SSIO of Morocco organised a follow-up medical camp on 20th April 2019 with assistance



Medical camp, Morocco.

from the Ministry of Health and a local Non-Government Organisation (NGO). The SSIO organised transportation and collaborated with school representatives for all logistics to host a successful event. A team of two dentists and two opticians screened over 350 children and performed 88 dental extractions. The opticians identified 64 children who needed glasses and three children were identified for surgery. The SSIO along with the local NGO resolved to work with the Ministry of Health to provide glasses, where needed. Along with the medical screening, preventive workshops were organised to emphasise the importance of dental hygiene. The Ministry of Health provided toothbrushes and toothpaste for all the children.

TAIWAN

SSIO volunteers organised a blood donation camp in Tianmu, a suburb of Taipei on 17th February 2019. In preparation for the event, Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) students created colourful posters

to attract and encourage the public to donate blood. On the day of the camp, 45 volunteers, including 6 Sathya Sai Young Adults and 18 SSE students gathered at the venue. They enthusiastically marched around the neighbourhood holding posters and inviting people to donate blood. SSE students also performed SSEHV songs, which were well received by the public. The event concluded successfully with the collection

of 98 bags of blood.

SSIO Taiwan has been organising blood donation camps for over 20 years and has been instrumental in saving innumerable lives by collecting thousands of bags of blood. This selfless service has been acknowledged by the local blood bank and the SSIO has received many certificates of appreciation over the years.

BHARAT

Kerala: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala organised three Spiritual Retreats at Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal in May 2019. The first Retreat was organised for Principals of educational institutions across Kerala



A view of the participants in the Retreat.

on 11th and 12th May 2019, in which 68 principals participated. The second Retreat was held on 13th and 14th May 2019 for office bearers of Sai Organisation of Kerala. And the third Retreat was organised for Samithi Conveners on 18th and 19th May 2019.

Insightful talks by eminent speakers were delivered in these Retreats on important topics, which included, “Values in Education – Message from Sri Sathya Sai Baba”, “Living with God is True Spirituality”, “How to be a Good Administrator”. Many innovative ideas emerged from these Retreats in which the participants took active part. The speakers who gave talks during the Retreat included Sri N. Ramani, All India Vice President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Dr. T. Ravikumar, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Sri Jayakumar, former Vice Chancellor, Malayalam University.

Odisha: A two-day mega Paediatric Cardiac Camp was held in the premises of Sai Janani, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 20th and 21st July 2019. The camp was inaugurated by Sri Naba Kishore Das,

Health Minister, Government of Odisha. Around 650 patients from all over the State were examined by a team of doctors led by Dr. P.K. Dash, Head of Cardiology, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Bengaluru. Eligible patients numbering 270 were given dates for heart operation in Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital, Ahmedabad. Food and accommodation was arranged for the patients and their relatives. Seva Dal brothers and sisters and alumni of SSSIHMS rendered selfless service for the smooth conduct of the camp.

The historic and world famous Rath Yatra (car festival) of Lord Jagannath was held at Puri on 4th July 2019 with more than seven lakh devotees from India and abroad joining the event to have a glimpse of the Lord. More than 400 Seva Dal volunteers from across the State camped at Puri to serve the devotees. They participated in



Paediatric cardiac camp.



Seva during Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra.

various service activities like sanitation, medical camp with ambulance service, sweet lime water distribution, free food distribution, etc.

TITLES OF NEW BOOKS

Code No.	Title	₹	Language	Author / Compiler	Grams	Pages	Classification
16310	Chinna Kathas of Sri Sathya Sai Part 5	75	English	Suresh Rao Savkur	175	160	Children
16217	Divine Inspirations Vol.10	85	English	Compiled by Dr. Sasidhar Siddhabottani	235	192	Stories by Bhagavan
16050	Divine Teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba Vol. 1 Silence	20	English	Compiled by Vijay C. Desai	105	66	Teachings
16378	Divine Teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba Vol. 3 Forgiveness	30	English	Compiled by Vijay C. Desai	105	52	Teachings
16268	Gods and Goddesses	35	English	Compiled by Soham Gupta	76	48	Children
16315	My Pilgrimage with Sai	50	English	Gloria Blake	205	154	Experiences
16338	Rasamayee Man	50	English	Arun Kumar Panda	175	144	Experiences
16341	Reflections on the 1973 Summer Discourses of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba	125	English	Pradeep S Kamath	330	328	Commentary
16231	Relationships of the Heart	40	English	Kusum Lau	160	144	Experiences
16116	Sathya Sai Baba Guru of Gurus	45	English	Mark Aspa	140	112	Experiences
16238	Sruti Revised (Transliteration)	85	English	Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division	350	304	Veda Mantras
16085	Sunrays for Saturday	50	English	Priya and Sanjay Tandon	270	242	Children
16208	Advaitamruthavarshini	75	Telugu	Lakshmi Rukmini Tanikella	340	312	Experiences
16311	Arogyapradayi Sri Sathya Sai	80	Telugu	Dr. Krishna Kumari	225	192	Health
16377	Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Divyasandeshamulu	30	Telugu	P. V. Bharadwaja	125	100	Teachings
16327	Divyapatham - Mana Mahaneyulu - 1	50	Telugu	Palivela Subbarayudu	230	140	Mana Mahaneyulu
16216	Divyapatham Sri Sathya Sai Parenting - Talitandulato Samavesamulu	80	Telugu	Palivela Subbarayudu	215	134	Experiences
16380	Manishi - Manasu	30	Telugu	Sri G. Ramanarayana	115	96	Experiences
16308	Sai Ahara Niyamalatho Arogyam	60	Telugu	Dr. Indra Mohindra	125	64	Health
16358	Sarvadevata Swarupa Sri Sathya Sai	35	Telugu	Adapa Bhaskara Rao	190	216	Experiences
16407	Sri Sai Charanalu	10	Telugu	G. Ramamohana Rao	45	54	Teachings
16364	Sri Sathya Sai Geetasudha	30	Telugu	Dr. J. Suman Babu	136	112	Teachings
16385	Veda Pushpanjali Combined Volume	85	Telugu	Compiled by M. Sai Roopak	355	312	Veda Mantras
16240	Vedamrutam Revised	70	Telugu	Compiled by M.V. Joga Rao	290	240	Veda Mantras
16042	Divya Pushpan	155	Hindi	Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju	420	352	Teachings
16312	Madhur Samsaran Volume 2	70	Hindi	Prof. Anilkumar Kamaraju	165	136	Experiences
16389	Videshoan Me Divya Jilnil Part 1	110	Hindi	Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju	300	256	Spiritual Talks
16390	Videshoan Me Divya Jilnil Part 2	110	Hindi	Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju	300	256	Spiritual Talks
16239	Sruti Revised	75	Sanskrit	Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division	335	296	Veda Mantras

Poornaavatar Diary 2020

Bhagavan's diary Poornaavatar 2020 is available for sale. The diary has a main article on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and write-ups on service and Sadhana, as well as a divine message for the youth. There are more than 300 specially selected sayings of Baba on two-colour diary pages.

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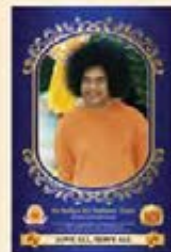
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Chinna Katha

Disappearance of Ignorance

HERE WAS A BIG MIRROR IN A house. One day, the householder wanted it to be taken out of the house. But the door was too narrow and short. All the inmates of the house started thinking seriously about it. Some of them suggested breaking of walls. Somebody

size was brought into this room. This was the critical question that provided clarity on the issue! The inmates of the house then remembered that this big mirror was installed in the room at the very time of the construction of the house.

In the same way, ignorance sneaks into the house of the body at the very time of its



The inmates of the house were in a fix how the big mirror in the house could be brought out.

suggested cutting the mirror carefully into two halves. In this manner, all sorts of suggestions were put forward. At this juncture, there came a wise man of the village. After hearing attentively, first of all he sought to know how a mirror of this



When the wise man questioned the inmates, they remembered that the mirror was installed in the house at the time of its construction.

creation. But ignorance disappears when "I am the body" feeling and worry about it are discarded.

When you plant the seed of truth in the heart and make faith take deep root, with the rain of chanting God's Name, peace blossoms, yielding the fruit of liberation. Therefore, every human being should sow the seed of truth in his heart. The deeper the root of faith goes down, the stronger will be the tree of life. You must provide water for the flourishing growth of the tree by means of Bhajan and Daiva Chintana (contemplation on God). Only then will the flower of Santhi (peace) bloom and from this the fruit of liberation will be attained.

– Baba

About Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust Publications Division (SSSSTPD)

On 1st January, 2009, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust (SSSST) commenced operations with four divisions; the Bhakta Sahayak divisions (one in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi and another in Brindavan, Bangalore), the Publications division, and the Media division.

The Publications Division (SSSSTPD) caters to:

- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries for the benefit of visiting pilgrims and devotees all over the world. All the literature and publications are based on the teachings, philosophy, message, and values of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- 2) The publication and distribution of Bhagawan Baba's monthly spiritual journal - Sanathana Sarathi - in English and Telugu languages. Since 2011, e-version of the magazine is also released simultaneously and is available in the popular Interactive PDF format on www.sanathanasarathi.org.
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel www.theprasanthireporter.org, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers' - for free distribution.
- 4) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of books written by Bhagawan

Sri Sathya Sai Baba and books on Bhagavan besides various spiritual and religious books.

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REGD. WITH REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS R.NO.10774/1958 REGN.NO. HDP/002/2018-2020
LICENCED TO POST WITHOUT PREPAYMENT No.PMGK/RNP/WPP-01/2018-2020

Date of Publication: 1st September 2019



A dance number by the students of Sai Educare Vidya Pratishthan, Himachal Pradesh.



A dance number by the Bal Vikas children of West Godavari district.



Music programme "Bhava Naivedyam" by the Bal Vikas Sai Symphony Group of Odisha.

Annual Subscription English (12 issues)
India ₹75. Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka ₹600.
Other Countries ₹850 or US \$19 or UK £13 or €13,
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Develop Inner Purity

Today people do not understand the significance of different faiths and different modes of worship that are prevalent in Bharat. They feel it is the existence of different castes, communities and religions that is responsible for all the violence, unrest and conflicts in this country. Existence of different religions has nothing to do with the violence and conflicts in this country. Absence of inner purity is responsible for all this.

– Baba



Printed by K.S. RAJAN Published by K.S. RAJAN On behalf of the owner Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.) And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises, 136, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560044, Karnataka And published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

Editor: G.L. ANAND