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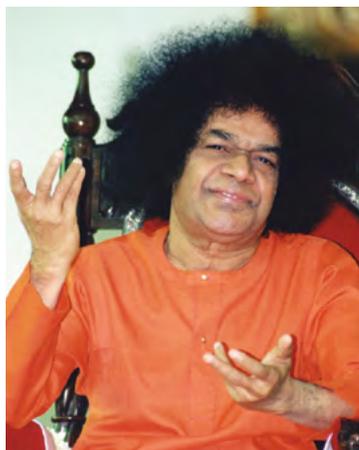
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"Do not repeat the Name of God mechanically like a tape recorder or a gramophone. Recite His Name wholeheartedly with total awareness. You should chant the Divine Name from the bottom of your heart and not merely from your lips. Then you will become pure gold. Practise what you preach, and preach only that what you practise. This is the fundamental principle of purity. When you develop such purity in young age, then your future path will be a royal road and a bed of roses."

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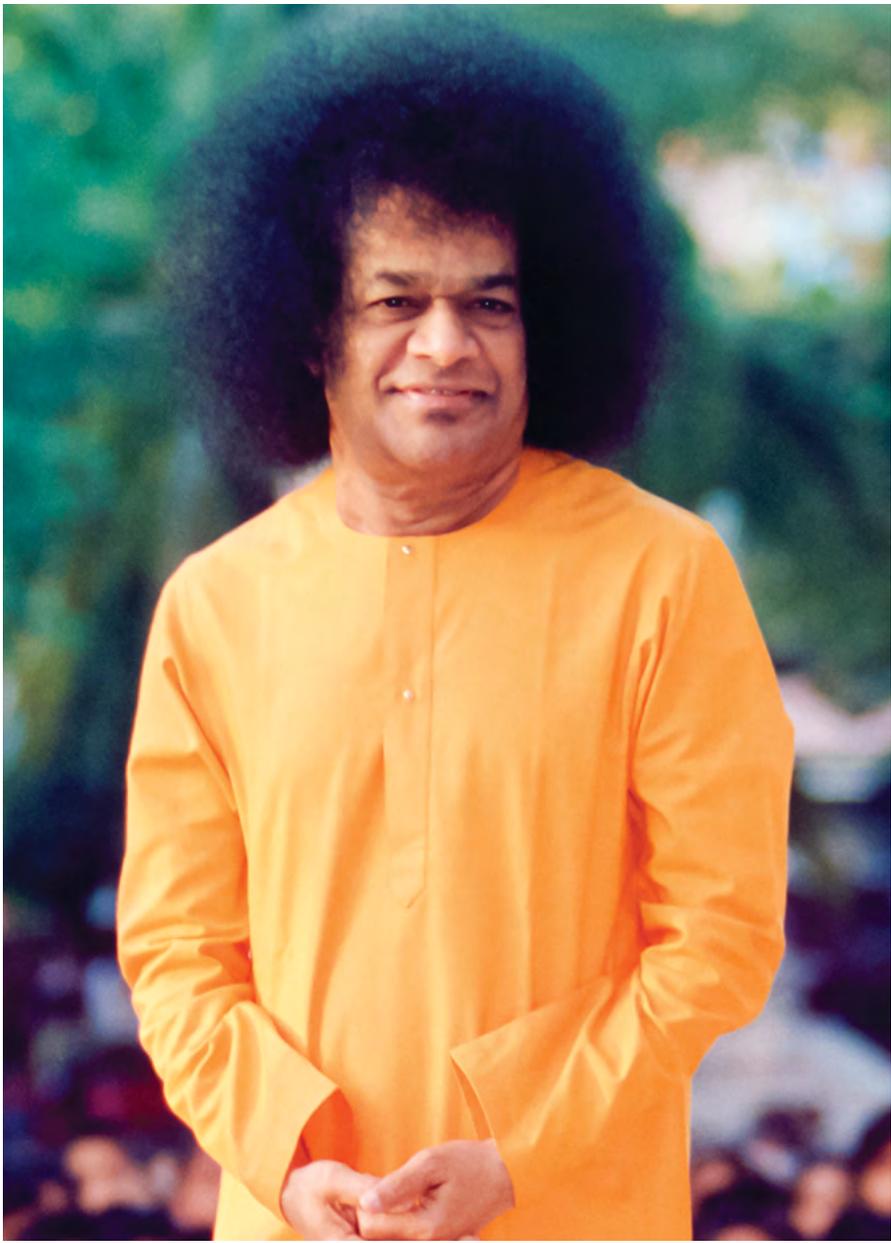
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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
10TH JULY 1996

FOLLOW THE RELIGION OF LOVE

A vessel of brass makes much sound while one of gold does not do so. Similarly, only mean-minded persons indulge in pomp and show. Where is the need for a real devotee to indulge in showmanship?

(Telugu Poem)

CHOOSE GOD AS YOUR CHARIOTEER AND LEAD AN IDEAL LIFE



MODERN STUDENTS ASPIRE for wealth, friendship and high position but not virtues. Students have no business to indulge in ostentation. Good qualities, good practices and good behaviour are the hallmarks of a student. Pomp and show is not expected of him. But, unfortunately, students today are acting contrary to all that. They waste their time in bad company, bad thoughts and bad behaviour.

To Realise is Religion

Brass and gold both look alike. But a vessel of brass makes much more noise than the one made of gold. Students should not indulge in showmanship and tall talk. Always talk sweetly and softly with humility. *You cannot always oblige, but you can speak always obligingly.* Always talk decently and respectfully and conduct yourself befittingly as an ideal student.

Man's Mati (mind), Gati (destiny), Stiti (position) and Sampatti (wealth) are the gifts of God. How is he to make use of them? It is most important for man to develop the qualities of equality, solidarity, integrity and

amity. But man today has changed his Mati into Durmati (wicked mind). It is Mati which makes man good or bad. Improper use of Mati makes a man egoistic. All the Matas (religions) have their origin in Mati. It is the source of all the religions of the world.

All religions impart only good teachings. One should understand this truth and act accordingly.

If Mati (mind) is good, how can any Mata (religion) be bad?

It is not possible for anyone to know the ways of God. Nobody can say when, where and how anything will happen. Having attained human birth, you should live like a human being. Then God Himself will acknowledge your merit. For this, your mind should be clean and pure like a mirror. A brass vessel makes more sound than the one of gold. Be like gold. Never resort to ostentation. Aspire for true happiness.



Listen! Oh valiant sons of Bharat.

(Telugu Poem)

All the religions of the world teach the same fundamental truths and prompt man to follow Dharma. All of them teach man to respect his mother, father and preceptor. Man should develop broad-mindedness, respect his elders and earn a good name. You find fault with other religions only due to defects in your own mind. Therefore, make proper use of your mind. What is the real

level of God, he should at least lead his life like a true human being.

One who leads his life with humility and amity alone is a true human being. This truth is propounded by the Gita also.

*Kavim Puranamanushasitaram
Anoraniyansamanusmaret Ya,
Sarvasya Dhatarachintyarupam
Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat...*

(Sanskrit Verse)

'Vid' means illumination. Therefore, that which illumines the intellect of man is Vidya (education). It makes humanness shine in man. But modern education creates agitation in man instead of bringing about his elevation. Today wherever you see, there is agitation. Modern students are lazy in studies and active in taking part in agitations. Laziness is rust and dust. Realisation is best and rest. Therefore, you should never give room to laziness. This is not the quality of a student. Only those who are not interested in studies develop this bad quality of laziness and waste their time, money and energy, thereby causing great anxiety to their parents.



meaning of religion? To realise is religion. Follow the religion of love. This is the sacred principle that all the religions of the world teach. Even if man is not able to rise to the

(He who contemplates on the all-wise, ageless Being, the ruler of all, subtler than the subtle, the universal sustainer, possessing a form beyond human conception, refulgent like the sun and far beyond the darkness of ignorance, he reaches verily that Supreme Being.)

Who is a Kavi (poet)? Is Kavi a human being? No, no. Some people may join a few words, write rhyming lines and call themselves poets. Unless the words already exist, how can they join them together? Words did exist before man and it is God who created them. Then, who can be truly called a poet? *Trikala Darshana Kavi* (one who knows past, present and future is a true Kavi). Therefore, God alone is the true Kavi.

What does the term Puranam signify? It does not refer to the Puranas like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The Vedas refer to human body as Puram (city). Therefore, the consciousness that pervades this Puram is called Puranam. This divine consciousness shines in every individual. Puranam therefore refers to divinity in man. This divinity is not Vyashti Swarupa, but Samashti Swarupa. It means, divinity is not limited to an individual, but is immanent in all. Divinity is uniformly present in all in the form of consciousness. That is why the Vedas declare, *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings).

In this world, there are rules and regulations which prescribe different types of punishments for mistakes or crimes. *Sasanam Vachanam Iti Sastram* (That which prescribes the code of conduct for man is Sastra). A thief who commits theft is caught by police and put in jail. It is only his body which is under lock and key in the jail. But

nobody can imprison his mind, which is free to roam wherever it likes. It may go to his home or to the market or to his friend's house. A ruler can exercise control over the body of his subjects. He has no power to control their mind. God alone can control the mind of individuals. Therefore, the word Anushasitaram refers to God.

Man should Live like a Human Being

The Upanishads refer to God as *Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat* (who shines with great brilliance and who is beyond the darkness of ignorance). He shines with the effulgence of a billion suns and illumines the mind and intellect of everyone. The realised sages of Vedic times declared, *Vedahametam Purusham Mahantam Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat* (I have visualised the Supreme Being who shines with the effulgence of a billion suns and who is beyond Tamas – the darkness of ignorance). These sages declared that they had seen God. Where did they see Him? They saw Him beyond darkness. What does darkness connote? It connotes ignorance. The Rishis saw Him not in this physical and external world, but in the inner world, in the firmament of their inner being. In every human being, God shines beyond the darkness of ignorance with all effulgence. When man leads his life like a human being and conducts himself like a human being, he can become God himself. Then he will become eternal like gold that does not change with the passage of time. If you sow a seed, it undergoes change after some time. But if you dig a pit and keep gold in it, it will not undergo any change, no matter how long you keep it. If you put it on fire, it does not get destroyed; rather,



it shines with added brilliance. But the same cannot be said of brass. Likewise, when the human mind is subjected to the process of refinement, its effulgence does not diminish. Rather, it becomes more pure and effulgent. Man should make efforts to understand the nature of his mind. When one looks at both gold and brass, they may look alike. But when you put them on fire, you will know the difference. Likewise, salt and camphor may look alike but when you put them on your tongue, you will know the difference. Therefore, people cannot be judged by their outward appearance. Man should make efforts to lead his life in a manner befitting his human birth. Today one sees human beings only in form but not in practice.

One who lives in this world should first behave like a human being.

He is a fool who goes on praising the misdeeds of others.

Acquire the knowledge of the Atma and have the vision of the Atma.

This is the essence of all knowledge.

This is the teaching of the Vedas.

(Telugu Poem)

These are the truths that are propounded by the Vedas. These are the goal of all paths. These are the support of all living beings and the root of all creation. Man should make efforts to conduct himself like a true human being. All his thoughts, feelings and actions should be pure and sacred. He should develop high character and cultivate the qualities of generosity and amity and attain blessedness. Proper education is essential to attain the state of blessedness.

Make God your Charioteer

'Vid' means illumination. Therefore, that which illumines the intellect of man is Vidya

(education). It makes humanness shine in man. But modern education creates agitation in man instead of bringing about his elevation. Today wherever you see, there is agitation. Modern students are lazy in studies and active in taking part in agitations. *Laziness is rust and dust. Realisation is best and rest.* Therefore, you should never give room to laziness. This is not the quality of a student. Only those who are not interested in studies develop this bad quality of laziness and waste their time, money and energy, thereby causing great anxiety to their parents. When students indulge in strikes, their parents suffer from great anxiety about their future. Students should bring a good name to their parents. They should realise that their blood, food and head are the gifts of their parents. Therefore, they should have gratitude for their parents. They should not cause anxiety to them. You should become such ideal students. I lovingly call such students Bangaru (nuggets of gold)! All students should become nuggets of gold. What type of gold? Not rolled gold but pure gold! How can you become pure gold? You can become pure gold only when you develop purity of heart, sacred feelings and lead an ideal life by practising Trikarana Suddhi (purity of thought, word and deed).

It is said: *The proper study of mankind is man.* Man should cultivate the qualities of kindness and compassion. Only then does he deserve the title of mankind. You are not only man, but mankind! Today people use the word mankind without understanding its real meaning. Man can rise to the level of divine if he develops virtues. God is not somewhere else. You yourself are God. You are not different from God if you have a pure heart. God is the eternal charioteer who is



always present in your heart. He is only a charioteer and not the owner; you are the owner. Lord Krishna is called Parthasarathi because He became the charioteer of Partha (Arjuna). Krishna was only a charioteer but the owner was Partha. In the same way, when you develop purity of heart and sacred feelings, God will be your charioteer and take you to the right path. Therefore, choose God as your charioteer and lead an ideal life.

Service to others is Service to God

About 90 years ago, there lived a wealthy person named Wadia in Nanded during the time of Shirdi Sai Baba. As he wanted to visit Shirdi, he sought the guidance of Das Ganu. He told him that he was quite well to do but he had no children. He said, "What is the use of all my wealth when I have no children? As I am going to Shirdi for the first time, please tell me how I should go."

In the same village, there lived a kind-hearted Muslim whom people used to call, Moulisaheb. He worked as a coolie and led a very hard but ideal life. He spoke good and kind words to everyone and advised them to lead an ideal life. He himself first practised whatever he told others to follow. Once he was not able to find any work for many days and had no food to eat. Consequently, he became very weak. Nobody came to help him. One day when he was lying on a pavement, this wealthy person Wadia saw him in that pitiable condition. After coming to know that he had no food for many days, Wadia told the owner of a hotel to give him food for which he would make payment. Moulisaheb thanked Wadia and expressed his gratitude to God. He said, God is great and is the refuge of the forlorn.

Man should make efforts to lead his life in a manner befitting his human birth. Today one sees human beings only in form but not in practice. Man should make efforts to conduct himself like a true human being. All his thoughts, feelings and actions should be pure and sacred. He should develop high character and cultivate the qualities of generosity and amity and attain blessedness. Proper education is essential to attain the state of blessedness.

*God is your sole refuge wherever you may be,
In a forest, in the sky, in a city or a village,
on the top of a mountain or in the middle
of deep sea.* (Telugu Poem)

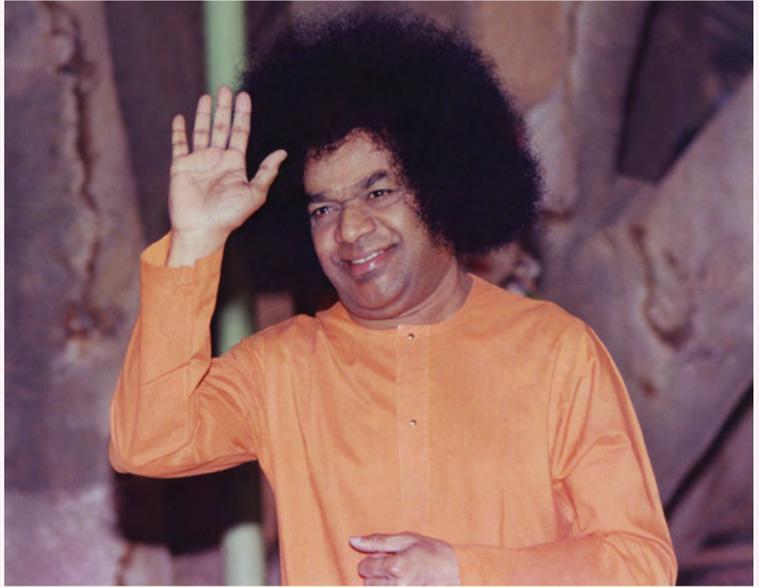
After getting guidance from Das Ganu, Wadia visited Shirdi along with his wife. When he went for Baba's Darshan, Baba asked him to give five rupees as Dakshina. As he was a rich person, Wadia immediately started taking out money from his pocket. He was wearing a long coat which had big pockets. Those days there were no five rupee or two rupee or one rupee notes. Only coins were in vogue. When he offered these coins worth five rupees to Baba, he said, "Wadia! Now I don't need five rupees from you. Give me only one rupee and two annas, because you have already given me three rupees and fourteen annas." Wadia could not understand what Baba was saying. He thought, "People speak very high of Baba. But, is he really a great man or only a madcap? When did I come



to Shirdi before? This is the first time I am meeting him. Then, how can he say that he has already received three rupees and fourteen annas from me? How is it possible? Anyhow, I had his Darshan.” Thinking thus, he offered one rupee and two annas to Baba and left for Nanded.

Next day, Das Ganu came to meet him and asked, “You went to Shirdi, isn’t it? What happened there?” Wadia was not satisfied after meeting Baba. He told Das Ganu, “Baba did not appear to me like a great man. Rather, he looked like a madcap. However, there may be some divine power even in a madcap. But I don’t hold him in high esteem.” Das Ganu asked him to narrate what had happened. Wadia said, “As soon as I met Baba, he asked for five rupees as Dakshina. As I offered him five rupees, he said that I had already given him three rupees and fourteen annas; so, I should give him only one rupee and two annas. I had not seen Baba before. Then how did he say this?”

Das Ganu was a great devotee of Baba. He thought about the matter and said to himself, “Baba does not utter anything without meaning. He is present everywhere and in all beings. If Baba has said like this, there must be some reason for it.” Then he



All the religions of the world teach the same fundamental truths and prompt man to follow Dharma. All of them teach man to respect his mother, father and preceptor. Man should develop broad-mindedness, respect his elders and earn a good name. You find fault with other religions only due to defects in your own mind. Therefore, make proper use of your mind. What is the real meaning of religion? To realise is religion. Follow the religion of love. This is the sacred principle that all the religions of the world teach. Even if man is not able to rise to the level of God, he should at least lead his life like a true human being.

told Wadia, “You are mistaken. There may be some defect in you but there can be no defect in Baba.” Das Ganu then asked Wadia, “Have you given any money or performed any act of charity during this time?” Wadia said, “While I was going in a tonga three days prior to my visit to Shirdi, I happened to meet Moulisaheb who was lying on a pavement in



a pitiable condition as he was without food for many days. I instructed the owner of a hotel to give him food for which I would make the payment.” “How much did you pay?” asked Das Ganu. Wadia sent a servant to the hotel and found that the total bill was three rupees and fourteen annas. Then Das Ganu said, “Look here, those three rupees and fourteen annas you paid only to Baba and not to anyone else. Whomever you serve, it amounts to serving Baba. Nothing happens without his Will.”

Not even a blade of grass will move without Divine Will,

Why to say this or that?

God pervades everything from an ant to Brahma.

People who do not realise this truth get carried away by their pride of intelligence and knowledge.

But no one, however great he may be, knows what lies ahead for him in future.

(Telugu Poem)

How can you say what is going to happen the next moment? Everything is the divine play of God. God is present in all. Whomever you serve, it amounts to serving God. This is the main principle of Indian culture. All religions vouchsafe this truth. Das Ganu told Wadia, “You paid three rupees and fourteen annas to Moulisaheb and that amount reached Baba. That is why Baba accepted only one rupee and two annas from you. The stories of God are so wonderful and mysterious! Therefore, do not form wrong notions about Baba.” Wadia was surprised to hear all this. “Baba’s calculation is correct and perfect. It is my lack of intelligence that I did not realise his greatness”, he thought to himself.

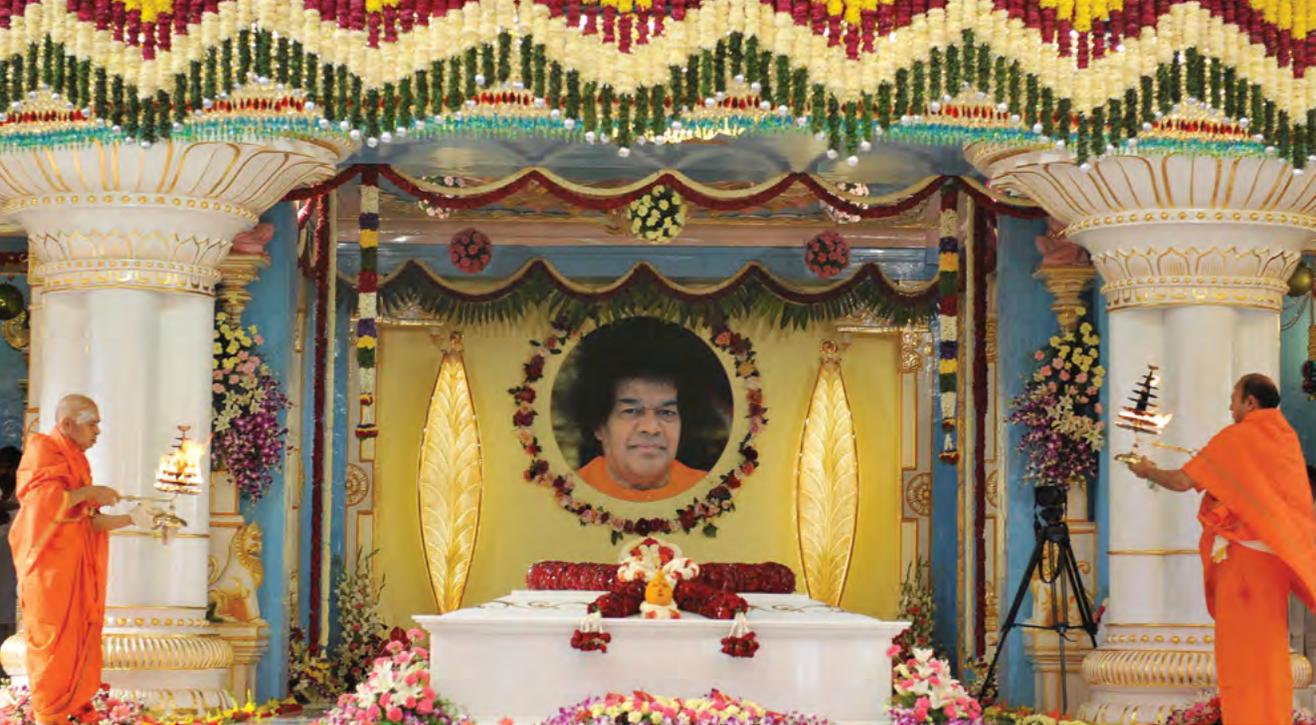
Next day, Wadia along with his wife set out for Shirdi again, taking Das Ganu with them. There is always some delay when women accompany you. Before Wadia and his wife reached there, Das Ganu went ahead and met Baba. Baba asked Das Ganu, “What did Wadia say? How much money did he give to Moulisaheb?” By this time, Wadia reached there and heard all this conversation between Das Ganu and Baba. Realising the omniscience of Baba, he fell at his feet and sought his forgiveness. Being a rich man, he had taken a basketful of fruits to offer to Baba, which included some bananas also. Baba took out four bananas from the basket, called Wadia’s wife near him and gave the bananas to her. When Baba offered these bananas to her, she took them in the loose end of her Sari. Baba told her, “Eat all these bananas; do not give them to anyone else. You will have four sons.” Prior to coming to Baba, Wadia had gone to many Sadhus (mendicants), Sannyasis (renunciants) and astrologers. Those astrologers were happy to find a rich client like Wadia and extracted a lot of money from him. They told him all sorts of things, such as this planet or that planet was not favourable to him. But none of their predictions came true. Ultimately, he came to Baba and received his blessings. As foretold by Baba, next year Wadia was blessed with a very chubby son. Wadia and his wife brought the child to Shirdi and placed him at the feet of Baba.

Follow the Principles of Indian Culture

It is not possible for anyone to know the ways of God. Nobody can say when, where and how anything will happen. Having attained human birth, you should live like a human being. Then God Himself will

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BHAGAVAN'S MAHA SAMADHI UNVEILED



ON THE SACRED DAY OF GURU Purnima, Maha Samadhi of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was unveiled in Sai Kulwant Hall which was tastefully decorated with bunting, cloth hangings, festoons and flowers.

Veda chanting started in Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. on 15th July 2011. Exactly at 8.00 a.m., the Samadhi was unveiled by parting the curtains covering it amidst chanting of Vedic hymns. Immediately after unveiling the Samadhi, Arati was offered at the Samadhi by the Mandir priest and a senior Veda teacher. Meanwhile, the huge gathering of devotees in the hall chanted the Name of their Beloved Bhagavan and experienced the bliss of Samadhi's Darshan.

The Samadhi is a magnificent white marble structure built on the porch of Sai Kulwant Hall from where Bhagavan used

to give Darshan to devotees and where His mortal remains were interred on 27th April 2011. It is 9 feet long, 6 feet wide and 2 feet 2 inches high edifice which rests on a larger white marble platform, 21 feet long, 12 feet wide and 6 inches high. The remaining porch area is also made of white marble. Two flanks of the porch on its right and left have been remade with green marble with a white marble border. A beautiful portrait of Bhagavan with shining lamps on either side forms the background of the Samadhi. Two round pillars supporting the porch have also been clad in white marble and beautifully decorated.

Devotional Music Programme by Students

The unveiling of the Samadhi was followed by a vocal music programme by the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions





The students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions paid rich musical tributes to Bhagavan after unveiling ceremony of Bhagavan's Samadhi on 15th July 2011.

who offered rich tributes to Bhagavan, the Sadguru of millions the world over. The programme consisted of devotional songs and Stotras (verses) interspersed with a meaningful commentary, which highlighted Bhagavan's glory through various incidents and brought alive students' rich experiences of Bhagavan's divinity. Not only the experiences narrated by the students but the songs which followed them touched the hearts of devotees.

Talks by Distinguished Speakers

Two speakers addressed the gathering after this soulful musical presentation. The first speaker was Sri Leonardo Gutter, a Member of Prasanthi Council from Argentina. Quoting the words of Bhagavan, Sri Gutter remarked that to be born as a human being was a rare opportunity. But to be born as contemporary of the Avatar and to be chosen by Him as His instrument was the rarest of rare opportunity, he added. Narrating some personal experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity, the eminent speaker observed that Bhagavan is present everywhere and each particle of earth is replete with His Divine energy. The second speaker was Sri Nimish Pandya, District President of Mumbai. Bhagavan, Sri

Pandya said, taught us to realise our divinity and see God in all. Describing how Bhagavan suffused all devotees with His Divine Love, Sri Pandya emphasised that every devotee of Bhagavan should become embodiment of love and should share His love with all.

A brief Bhajan session followed these speeches during which Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in the hall. The programme came to a close with Arati at 10.25 a.m. Darshan of Bhagavan's Samadhi began soon after the conclusion of this programme. The huge gathering of devotees came to the Samadhi in an orderly manner and offered their salutations at Bhagavan's Samadhi.

Soulful Musical Presentations

In the afternoon, Veda chanting started at 4.30 p.m. which continued for nearly half an hour. Two musical presentations followed the Veda chanting. The first presentation was made by famous Carnatic classical music exponent, Smt. Aruna Sairam. Beginning her presentation with Guru Vandana (salutations to Guru) with a Sanskrit verse, the singer kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour with rendition of light musical compositions, classical pieces and Bhajans. The second presentation was made by famous Sufi singer, Sri Hans Raj Hans. Singing with vigour and verve, the singer transported the audience to a higher plane with his dedicated presentation of Sufi songs. Loud prolonged applause of the audience at the end of his presentation expressed their appreciation of the programme. After the conclusion of the musical presentations, the artistes were honoured and clothes were offered to them. After a brief session of Bhajans, the programme came to a close at 7.10 p.m.



THE LEGACY OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

V. Srinivasan

Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust



TO MILLIONS OF DEVOTEES all over the world, Bhagavan Baba has been God personified.

They worshipped and adored Him; they prayed only to Him in times of joy and sorrow; He was their friend, guide and philosopher. Many still continue to have the same attitude towards Him and He still answers their prayers in His own unique way, which we cannot even begin to comprehend and understand. Bhagavan continues to manifest His miracles all over the world. Each individual has his own special experiences of Baba's Divinity. The greatest joy for Sai devotees is to share and listen to these Leelas. Through these conversations, which are in fact Satsangs, each one's faith and devotion is reinforced and strengthened.

All of us were greatly attached to Bhagavan's wondrous physical form. All of us eagerly looked forward to the daily Darshan and waited patiently for hours without caring for our bodily discomforts or inconveniences. The Darshan was everything, and if by chance Baba looked our way, or even more heavenly, spoke to us, we were transported to ethereal joy.

Baba had repeatedly told us that He was not this body, and we were also not this body which we carried. He wanted us to realise the Universal Atma which He personified and of which each one of us is also the container.

Today there is a sense of being lost for many devotees. The road ahead is not clear to them and they are also plagued by the reports of various controversies. They seek solace from each other but are not sure whether

they should really exchange thoughts and news. They wonder whom to turn to for some guidance and what will happen to the future of all the institutions and the Sai Centres, Samithis and Bhajan Mandalis. The time has come for us to understand what is the real legacy of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. To me, the legacy of Bhagavan consists of several parts.

First are the institutions that He has set up, such as the university, the hospitals, the schools, the Ashram, etc. These are mainly administered by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and the University Trust. With His vision and foresight, Bhagavan set up adequate corpus funds for His institutions to enable them to continue to function well on the income from these funds, which are all deposited in fixed deposits with nationalised banks. They will continue to offer free education and medical treatment to all, irrespective of religion, caste, creed, etc. Bhagavan set up these institutions to be models to prove that it was possible to offer free high quality education and the most modern medical treatment totally free of cost without seeking assistance from the Government for everything. The proof has been there for more than twenty years of working of these institutions. Lakhs of poor and needy people have benefited from these which are indeed the living proofs of Baba's compassion and love. These institutions are for those that need them and hopefully will motivate others as Bhagavan wished, to set up similar citadels of love and service to humanity. These are the material parts of His legacy, which are there for the whole world to see and experience.



The second part is the manifestation of the purpose for which the Sai Avatar came. He was love personified, love which transcended all barriers and limits, love which encompassed the entire creation. He has lit the lamp of love in millions of hearts, the brilliance of which inspires them to transform their lives and engage in the projection of that love into their daily lives. This love makes those individuals caring and sharing persons, who collectively engage in a society, and by their actions motivate others also to be caring and sharing, leading to a general improvement of society, though this may be a slow process. Baba's inspiration of love to millions of individuals is translated verily into Love in Action all over the world. This love transforms lives every second. Life then acquires a new meaning. There is a new path of Prema Yoga, which to Sai devotees embodies all the other yogas of Karma, Bhakti and Jnana within itself. Bhagavan has said "Live in Love" and that is the way for our continuous communion with Him. Love is therefore Bhagavan's greatest legacy, which may not be touched but is real and universal and experienced by all. It belongs to all mankind, not to just a few. It cannot be appropriated by anybody but can only be shared and experienced, for the redemption of one and all.

The third part of His legacy is Education. While many others talked about it, Bhagavan postulated and introduced in His educational institutions Human Values Based Educational Curricula. The system of Integral Education implemented in the Sai University is unique and unlike any other. Education in Human Values has many concepts introduced by Bhagavan – 3-HV, Educare. The education given in His institutions is for life and not for a living. Right from the stage of childhood,

such values based education is available in the Bal Vikas classes which are conducted throughout the length and breadth of India and in many other countries, the primary and other schools and then in the university. This legacy of education is His gift to humanity for posterity.

The fourth part of His legacy is the Sathya Sai Organisation, which is active in all the States of India and in 125 countries of the world. The Sai Organisation is an instrument created by Bhagavan to enable all to perform their Sadhana through it. The Sai Organisation has three wings – the spiritual, educational and service. One can choose any one of them to do Seva and Sadhana. Today in India alone, there are 6,00,000 members who voluntarily serve with love and devotion. They include government officers and bureaucrats, doctors, engineers, judges, lawyers, professors, teachers, legislators, farmers and students. They work in over 2,700 villages, and in slums, hospitals, old age homes, jails, orphanages, in disaster areas, inspired by Bhagavan's teaching that service to man is service to God. Many of them have never even had a chance to talk to Swami, yet they have been supercharged by Him and have dedicated their lives to selfless service. We see Seva Dal volunteers from every State of India regularly in the Ashram, in the hospitals, and in all places at Prasanthi Nilayam. They come here at their own expense, giving lovingly their time and effort. For these volunteers, doing such Seva is their method of communion with Bhagavan Baba, since they know that Bhagavan is pleased when we serve the poor and needy with love. Their faith is that Bhagavan is there where His work is done. This Seva has transformed their lives and they will continue to engage in it till the end of their lives.



Nobody can take their Bhagavan away from them for He is always with them. Nobody need force them to do anything, since they serve with love and devotion. For those that are served, this Seva brings Bhagavan into their lives and in turn transforms them also to love and serve others.

The Sai Organisation's activities continue to increase and will do so continuously in future. The youth are giving a new dynamism and energy to the Organisation, using new tools and technology to improve the efficiency of their Seva. This legacy of Bhagavan created for human good and welfare is always His,

... *Continued from Page 240*

acknowledge your merit. For this, your mind should be clean and pure like a mirror. A brass vessel makes more sound than the one of gold. Be like gold. Never resort to ostentation. Aspire for true happiness. Do not become an artificial human being. Be a 'heartful' person. Then you will attain everything in life.

Students! Due to the effect of your age, sometimes you may make mistakes. Once you correct your mistake, you should take care not to repeat it. You should not go on repeating the same mistake all your life. Sometimes, you commit a mistake unknowingly. Once you come to realise your mistake, do not repeat it. Be aware of what you are doing. Watch your steps and worship with proper understanding. See what is in front of you, whether it is a thorn, a stone or cow dung, before you take the next step. Do not make any mistake out of your ignorance. Saint Thyagaraja also said, "Oh mind, contemplate on the Name of Rama with proper understanding." He said that one should chant the Name of God with awareness and understanding. Do not repeat the Name of God mechanically like a tape recorder or a gramophone. Recite His

never to be taken away by anyone but only to be shared and experienced by personal involvement. Bhagavan belonged not just to India and Indians but to all the citizens of this earth. They came in their millions for His love and inspiration. They will continue to do so for He has become a part of their lives forever.

This, therefore, dear brothers and sisters, is Baba's legacy of love. His legacy is His eternal message to humanity. Blessed are those who knew Him. Even more blessed are those who share His legacy of 'Love All, Serve All'.

Name wholeheartedly with total awareness. You should chant the Divine Name from the bottom of your heart and not merely from your lips. Then you will become pure gold. Practise what you preach, and preach only that what you practise. This is the fundamental principle of purity. When you develop such purity in young age, then your future path will become a royal road and a bed of roses.

Students! Do not give scope to differences based on caste and religion. Consider everyone as your own. All are your brothers and sisters. Follow the principle of Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God. *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. This is the touchstone of Indian culture. When you lead such a sacred life, you will set an ideal not only to Bharat but also to all other countries of the world. I bless you that you lead a sacred life and be like gold.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahi...*")

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 10th July 1996.**

From our Archives

WHY DOES THE AVATAR COME?

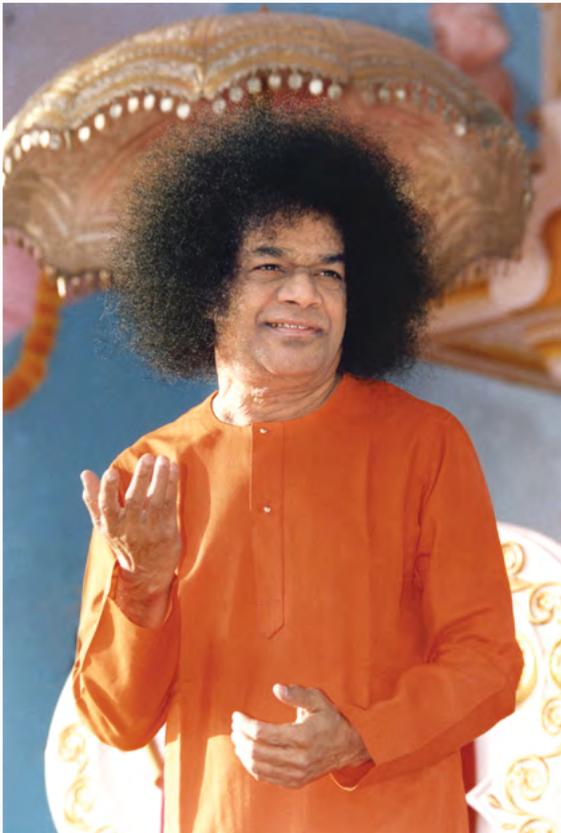
CULTIVATE INTENSE LOVE FOR GOD TO ATTAIN HIM



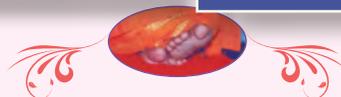
DEHO DEVALAYA PROKTHO Jivo Deva Sanathana (the body is a temple and the indweller is God). The Eternal Supreme dwells in the temple of the human body. All Avatars assume human form as human body is most sacred.

In the Gita, Lord Krishna declares that in man He is the power of discrimination, the Buddhi (intellect). Man cannot achieve

greatness even if he acquires all forms of wealth. It is his intellect that makes man great. One who does not exercise this power of discrimination is no better than birds or beasts. It is to raise man to a higher level that God comes down as Avatar. The word Avatar signifies descent. Just as a mother stoops down to lift up her child for coddling, God descends to the human level to raise man who is caught up in the web of petty desires



On seeing Radha in piteous state, Uddhava's heart melted. He realised that Krishna had sent him on this mission to the Gopikas to make him learn what was true Bhakti (devotion). Uddhava realised that Krishna had enacted that drama to show to him that even those well-versed in the Sastras had to learn the inner truth about true devotion from the one-pointed, unalloyed devotion shown by the Gopikas towards Krishna. Love for God is the means and the goal. This was the secret revealed by the Gopikas. They saw love in everything. They recognised it in the music of Krishna's flute, which filled the world with love and flooded the parched earth with love.



and trivial pursuits. He teaches him how he can divinise himself. This is the teaching of the Gita, the Bible and other scriptures also. The scriptures, by themselves, cannot redeem man. They serve only as guideposts. They indicate the road to be taken to realise the Divine.

Pilgrimages Do not Wipe Out your Sins

All Avatars are Poornavatars (incarnations of God in full glory); they have all the attributes of the Divine. But the Sastras (scriptures) hold that only Lord Krishna was the complete incarnation, with all the sixteen aspects of the Divine. Despite His omnipotence, Krishna was easily accessible to His devotees and submitted Himself to them. When we are filled with devotion, the Lord is ready to serve us as our servant. The Lord is ever prepared to subject Himself to any kind of difficulty or ordeal to protect or help His devotees. The scriptures also declare that the Divine submits to devotion. Many a devotee sang songs in praise of Krishna and lamented the fact that he had not been fortunate enough to be born during His Advent so as to enjoy His divine music and witness His divine exploits. But dull-witted disbelievers cannot shed their petty desires and seek the bliss that comes from devotion to the Divine.

Many devotees go on pilgrimages to Benares (Varanasi), Prayag or other sacred places in the hope that thereby they will be absolved of their sins. Pilgrimages are not the means to wipe out sins. What is required is purification of the heart and the mind. If the mind is cleansed through Sadhana (spiritual discipline), Divinity will reveal itself of its own accord. Mira gave the same message when she sang the Bhajan, calling upon the mind

to go to the Ganga and Yamuna. The Ganga and Yamuna are not the rivers in Northern India but the Ida and Pingala Nadis (subtle nerve channels in the spinal column) in human body. The central spot between the eyebrows is the Prayag, the place where the Ganga and Yamuna converge, and by concentrating on which spot Krishna can be discovered. This spot is described by Mira as cool, pure and undisturbed. Inhalation (Puraka) and exhalation (Rechaka) symbolise what one should take in and what one should reject while the holding of breath (Kumbhaka) signifies what one should hold on to, namely, Divinity. One should take in all that is pure and reject all that is impure.

The Lord Responds to the Yearning of His Devotees

The Gita has laid down three directives: do not be afraid of troubles; do not forget God; do not adore what is false. It is by adhering to these three injunctions that countless devotees all through the ages have sought to realise the Divine through Sadhana. The Bhagavata shows how the Lord responds to the yearning of the devotees and assuages their anguish caused by separation from the Lord. When Krishna left for Mathura, the Gopikas (cowherdresses) were languishing in grief, unable to bear the separation. They were all the time looking towards Mathura to see when Krishna would return. One day, they espied a cloud of dust and imagined that Krishna had at last relented and was returning to Gokul. They saw a chariot and a man seated in it. The chariot stopped but there was no Krishna in it. With their hearts given over to the Supreme Lord, the Gopikas were not inclined even to look at the stranger,



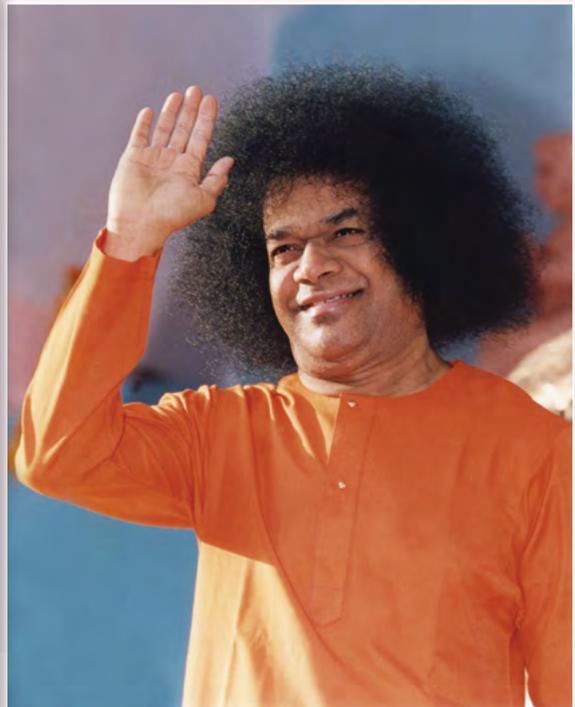
who was none other than Krishna's very dear friend, Uddhava. Krishna, who was aware of the agony of the Gopikas, had sent Uddhava to offer them solace.

The moment Uddhava got down from the chariot, he started delivering a long exhortation to the Gopikas. "Oh ye Gopikas! You are ignorant of the Sastras. You have

True Bhakti of the Gopikas

The Gopikas did not consider it proper to speak directly to a stranger. They adopted the device of addressing a bee to give their reply to Uddhava. The Gopikas said: "Oh bee! These words (of Uddhava) are adding fuel to the fire that is burning in us because of separation from Krishna. Enough of these words." Uddhava then held out to

It is to raise man to a higher level that God comes down as Avatar. The word Avatar signifies descent. Just as a mother stoops down to lift up her child for coddling, God descends to the human level to raise man who is caught up in the web of petty desires and trivial pursuits. He teaches him how he can divinise himself. This is the teaching of the Gita, the Bible and other scriptures also. The scriptures, by themselves, cannot redeem man. They serve only as guideposts. They indicate the road to be taken to realise the Divine.



no wisdom. Therefore, you are pining for Krishna. When you know the Sastras, you will realise that Krishna is ever with you; He resides in your hearts. Instead of taking delight in the Krishna that dwells within you, you are pining for the physical form of Krishna. This is due to your ignorance. I shall teach you the science of yoga for which Krishna has sent me."

the Gopikas the letter Krishna had sent to them and said: "Here is Krishna's message for you. At least read that." One Gopika immediately said: "Oh bee! We are illiterate village folk. We are stricken with grief. Show us Krishna." Another Gopika wailed: "We are being burnt by the fire of agony caused by Krishna's absence. If we touch His letter, it may be burnt to ashes. We dare not touch it." Yet another Gopika said: "The tears from



our eyes will stain the pearl-like letters in Krishna's epistle. We cannot endure seeing His message stained."

Uddhava then said: "At least listen to the message. I shall impart to you the knowledge of yoga." A Gopika answered, addressing the bee, unable to control her grief: "Oh bee, we have only one mind and that has gone with Krishna to Mathura. If we had four minds, we could turn one to yoga, another to some other subject, and so on. But the only mind we had has been surrendered to Krishna. We have no room for any yoga lessons." Uddhava was stupefied when he realised their single-minded devotion to Krishna.

The essence of all the Vedas and Sastras is single-mindedness. This single-mindedness results in one-pointed devotion to God. Uddhava reflected within himself that he had not cultivated the single-minded devotion which the Gopikas had demonstrated.

Among the Gopikas, the foremost devotees of Krishna were Radha and Neeraja. Before Uddhava left, he met Radha who thought only of Krishna and pleaded for a vision of Krishna to soothe her grief-stricken heart. Uddhava asked Radha, who was lying unconscious on a sand-dune, whether she had any message for Krishna. Recovering a little, she cried:

*Were You a tree, growing upwards,
I would cling to You like a creeper;
Were You a blossoming flower,
I would hover over You like a bee;
Were You the mountain Meru,
I would cascade like a river;
Were You the boundless sky,*

*I would be in You like a star;
Were You the bottomless deep,
I would merge in You like a river;
Where are You, Oh Krishna?
Whither have You gone, Krishna!
Have You no pity, Krishna! Krishna!*

(Telugu Poem)

Love for God is the Means and the Goal

On seeing Radha in piteous state, Uddhava's heart melted. He realised that Krishna had sent him on this mission to the Gopikas to make him learn what was true Bhakti (devotion). Uddhava realised that Krishna had enacted that drama to show to him that even those well-versed in the Sastras had to learn the inner truth about true devotion from the one-pointed, unalloyed devotion shown by the Gopikas towards Krishna. Love for God is the means and the goal. This was the secret revealed by the Gopikas. They saw love in everything. They recognised it in the music of Krishna's flute, which filled the world with love and flooded the parched earth with love.

God is in everyone. But to realise Him, there is only one way. It is to cultivate intense love for God. Only that is the day of Krishna's birth when one strives to develop such love for God. Krishna is not born on every Gokulashtami day. Krishna is born in us when we try to develop divine love as the means to overcome our bonds. To live up to the teachings of Krishna is the true way to celebrate His birthday.

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse at Prasanthi Nilayam on 31st August 1983.**



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

ASHADI EKADASI FUNCTION



THE HOLY FESTIVAL OF Ashadi Ekadasi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th July 2011. Varkaris (pilgrims) who had walked the distance from Dharmavaram to Prasanthi Nilayam for three days along with other devotees from Maharashtra and Goa congregated in Sai Kulwant Hall on this auspicious day. A dais was set up in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated with flowers for the celebration of this function, which began at 8.00 a.m. with sacred Vedic chants. The programme began with blowing of conches by four Varkaris after it was inaugurated by Sri S.V. Giri, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust by lighting the lamp at the dais at 8.30 a.m. Soon after this, the procession of Varkaris carrying the sacred palanquin entered the hall. The Varkaris danced their way to the dais where they offered their obeisance to Bhagavan whose beautiful portrait adorned the dais.

Excellent Devotional Music Concert

The Varkari dance was followed by a devotional vocal music programme by Mategaonkar family. While Sri Parag Mategaonkar played on the keyboard, his wife Smt. Suvarna and daughter Ketaki presented a spellbinding music concert which included a couple of evergreen compositions, such as "Ram Ka Gun Gaan Kariye" and "Sri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhaja Mana." They concluded their concert with a song dedicated to Lord Vitthala. Clothes

were presented to all the artistes after the conclusion of the concert. After a short Bhajan session, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.45 a.m.

Dance Ballet on Ashadi Ekadasi

The evening programme comprising a dance ballet "Jayate Parthi" (hail Parthi) by the Bal Vikas children of Maharashtra and Goa began at 5.45 p.m. after a Veda



Bal Vikas children of Maharashtra and Goa presented a fine dance ballet on the occasion of Ashadi Ekadasi on 11th July 2011.

chanting and Bhajan singing session from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m. The children performed thrilling dances to the tune of pre-recorded devotional songs which included songs dedicated to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Lord Vitthala. The refrain of most of the songs was the sacred chant "Jai Jai Ramkrishna Hari" which reverberated in the entire hall, spreading sacred vibrations of the Divine Name on this auspicious occasion. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were distributed to all the Bal Vikas children



who participated in this programme. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.45 p.m.

GURU PURNIMA AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Guru Purnima was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotion and piety on 15th July 2011. On this sacred day, Bhagavan's Samadhi was unveiled and opened for Darshan by devotees.

Devotional Music by Malladi Brothers

As a curtain raiser to the Guru Purnima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, Malladi Brothers, Sriram Prasad and Sri Ravi Kumar, the famous Carnatic music duo presented an enrapturing devotional music programme and offered their rich musical tribute to Bhagavan, the Sadguru of millions of His devotees on the morning of 14th July 2011. Commencing their presentation at 8.00 a.m. in Sai Kulwant Hall which was packed to capacity with devotees from all over the world, the singers described the divine glory of Bhagavan in their compositions, bringing their soulful rendition to a conclusion with deep devotional songs "Janula Madhya Tirugade Jagapati" (the Master of the universe who moves amidst people) and "Sai Namasmaranam Sai Rupa Dhyanam" (chanting the Name of Sai and meditating on His form). At the conclusion of their programme, the musical duo and their accompanying artiste were honoured and offered clothes. Bhajans led by Mandir Bhajan singers followed this. The morning programme concluded with Arati at 10.15 a.m.

Devotional Music by Alumni

On the occasion of Guru Purnima, a group of alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute

of Higher Learning presented a vocal music programme comprising Bhajans and devotional songs dedicated to Bhagavan. Starting their programme at 8.35 a.m. on 16th July 2011 after Vedic chants in Sai Kulwant Hall, the singers suffused the entire milieu with feelings of deep devotion by their soulful rendition of devotional songs. The songs were then followed by Bhajans which were alternately led by both boys and girls singers. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.40 a.m.

Saint Avvaiyar: A Musical Dance Drama

As part of Guru Purnima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu presented an enrapturing musical dance drama in Sai Kulwant Hall on 16th July 2011, depicting the life and



A scene from the drama "Saint Avvaiyar" enacted in Sai Kulwant Hall by Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu on 16th July 2011.

teachings of Saint Avvaiyar, a saint of Tamil Nadu. The drama began at 5.00 p.m. with a song and dance dedicated to the Lord of Puttaparthi, Bhagavan Baba. The next scene portrayed how Lord Ganesh manifested before Saint Avvaiyar at her young age and granted her the boon of poetry, and also fulfilled her wish to take away her youth and beauty so that she could dedicate her entire life to the service of mankind. Leading



the life of a mendicant, she advised and transformed many rich men and rulers of various kingdoms to practise charity and generosity and eliminate the sufferings of the poor and needy. Pleased with her deep devotion, Lord Muruga (Kartikeya), the brother of Lord Ganesh, bestowed on her his Divine Darshan and showered his blessings on her. This blessed saint had in the end the Darshan of Lord Siva, his consort Parvati and their sons Ganesh and Muruga in Kailash where she merged with the Lord. Good acting of the children, excellent dances, colourful costumes, thrilling music and songs and perfect choreography added to the impact and charm of the drama. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were distributed to the children. After a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.25 p.m.

Pilgrimage of U.S.A. Devotees

A group of about 100 devotees and Bal Vikas children from Southern California came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 21st to 27th July 2011 and offered their salutations at the Samadhi of Bhagavan with great devotion and reverence. On the afternoon of 22nd July 2011, they presented



A group of about 100 devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from Southern California (U.S.A.) and presented an excellent devotional music programme on 22nd July 2011.

a song medley entitled "From Many to One" in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. after Veda chanting for half an hour was in two parts. The first part consisted of six devotional songs from the religious and cultural traditions of the U.S.A. rendered by the entire group with great devotion. The second part comprised two songs on the theme of unity of mankind as envisaged by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Bhajans which were led alternately by boys and girls singers of the group. At the conclusion of this programme, Mandir Bhajan singers started Bhajans while Prasadam was distributed in the hall. The programme came to close with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

The most precious possession is mental equanimity; and it is the one thing you cannot give, even if you have it. Each has to acquire it the hard way. But you can enlighten people on the disciplines through which mental equanimity can be gained, and Santhi can be won. It cannot be earned through a higher standard of life, clothes, transistors, sofas, air conditioners, etc.

- Baba

WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE 2011



ON THE EVE OF Guru Purnima, International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations organised a World Youth Conference at Prasanthi Nilayam on the theme of "Ideal Sai Leadership" on 13th and 14th July 2011 in Poornachandra Auditorium, Prasanthi Nilayam. More than 450 delegates came to participate in it from 70 countries of the world.

The deliberations began at 8.30 a.m. on 13th July 2011 with the opening prayer followed by introductory remarks by Sri Shitu Chudasama, International Youth Coordinator. Thereafter, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman, Prasanthi Council and Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation addressed the delegates. Dr. Goldstein observed that realising the Atma was not only the goal of human life but it also bestowed on us Ideal Sai Leadership in the highest sense. He advised the participants to focus on their inner spiritual development and become Sai ideal leaders and beacons of light in the world. After the address of Dr. Goldstein, youth leaders from various zones shared their experiences of implementing various programmes that could effectively help in promoting human values and bring about transformation of heart. These youth leaders included Ivan Bavcevic representing Zone 6 (Southern Europe), Parani Kumar, Zone 4 (Far East Asia – Malaysia, Vietnam,



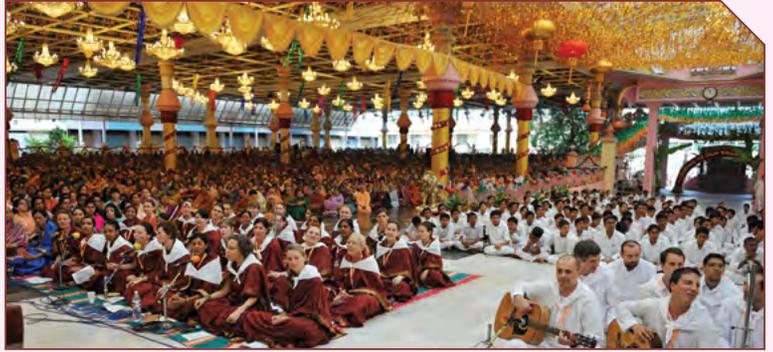
World Youth Conference 2011 was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 13th and 14th July 2011.

Singapore, Thailand, Bali, Laos, Myanmar), Anjali Daswani, Zone 5 (Far East Asia – Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Japan), Perla Yannelli Fernandez Silva, Zone 2 (Latin America). After these talks, the delegates were divided into study circle groups which deliberated on the ways and means to promote Sai ideal leadership.

The deliberations of World Youth Conference on 14th July 2011, the second and final day of the conference, began in the morning in Poornachandra Auditorium with the opening prayer. Thereafter, youth leaders from various countries addressed the delegates. They included Aparna Murali representing Zone 1 (U.S.A., Canada, West Indies and Israel), Mathias Seital, Zone 7 (Northern Europe), Anatolii Dikunov, Zone 8 (Russia) and Alvin Leo, Zone 3 (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji). After the talks of these four youth leaders, all Members of the International Youth Council,



study circle groups were formed which deliberated on the topic “Sai Young Adults – Sai Ideal Leaders of Future.” Reports of the study circle group were presented before the conference by group facilitators after lunch. The proceedings closed with the concluding remarks of Sri Shitu Chudasama and closing prayer.



Youth singers and musicians from 16 countries presented a delectable devotional music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 14th July 2011.

The valedictory session of the World Youth Conference was held in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 14th July 2011. The programme began with Veda chanting at 4.30 p.m. followed by talks by two speakers. The first speaker was Sri Shitu Chudasama. Recalling how Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba showered His blessings on the youth during the first World Youth Conference in 2007 and distributed His robes to them, the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagavan always said that future of every nation depended on its youth. Deliberating on the massive work done by Sai Youth in various parts of the world, Sri Chudasama described how Sai Youth played a major role in allaying the sufferings of the victims of tsunami in Sri Lanka and earthquake in Haiti. He informed the audience that there were at present 440 youth leaders in various countries of the world who were organising service activities in their respective countries. He made a special mention of the service projects taken up by Russian youth and also referred to the drinking water project undertaken by the youth of Nepal. In conclusion, Sri Chudasama reminded the

delegates that Bhagavan is always with us to guide and inspire us as He has no birth or death. The second speaker was Sri Daniel Strauss, Member of the International Youth Council. Speaking on the deliberations of the World Youth Conference, Sri Strauss stated that delegates were exhorted to awaken their inner divinity to become spiritually mature youth leaders. In order to awaken mankind to the teachings of Bhagavan, the youth should first practise these teachings themselves, he observed.

After these illuminating talks of the youth leaders, a group of youth musicians and singers from 16 countries of the world presented a delectable music programme. Christened as LASA (Love All Serve All), the group enthralled the audience by their fine rendition of songs fused with thrilling music, which included clapping in which the audience also joined. A brief Bhajan session followed this fine musical presentation. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to all. Arati was offered at 6.00 p.m. which marked the conclusion of the World Youth Conference 2011.



Effulgence of Divine Glory

THE LIGHT OF ALL LIGHTS



IN THE 1960'S, I USED TO GO to Puttapparthi frequently. Once, during an interview, Swami, in an accusing but kind voice remarked, "Because the railway man is not signing your pass, you keep coming here frequently; is it not?" Yes, He was right! Such journeys (by improper use of the railway pass) were made by me. Is there anything that escapes His notice?

On that trip, when I had gone to Puttapparthi, the house warming ceremony of a row of newly-built small houses was to take place. That auspicious function was to be observed by Swami Himself by lighting a lamp in each house. In those days, when such functions were held, Swami used to perform some miracle or the other, and we used to wait with great expectancy to see some such wonderful action by Him. Since there used to be frequent visits made by Him to places in and around Prasanthi Nilayam for some purpose or the other, devotees had many opportunities to have His Darshan. This time also we all gathered near the new houses and were waiting with folded hands for the arrival of Baba. For the Grihapravesam (house warming ceremony), as per the traditional way of observation to light the auspicious lamp, a brass lamp had been placed in each house, with five wicks kept ready soaked in oil. When Swami went near the lamp in the first house, a person started searching for a matchbox to be given to Baba to light the lamp. Saying, "No matchbox? It doesn't



matter", Swami just held His right hand as if blessing the lamp and all the five wicks of the lamp instantly started burning! All those present, spontaneously broke into applause, saying, "Sai Ram, Sai Ram".

Bhagavan smilingly started moving, when someone referred to the other tenements. Swami said, "The Grihapravesam of all of them is over!" We rushed to look into the other houses and what a surprise! The lamps that had been kept ready, in each one of them, had been lighted automatically and were burning bright! What a Divine play!

It is not necessary that Swami should come physically to do what He wants to do. Wherever He is, the moment He Wills, everything happens. This was the greatest truth that was revealed to us that day about the Avatar.

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



The Last Moment



AS THE LAST MOMENT OF AN old man belonging to Kannada region drew near, he tried to say something to his sons. Since the voice of the old man was vague and inaudible, the sons could not make out what their father wanted to say. The only sound that was somewhat audible denoted the letter 'Ka'. The sons thought that their father perhaps wanted to say the word Kanaka (gold), indicating where he had kept

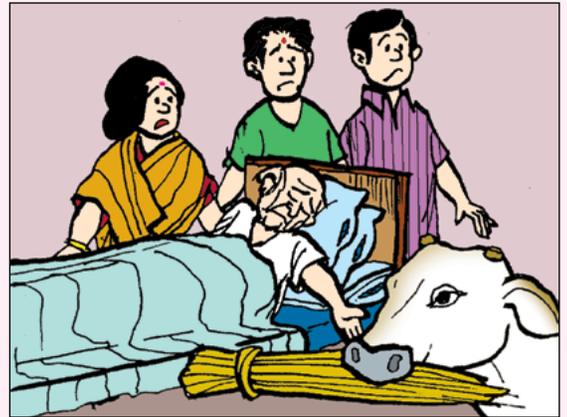


As the voice of their father was vague and feeble, the sons could not make out what he wanted to say.

the hidden gold and other valuables. 'Ka' also forms the words 'Karaa' and 'Kanajana' in Kannada which mean calf of a cow and granary, respectively. Trying to guess what their father meant, the sons spoke these words one after the other into the ears of the old man. But the old man shook his head to indicate that he did not mean any of these things. Instead he showed with the sign of his

hand a calf at a distance which was eating the twigs of a broom. With this indication, he breathed his last.

What the old man said was the word 'Kasabarika' which means broom in Kannada language. He told by the indication of his hand that the sons should take care as the calf



Even in his last moment, the old man thought only of worldly things.

was spoiling the broom by eating its twigs. At the last moment of his life also, the focus of the old man's attention were worldly things. He could not form the habit of renunciation and spiritual moorings even in his old age. Long, constant and hard Sadhana (spiritual practice) is essential to form the habit of these two.

When we cultivate the habit of recitation of God's Name from our very childhood, we will surely remember His Name when we breathe our last.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES



IN ADDITION TO BEING *Easwaramma Day, 6th May 2011* was also the 13th day after the Maha Samadhi of our Beloved Bhagavan. Sathya Sai Baba Centres throughout the world made special offerings with prayers, devotional programmes and service projects to commemorate this day.

PHILIPPINES

The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of the Philippines undertook special service activities to commemorate Easwaramma Day and the 13th day after Bhagavan's Maha



Sathya Sai volunteers served hot meals to over 200 persons, mainly children, in Metro Manila on 6th May 2011.

Samadhi. In Metro Manila, nine Sathya Sai volunteers served hot meals to over 200 people, most of them children. Volunteers also gave bath towels to 108 families. Prayers were offered prior to serving the food and genuine feelings of happiness were visible on the recipients' faces.

SRI LANKA

On 6th May 2011, a special Narayana Seva was organised throughout the country by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka. Sathya Sai volunteers, including Mahilas (women) and youth of the Sathya Sai centres and groups in all the five regions of Sri Lanka lovingly prepared over 3,000 lunch



A special Narayana Seva was organised throughout Sri Lanka to commemorate Easwaramma Day on 6th May 2011.

parcels and distributed these in children's homes, elders' homes, refugee camps, a cancer hospital, a school and a colony for the visually challenged, and villages across the country.

DUBAI

On 13th May 2011, devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Dubai organised food distribution for over 900 people in four large labour camps, including one for ladies. The programme commenced at 5.30 a.m. with the Shakti (ladies) Wing lovingly cooking the food, which was packed and delivered to the



camps by the Seva Wing. This was the first time that the Sai Organisation conducted the food distribution programme simultaneously at four locations. Sathya Sai devotees offered their gratitude to Bhagavan for such a wonderful opportunity to serve the needy.

U. S. A.

In Tennessee, with the Mississippi River flooding low-lying areas, over 500 people were displaced and accommodated in four to five shelters set up by a church. About 20 volunteers of the Sathya Sai Centre of Memphis collected urgently needed items from a list published by the church, and two full vanloads of supplies were delivered. The volunteers at the church were very thankful for the donation. Several ladies from the Sai Centre of Nashville, Tennessee prepared and served a five-course meal for about 250 women and children. In addition, sunblock lotion was distributed to all. The Sathya Sai Centre of Kansas City, Missouri, prepared and served a delicious lunch of salad, pizza, noodles, fried rice, lemonade, bananas and cookies to clientele of the Kansas City Union Rescue Mission.

The Sathya Sai Centres of Jackson, Mississippi; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Saint Louis, Missouri; and Louisville, Kentucky undertook Narayana Seva and served the homeless in their respective areas with home-cooked, hot meals and sandwiches and supplied nonperishable food items to various shelters, food kitchens and missions. Food pantry administrators remarked that the donations were God-send because schools were closed for the summer and families could not count on the free lunches provided during the school months to the children.

Sathya Sai volunteers from 18 Sathya Sai Centres throughout the Southern California region responded with special Narayana Seva programmes from 6th to 8th May



Many programmes were organised by 18 Sathya Sai Centres in Southern California from 6th to 8th May 2011 on the occasion of Easwaramma Day and 13th day after the Maha Samadhi of Bhagavan.

2011, in view of Easwaramma Day, which also coincided with the 13th day after the Maha Samadhi of our Beloved Swami. The forms of Seva varied; some Centres served the homeless through homeless shelters, hospitals and other institutions, while others served directly to the homeless living on the streets, in parks and many other places. Many Centres prepared hot meals, mostly for breakfast and lunch, while others served sandwiches. Dry rations were also delivered to shelters, and many Centres offered clothes to the needy. The Sathya Sai Centres of Arcadia, Lakewood and Mission Viejo handed out specially-ordered T-shirts with the human values logo on the front and "Love All, Serve All" printed on the back. They also offered caps with the logo, "Love is God, Live in Love", embroidered on the front of the cap. Many of the guests donned their T-shirts and caps as soon as they received them.

All Sathya Sai Centres of the Northern California region decided to undertake Narayana Seva, with the memberships coming together to address specific needs in their respective communities. Cereals, rice, pasta, beans, sugar, peanut butter, raisins, graham crackers, juices and cooking oil were collected in barrels at the regional meeting, and a total of about 540 kg of food items were delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank. In addition, the Fremont Sai Centre distributed bag lunches to feed over 130 homeless living in parks in the Oakland and Hayward areas. The Sacramento Sai Centre delivered care-kits to residents at the Salvation Army, and the Walnut Creek Sai Centre served 95 bag lunches to people in local parks; a few also received blankets and teddies.

In the Northeast Region, on 6th May 2011, the Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Burlington, Scarborough, Boston, Shrewsbury, Norwalk, Silvermine and Wappingers Falls Sathya Sai Centres undertook Narayana Seva, which included serving at soup kitchens, supplying hot meals, pizza, sandwiches, canned and other food items, clothing and towels to homeless and other various shelters. Devotees including Young Adults and Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) children participated in the Seva programmes. A unique service project was undertaken by the Farmington Centre to help plant vegetables on every first Sunday of the month in the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" programme, to help provide produce for homeless shelters throughout the area. Devotees participated in devotional programmes that included chanting of Gayatri Mantra, Bhajans and meditation.

Sathya Sai Centres in Bridgewater, New Jersey; South Bethesda and Baltimore, Maryland; Fairfax, Virginia; and Washington DC, humbly offered Narayana Seva on 6th May 2011 by distributing food and clothing to the homeless in their areas and to very needy people through various shelters, churches and other crisis centres. Sathya Sai volunteers who participated were very happy and grateful to Swami for giving them the opportunity to serve the needy.

On 6th May 2011, the Sathya Sai Baba Centres of Chicago Metro, Illinois, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, served hot dinners to about 60 and 200 homeless residents at rescue missions and shelters, respectively. The Sathya Sai Baba Centres of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana; Chicago West Suburbs, Illinois, and Minneapolis South, Minnesota, offered Narayana Seva by serving breakfast and supplying nonperishable food items, fruit and sandwiches to homeless shelters. Some of the Centres adopted the Seva, to continue on a monthly basis.

On 7th May 2011, the Sathya Sai Centre of South Houston performed Narayana Seva by cooking and serving a hot meal to over 80 residents between the ages of 50 and 65 at The Turning Point homeless centre in Houston, Texas. In addition, meals were packed in 80 "Go-Green" take-away containers and delivered to residents at another homeless shelter near downtown Houston.

INDONESIA

Sathya Sai Centres in Bandung (West Java), Palembang (South Sumatra) and Semarang (Central Java) conducted Narayana Seva on 8th May 2011 in





Devotees of Indonesia performed Narayana Seva in an orphanage, a home for the elderly and a centre for mentally challenged on 8th May 2011.

commemoration of Easwamma Day and the 13th day after Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Maha Samadhi. About 25 Sathya Sai volunteers from Central Java served 108 cooked-food packages to residents at Panti Asuhan, an orphanage, and donated 150 kilograms of rice and other food items to the orphanage. In addition, 108 packages of vegetarian snacks and toiletries were offered to 70 residents of a home for the elderly. In South Sumatra, 20 Sathya Sai devotees served 38 needy people on the streets, and 10 Sathya Sai volunteers served food packages to 160 patients with mental disorders at the Panti Rehabilitasi Cacat Menta (Rehabilitation Centre for the Mentally Disabled) in Semarang.

NEPAL

On 6th May 2011, special devotional programmes were held in loving memory of our Beloved Bhagavan at all 186 Sri Sathya Sai Centres throughout Nepal. The morning programme began at 5.00 a.m. with the chanting of Omkar, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan followed by Bhajans and Narayana Seva. In the afternoon, Prarthana Sabhas

(prayer meetings) were held at 40 Sri Sathya Sai Centres, located mostly in populated urban areas. This special programme was attended by about 10,000 devotees and included local religious leaders of various faiths. The prayer programme began with the offering of flower bouquets at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan by religious teachers and seniors from the Sai Organisation. Ardent devotees



Prayer meetings were held at 40 Sri Sathya Sai Centres in Nepal on 6th May 2011 in memory of Bhagavan and to observe Easwamma Day.

of Bhagavan deliberated on Bhagavan's life and His message and His expectations from devotees of a commitment to serve and follow His teachings. Religious teachers highlighted Bhagavan Baba's contributions towards the welfare of mankind. The three-hour programme concluded with Arati and distribution of Prasadam.

In the evening, 40 devotees assembled to share their experiences and love for Swami, with emotions running high from the unbearable separation from the Physical Form. Swami's love and presence were strongly felt by all present while devotees shared their experiences and love for Swami. There was an overwhelming feeling of gratitude to Bhagavan for the opportunity to

be contemporaries of the Sathya Sai Avatar. All devotees resolved that this was the time to reinforce our faith in Bhagavan and His Message.

THAILAND

On 6th May 2011, Easwaramma Day, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Thailand organised Narayana Seva at the Good Shepherd's Sisters' Home. At the event, 51 Sathya Sai volunteers including Bal Vikas children, youth and adults chanted Gayatri Mantra, Sai Gayatri and food prayer prior to serving a delicious hot meal and sweets to 85 residents.

AUSTRALIA

Easwaramma Day observances in Australia were combined with the 13th day after the Maha Samadhi of Bhagavan. In Western Australia, at the request of the Anglicare care facility, 30 packages of hot food were prepared by the Willetton, Warwick and Perth Sai Centres and delivered to homeless children living on the streets of Perth. All the Sai Centres and Groups in Western Australia donated baby goods to the inmates of a women's prison. At the Victoria Market in the City of Melbourne, Sathya Sai volunteers lovingly prepared food and collected loaves of bread and rolls from food distributors who set aside a portion of their daily production for charity. In Victoria, around 50 homeless people happily partook of the hot meals, cool drinks and cakes provided by various Centres of that region and were delighted with this special treat. As there was an abundance of food, people were given take-away bags of food for the next day. In New South Wales, the Sathya Sai Centre of Toongabbie served

meals to the homeless at St. Vincent de Paul's Men Hostel in Granville. This hostel caters to single, homeless men in suburban Sydney. A meeting of devotees was held to observe Easwaramma Day and the 13th day after the Maha Samadhi of Bhagavan in Tasmania, where a number of devotees contributed food and clothing for distribution by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

GHANA

On 28th April 2011 at the Osu Temple, Accra, Ghana, about 200 devotees gathered to pay homage to Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba after His Maha Samadhi. The participants watched a DVD ceremony of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Maha Samadhi. From



Devotees of Ghana holding a meeting on 28th April 2011 to offer their tributes to Bhagavan.

26th to 28th May and from 2nd to 4th June 2011, the Crystal Television Channel in Ghana, as a tribute to His work, broadcast a half-hour programme during prime time on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: A unique service programme called 'Sri Sathya Sai Surdas Project' was taken up by Dilsukhnagar Samithi

of Hyderabad district for the benefit of visually challenged persons. Sai Youth prepared study material of 3rd to 10th Classes, B.Ed. and D.Ed. in CD format and distributed a set of nine CDs to 250 beneficiaries. It took 45 days to record this study material and a total of 620 hours were spent in preparing the material. This programme was launched on 3rd July 2011.

A new Deenajanoddharana Centre (centre for destitute children), the 8th in Srikakulam district, rehabilitating five destitute children was started in Srikakulam on 20th June 2011.

The Youth Wing of Visakha district organisation conducted Sri Sathya Sai Purity Cup matches in cricket, volleyball and badminton on 19th May 2011 in the playfield of Ukkunagaram Seva Samithi. Purity trophy was won by Gajuwaka Samithi. The district organised Nagar Sankirtans from 29th June to 3rd July 2011 in the district, in which a total of 4,923 devotees from 16 Samithis took part. The event marked the unflinching faith of the devotees in Bhagavan.

Kurnool district organisation conducted a dental camp at Gudumbhai Tanda near Kammacheruvu, in which 150 patients were treated and given medicines.

A building consisting of eight service wings in the same campus appropriately named Ashtadala Pushpam (a flower of eight petals) was constructed at Raavulapalem in East Godavari district, and it was inaugurated on 14th May 2011.

Bihar and Jharkhand: Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Bihar and Jharkhand organised a two-day State Youth Conference on 2nd and 3rd July 2011 at Dhanbad in Jharkhand. Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri

Sathya Sai Seva Organisations hoisted the Prasanthi flag and inaugurated the session by lighting the lamp amidst Veda chanting on 2nd July 2011 at 8.45 a.m. In his inaugural address, Sri V. Srinivasan spoke about the Divinity of our Beloved Lord and said, "Bhagavan was with us, He is with us and He will be with us always." We could pay true homage to Bhagavan by living His teachings in letter and spirit, he said. He also urged the youth and devotees to carry out all the activities in the State with more vigour and dedication.

Sri Srinivasan along with Sri Nimish Pandya, District President, Mumbai and State office bearers then visited a village by name Gandhigram, where mostly leprosy patients with their families live. This village has been adopted by the local Sai Samithi which has constructed a temple and provided drinking water connection to this village. The villagers accorded a traditional welcome to Sri Srinivasan by singing Bhajans and led him on to the dais. After the village visit, Sri Nimish Pandya addressed the youth reminding them of their responsibilities



The villagers of Gandhigram sang Bhajan and offered traditional welcome to the All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations.

towards their parents, society and nation. In the evening, Sri Srinivasan addressed the local elite in the Industries and Commerce Association Hall. The guest of honour for the evening programme was Sri Pramod Pathak from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad who spoke about Bhagavan's Mission of educare, medicare and aquacare. On the night of 2nd July, Sri Srinivasan addressed the State office bearers of Bihar and Jharkhand and urged them to rededicate their lives to the Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A total of 150 youth and more than 100 devotees and State office bearers attended the two-day programme.

Jammu and Kashmir: Seva Dal members from all the Samithis of the State organised a special Bhajan in village Khanni Swani (Ramban district), in which around 100 villagers participated. The Bhajan continued from 9 p.m. on 18th June 2011 to 1 a.m. on 19th June 2011. The villagers requested the Sai Organisation to hold such Bhajans on regular basis.

A veterinary camp was conducted by Nanak Nagar Samithi, in which 450 cattle were dozed and vaccinated, and medicines were distributed.

Narayana Seva is regularly being conducted in the State. Food provisions packets containing rice, wheat flour, pulses and other food articles are being distributed to 35 needy families every month. Besides, nearly 1,000 persons are being served cooked food under National Narayana Seva programme.

Punjab: Easwaramma Day was celebrated on 6th May 2011 in Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Baghpur (Hoshiarpur). The sacred Guru Granth Sahib was brought from the



Sri Sathya Sai School, Baghpur (Hoshiarpur district) where Easwaramma Day was celebrated on 6th May 2011.

Gurudwara of a nearby village with utmost respect using school band. The members of school committee and residents of nearby area participated. After the Sukhmani Path and last prayers, Langar (free food) was served to the devotees present.

Rajasthan: On the occasion of weeklong annual Urs celebrations at the world famous shrine of medieval Sufi saint, Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti of Ajmer, Narayana Seva was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Samithi, Ajmer on 8th June 2011, wherein more than 700 pilgrims received the Prasadam lovingly offered by Sai volunteers.

Tamil Nadu: Anticipation and excitement filled the air on the morning of 3rd July 2011 in Kundarapalli village, located in the Krishnagiri district in the State of Tamil Nadu. The occasion was the launch of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project in Sri Sathya Sai Matriculation School in the village. The school, one of the nine Sathya Sai Schools in Tamil Nadu, was the chosen one as it was the pilot school in Tamil Nadu for the implementation of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project.

A large number of villagers came to witness the grand launch of Sri Sathya Sai



Vidya Vahini Project in their school. The participants included more than 100 students, their parents, principals, correspondents of all the Sathya Sai Schools in the State, alumni of Swami's colleges and office bearers of the Sai Organisation. The programme began at 10.30 a.m. with Veda chanting by school children.

This was followed by a video clipping titled "Bhagavan's 85th Birthday Gift to the World – Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini." Sri N. Ramani, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu then pressed the button and launched Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project. This was followed by speeches by guests. Dr. V. Mohan spoke about the importance of educate and observed that the value-based education given in Sai Schools would spiritually energise our nation and revolutionise the methods of learning. Sri N. Ramani highlighted the importance and significance of Bhagavan's Mission and assured that Tamil Nadu would be the pioneer State in incorporating Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project in all the nine Sai Schools in a record time.

Dr. Sarath Kumar from Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Central team from Bengaluru spoke about the vision and mission of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project. He said, "The Vidya Vahini Project takes education to the doorstep of the poor and the needy children who cannot afford to learn through expensive media platforms and technology. He also highlighted that the methodology adopted in the Vidya Vahini was based on illustration through examples from day-to-day lives, questions that spurred their interest and multimedia that made complex concepts easy to understand.

Thereafter, Sri Srinivasan and Sri Vigneswaran, members of the core team of the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini from Prasanthi Nilayam explained the purpose of education and stressed the role of teachers. The teachers, they said, should be role models and their methods of teaching should arouse curiosity in the minds of children such that they learn with concentration and confidence. They also shared with the audience, Swami's guiding words for the project who had instructed: Focus on small children, work in small groups rather than reaching out in masses and make continuous progress through evaluation and updation.

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project will be initially implemented for Classes VI, VII and VIII. While Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu provided the infrastructure,



A classroom for conducting Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Project in Tamil Nadu.

alumni of Bhagavan's institutions from Tamil Nadu provided LCD projectors and computers for the classrooms. Equipped with the latest gadgets, the classrooms soon got transformed into most modern smart classrooms. The programme concluded with Arati. Breakfast and lunch were offered to all participants.



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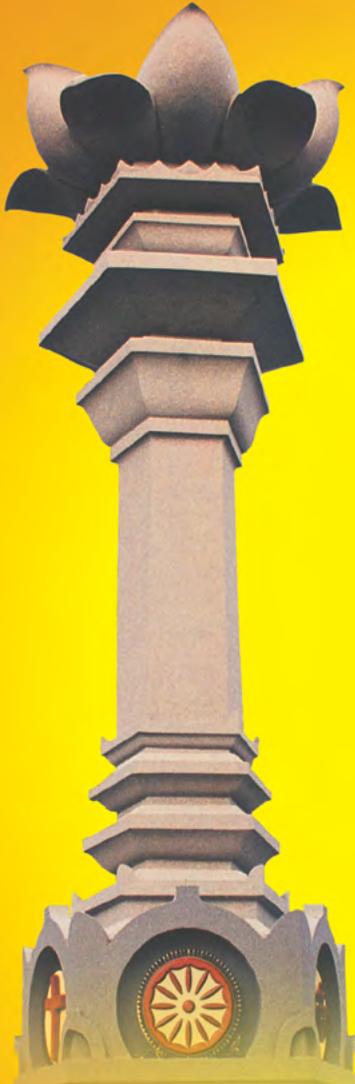
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Pursue Divine Path

The body should not be regarded as a mere conglomeration of the five elements. Just as a temple is not a mere edifice consisting of bricks and mortar, the body is also not a structure of bones, flesh, blood and nerves. It should be regarded as the Abode of the Divine. It is, therefore, the primary duty of man to ensure that the body does not indulge in wrongful practices, and fall a prey to falsehood and unrighteousness. He should use the body to promote his higher human qualities and pursue the divine path.

– Baba

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