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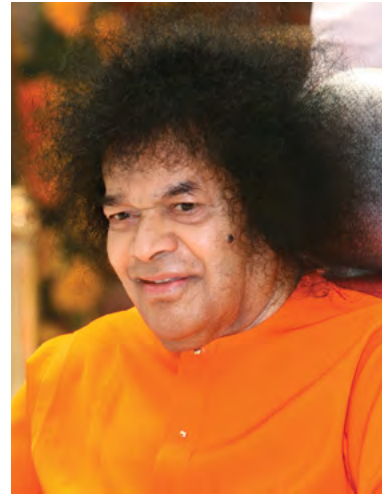
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"Some officers earn reversion instead of promotion. What is the reason? The reason is their defects. You get promotion when you are free from defects. When man has to undergo the process of promotion or reversion in a small office due to his good or bad behaviour, how much more careful he must be if he wants to attain divine grace? When you take to the sacred path, God will give you promotion accordingly. If you develop virtues, then there is no need for you to undertake any Sadhana to please God."



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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
9TH JULY 1996

EQUAL-MINDEDNESS IS THE HALLMARK OF A HUMAN BEING

A true devotee is one who remains equal-minded in both happiness and sorrow, prosperity and adversity, praise and blame.

(Telugu Poem)

EXERCISE CONTROL OVER YOUR SPEECH, VISION AND LAUGHTER

Students, Embodiments of Love!



GOOD AND BAD, WEALTH AND poverty, praise and blame go together in this world. There can be no sorrow without happiness and happiness has no value without sorrow. *Na Sukhat Labhate Sukham* (one cannot derive happiness out of happiness). Happiness does not come out of happiness; it comes only out of sorrow. A wealthy man today may become a pauper tomorrow. Similarly, a pauper may become a rich man some day or the other. Today you are being praised but tomorrow you may be criticised. To consider praise and blame, happiness and sorrow, prosperity and adversity with equal-mindedness is the hallmark of a true human being.

Develop Equal-mindedness

The Gita also declares the same thing, *Sukhadukhe Samekruthwa Labhalabhu Jayajayau* (one should remain equal-minded in happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, victory and defeat). You can really enjoy your life as a human being only when you consider

both sorrow and happiness, profit and loss with equanimity. If there is no sorrow, man will have no value for happiness. Therefore, one should welcome sorrow, if one wants to experience real happiness.

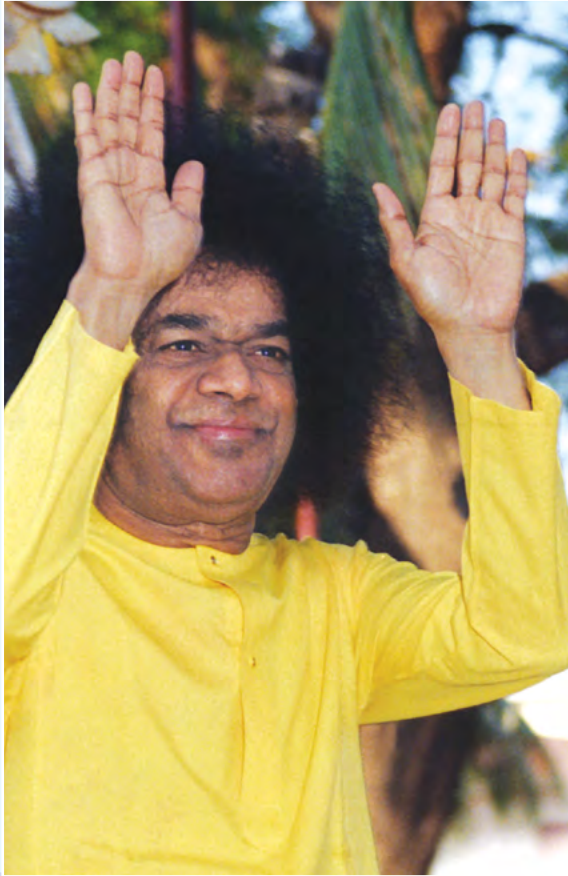
Pleasure and pain, good and bad coexist; none can separate them. You cannot

There is no need for you to make efforts to please this person or that person. Do not waste your life in the pursuit of mean and petty desires. Make earnest efforts to please God. When you please God and become dear to Him, the entire world will become yours. Thyagaraja also said, "Oh Rama! If I have Your Anugraha (grace), all the Navagrahas (nine planets) will become subservient to me." In order to become the recipients of God's grace, you should treat the pairs of opposites like pleasure and pain, happiness and sorrow, praise and blame with equal-mindedness.



find pleasure or pain, good or bad to the exclusion of the other. Pleasure results when difficulties fructify. (Telugu Poem)

In our day-to-day life also, we will have no value for day if there is no night and vice-versa. It is very difficult to understand this truth and act accordingly. People who do not understand this truth desire only happiness at all times. They are under the delusion that



lack common sense. The student who spoke earlier said that modern education did not develop common sense. Not only common sense, it does not foster general knowledge even. In fact, both common sense and general knowledge have become zero in the present system of education. Who will desire food when he is not hungry? Similarly, who will buy an air conditioner when it is not hot? Only those who have both common sense and

Make efforts to develop equal-mindedness. The Bhagavadgita also declares, Samatvam Yogamuchyate (equanimity is called true yoga), Yoga Karmasu Kausalam (perfection in action is true yoga). There may be many people who criticise you. You should neither be depressed by criticism nor elated by praise. When you don't have any defect in you, how does it matter if others criticise you? You should face the situation with courage, thinking, "There is no defect in me. Then why should I be disturbed by criticism? This is not my fault." In order to develop such courage and conviction, you should follow the right path.

they can remain happy always. But this is not possible. First of all, you should understand what happiness really means. It is only when one is tired of walking in the sun can one understand the value of taking rest in the shade of a tree. People who question why man should undergo sorrow and suffering

general knowledge can really understand the value of the pairs of opposites like happiness and sorrow, profit and loss, prosperity and adversity.

In all fields of life, whether it is worldly, physical, moral or spiritual, man can attain name and fame only when he undergoes



difficulties. King Harishchandra underwent many difficulties and sufferings in order to uphold truth. It was his firm determination, "Come what may, I will never leave truth." He sacrificed his kingdom, sold his wife and son, and he himself became a servant to uphold truth. He earned the exalted name of Sathya Harishchandra only after undergoing enormous difficulties, sorrows and sufferings. Otherwise, he would have been remembered as Harishchandra and not Sathya Harishchandra. He sacrificed everything at the altar of truth. This signifies true determination.

Man should develop such firm determination. Being unmindful of all sufferings, sorrows and difficulties, one should be prepared to sacrifice even his life to achieve his goal. This is the sign of a man who relentlessly pursues the path of truth. You know the story of seven years old little boy, Prahlada. He constantly contemplated on the Name of Narayana. His own father subjected him to untold suffering and even tried to kill him. But Prahlada faced all difficulties and sufferings with courage and determination and ultimately achieved victory. He could earn great name and fame because he bore all sufferings with enormous fortitude. Did he ever get bogged down by difficulties? Did any sorrow break his determination? No, no. He achieved victory against all odds. Hence, difficulties are the stepping stones to high esteem and reputation as well as true happiness. But people do not welcome sorrows and difficulties at all. This is a great mistake. In order to understand the mystery of human life, man has to experience both happiness and sorrow. Otherwise, you can never enjoy true peace and happiness. You

should welcome difficulties and sorrows in order to experience everlasting bliss. *Pleasure is an interval between two pains.* One who understands this truth will neither be elated by happiness nor depressed by sorrow. But people today are prepared to ruin their precious reputation for the sake of trivial, mean and momentary worldly pleasures and petty gains. Thereby they subject themselves to disrepute. This may be due to the influence of Kali Age. Unfortunately, man today is running after petty gains and not making any effort to attain everlasting happiness. Here is a small example. The owner of a 50-seater bus going from one village to another overcrowds it with 70 people for a little more money. He may earn twenty rupees extra by overcrowding the bus, but he does not realise that the tyres worth two thousand rupees will be spoiled in the process. Similarly, man today is ruining his precious reputation for the sake of petty gains.

Make Sacred Use of your Senses

How people in general and youth in particular should conduct themselves to earn a good reputation? They should enquire how they should use their eyes, ears and tongue and exercise control over them. It is not proper to look at everyone and everything just because you have eyes. See only what is required to be seen. It is a sin to look at everyone and everything. What do you achieve by using your eyes in an unsacred manner? People try to derive mean pleasure by casting evil glances at women. But they do not understand how much disrepute they earn by craving for such mean pleasures. Such persons cannot move in society with their head held high. You should see only what is necessary for you to see. Never look



at anything that is unnecessary. You are all young and you should not think otherwise when Swami tells you these things. It is My duty to make you aware of the ways of the world and put you on the right path. Suppose a twenty-five year old young man is travelling with his twenty year old younger sister. Though they are brother and sister, people may consider them as husband and wife, looking at their age. You can yourself see what a bad reputation they earn by travelling together! According to our ancient traditions and culture of Bharat, young brothers and sisters should not travel together. They should avoid going to a cinema, beach or shopping centre together. They should go along with their parents. In ancient days, people strictly adhered to such principles.

Take another example of a sixty year old man and a sixteen year old girl travelling together. People may consider them to be grandfather and granddaughter though they may not be. When a young brother and his young sister travel together, people form wrong opinions about them. On the other hand, when an old man goes with a young girl with evil intentions, people consider them as grandfather and granddaughter. We should not give scope to such situations. If it is necessary, you may travel alone. But if you have to go with your young sister, take your mother also with you. This is the teaching of our ancient culture. Such principles and practices are meant to uphold our family name and reputation in society. But, unfortunately, the vision of youth today is tainted with evil intentions. This is not the vision of a human being but it is the vision of a crow which is not steady at all and keeps shifting here and there. It is natural for a crow

because it has a long beak. But, why do you look here and there like a crow when you do not have a long beak like a crow? Keep your vision always straight. Such sacred vision is very essential for youth. It is termed as Sunetra and Sudarshana (good vision). When you develop such vision, you will earn a high reputation.

Exercise Control over Speech, Vision and Laughter

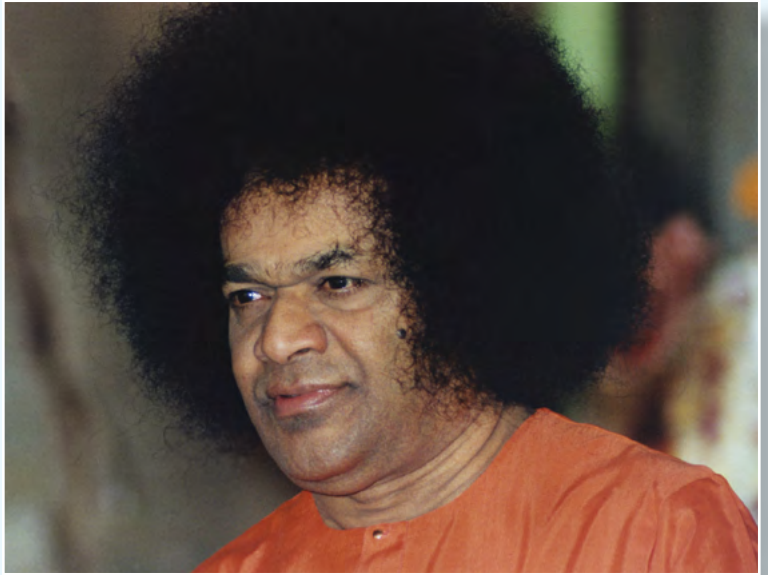
You should also know how you should use your tongue in a proper way. It is necessary for students to know what they should speak before whom, when they should laugh and when they should not. Sometimes, you start laughing when you see something funny. But improper laughter can put you to great harm. This improper laughter was the main cause of Draupadi's difficulties. Dharmaraja got a beautiful palace built by the architect Maya. Therefore, it was called Maya Sabha. It had many wonderful architectural features. For instance, doors appeared to be there where they did not exist really, and where doors actually were there, they could not be seen. Similarly, the flooring was such that it would cause the illusion of a tank where there was none, and it would appear like a dry area where there was really a water tank.

Duryodhana was filled with jealousy on seeing this wonderful palace built by the Pandavas. When he entered the palace, he did not see the door where there was actually one. He rushed forward, thinking that there was no door and banged his head against it. However, he did not bother much about it. Filled as he was with jealousy and pride, he walked haughtily looking here and there. When he proceeded further, he saw only a plain floor where there was a tank of



water. Consequently, he fell into the water tank. At that time, he heard somebody laughing at him. Anybody could have had fun on seeing such a situation. It was not Draupadi but her friends who laughed at Duryodhana. In fact, Draupadi was nowhere around at that time. But when she heard her friends laughing, she came out to see what had happened. Unfortunately, Duryodhana saw her when she came out and by mistake thought it was she who laughed at him. He vowed to avenge this humiliation and resolved that he would humiliate her in the open court so that people in the court would laugh at her. Therefore, you should know where to laugh, when to laugh and in what manner to laugh.

Laughter is of two types – Hasan and Prahasan. Hasan means to flash a gentle smile. Prahasan means to laugh loudly making the sound Haha Haha Haha... This is a very bad practice. Suppose two or three friends laugh loudly when they are going on a road. Their reason of laughter may be anything but the women passing by may think that they are laughing at them. Therefore, you should not laugh loudly at least when you are walking on a road, especially when



How people in general and youth in particular should conduct themselves to earn a good reputation? They should enquire how they should use their eyes, ears and tongue and exercise control over them. It is not proper to look at everyone and everything just because you have eyes. See only what is required to be seen. It is a sin to look at everyone and everything. What do you achieve by using your eyes in an unsacred manner? People try to derive mean pleasure by casting evil glances at women. But they do not understand how much disrepute they earn by craving for such mean pleasures. Such persons cannot move in society with their head held high. You should see only what is necessary for you to see. Never look at anything that is unnecessary.

there are women around. In any case, never laugh at women. In towns and cities, there are some people who keep loitering before shops laughing at women and teasing them when they come for shopping. If they laugh at others' women, will not others laugh at their



women when they go for shopping? Nobody can escape from the reaction, reflection and resound of his actions. Everybody has to suffer the consequences of his actions. People who indulge in such evil practices become distant even from God. What is the reason? The reason is that people who earn a bad reputation by their evil deeds have no place in divine proximity. Therefore, have a check on your laughter. Not only on your laughter, but your speech and vision also. You should know what to speak where. There are some people who sing vulgar songs on seeing women walking on the road. Has God given you tongue to sing such vulgar songs? How sacred is the tongue and what an evil use you put it to by singing such vulgar songs! By acting in this manner, you ruin your reputation and subject yourself to ridicule by others. Therefore, exercise control over your speech, vision and laughter. If you want to have good respect in society, you should conduct yourself in a befitting manner. When your behaviour is good, your reputation in society will also rise high.

Obey the Command of God

Man should be equal-minded both in praise and blame, good and bad. Equal-mindedness is the hallmark of a human being. Only such a person has the chance to rise to the level of divine. On the other hand, if man conducts himself contrary to human nature, he will degenerate to the level of an animal. What does it mean? He moves in the reverse direction and degenerates from human level to animal level. Man should always move forward and make progress; he should never retrace his steps. Some officers earn reversion instead of promotion. What is the reason? The reason is their defects. You get

promotion when you are free from defects. When man has to undergo the process of promotion or reversion in a small office due to his good or bad behaviour, how much more careful he must be if he wants to attain divine grace? When you take to the sacred path, God will give you promotion accordingly. If you develop virtues, then there is no need for you to undertake any Sadhana to please God. God will Himself call a virtuous person saying, "My dear, I am pleased with your virtues. Come on." You don't even need to pray to Him; He Himself will welcome you. You should obey the command of God and should develop firm faith and sacred feelings. On the other hand, if you act contrary to His expectations and commands, He will give you a reversion instead of a promotion. *Sasanam Vachanam Iti Sastram*. What is Sastra? Sastra is that which propounds the rules and regulations for the conduct of man. It says, don't see anything bad, don't hear anything bad and don't speak anything bad. This is not good for you.

See no evil, see what is good;

Hear no evil, hear what is good;

Talk no evil, talk what is good;

Think no evil, think what is good;

Do no evil, do what is good;

This is the way to God.

This is the code of conduct the Sastras prescribe for man. When you follow these principles, God will welcome you. If you act contrary to this code of conduct, you will become distant from God. Not only will you become distant from God, He will not even look at your face. What is the reason? The reason is that you have violated the command of God. Consequently, you



will lose your reputation, your wealth and respect in society. If you don't follow His command, how can God draw you nearer to Him? Therefore, you should develop good qualities in you in the first instance. Make efforts to develop equal-mindedness. The Bhagavadgita also declares, *Samatvam Yogamuchyate* (equanimity is called true yoga), *Yoga Karmasu Kausalam* (perfection in action is true yoga). There may be many people who criticise you. You should neither be depressed by criticism nor elated by praise. When you don't have any defect in you, how does it matter if others criticise you? You should face the situation with courage, thinking, "There is no defect in me. Then why should I be disturbed by criticism? This is not my fault." In order to develop such courage and conviction, you should follow the right path. Sometimes, students laugh loudly. Yes, certain situations will make them laugh. When you see some funny incident in a drama, you naturally burst into a laughter. In such situations I also laugh. However, we should control our laughter when we are in the company of others.

As is the Food, So is the Head

During the Mahabharata war, Bhishma was lying on a bed of arrows for 56 days. As Bhishma's end approached, Krishna one day took the Pandavas to him with the intention that they should learn the principles of Dharma from him. Everybody knew his greatness and wisdom. Great sages sat on one side and the relatives of Bhishma sat on the other side. The Kauravas were already killed in the war. It was their wickedness that destroyed them. Even Sakuni and Karna were also no more. Only five Pandavas along with Draupadi were there. Vidura also came there.

Difficulties are the stepping stones to high esteem and reputation as well as true happiness. But people do not welcome sorrows and difficulties at all. This is a great mistake. In order to understand the mystery of human life, man has to experience both happiness and sorrow. Otherwise, you can never enjoy true peace and happiness.

You should welcome difficulties and sorrows in order to experience everlasting bliss. Pleasure is an interval between two pains. One who understands this truth will neither be elated by happiness nor depressed by sorrow. But people today are prepared to ruin their precious reputation for the sake of trivial, mean and momentary worldly pleasures and petty gains.

Draupadi always followed the Pandavas. Neither the Pandavas nor Draupadi could bear separation from each other. The Pandavas along with Draupadi offered their salutations to Bhishma. Draupadi always had great respect for elders. In fact, she was born out of fire. Even Krishna highly praised her virtues. When somebody questioned as to who was the greatest Pativrata (chaste woman), He did not mention the names of Sathyabhama or Rukmini. He said, Draupadi who had to serve five husbands was the greatest Pativrata. When they asked for the reason, He explained thus:

Draupadi dutifully obeyed the command of her husbands. She would never say to any one of them that she had no time to serve him. She was satisfied with whatever she



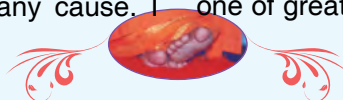
got in life. She was the supreme example of chastity and none could match her in this respect. (Telugu Poem)

At that time, Bhishma started teaching the principles of Dharma to the Pandavas. He said, "Dharmaraja! You have won in the war only by the grace of Krishna. Who do you think Krishna is? You think that He is your friend and brother-in-law. You are deluded with this feeling. He is the direct manifestation of Lord Narayana. Do not be deluded by your physical relationship with Him. How fortunate you are that you are able to converse with God, play with Him and spend your time in His company blissfully!"

These teachings of Bhishma form the Santhi Parva of the Mahabharata, which guides man how he should conduct himself in a particular situation, how he should face all situations with courage and confidence and how he should lead his daily life in a righteous way. All the Pandavas were listening to the teachings of Bhishma with their heads bent in humility. But Draupadi could not restrain herself and laughed loudly. Her laughter was not meant to show disrespect to Bhishma. It was just an expression of her inner feelings. While Bhima expressed his displeasure by his physical gestures, Dharmaraja cast a stern look at Draupadi. Similarly, Arjuna also looked at her disapprovingly as if to say, "What is this? You lack common sense and general knowledge. How can you laugh loudly in the presence of so many people?" But Bhishma understood the inner meaning of her laughter and told the Pandava brothers, "You have formed wrong notion about Draupadi's laughter. She is one of great chastity. None can find fault with her. She has laughed not without any cause. I

myself am the cause of her laughter." Then he lovingly called Draupadi near him and said, "Please explain the reason for your laughter to all, so that they can know the truth and their misunderstanding is removed." Then Draupadi said, "Grandfather! I always respect your words. You have dedicated your life to uphold Sathya and Dharma. In such a situation, how can I dare laugh at you? You were the commander-in-chief of the Kaurava army. You are the one who brought them up from their very childhood. Then, how is it that you never imparted these teachings to the Kauravas? On the other hand, you are imparting these teachings to my husbands who are the very embodiments of truth and righteousness. Where your teachings were needed, you did not give and where these are hardly needed, you are giving them. That is why I could not restrain my laughter."

Then Bhishma said, "Yes, this is my fault. I have been eating the food provided to me by the Kauravas and living in their company. It is because of the unsacred food that I ate, all the principles of Dharma were subdued in me and only sinful feelings became prominent. All the bad blood in me has now drained out due the arrows shot at me by your husband Arjuna. My bad feelings and evil thoughts have also gone out with this bad blood. That is the reason now only sacred feelings and sacred thoughts are emerging from me. That is why I am able to teach Dharma to the Pandavas now. It was the unsacred food provided to me by the Kauravas that made me incapable of imparting these sacred teachings all these days." Therefore, the food one eats influences the mind to a great extent. When you eat unsacred food, you get only unsacred feelings. Bhishma was one of great wisdom. But even his mind was



influenced by the unsacred food he ate. As is the food, so is the head. Thus, Bhishma accepted his fault and told everyone that there was no fault in the laughter of Draupadi. Then all the Rishis, yogis and all those who assembled there understood the truth that the food eaten by man had a great influence on his mind. Draupadi had every right to laugh at the teachings of Bhishma because she had led a life of truth and righteousness. In fact, she had dedicated her entire life to uphold Sathya and Dharma.

Make yourself Deserving of God's Love

Once during the exile of the Pandavas, Sage Durvasa came to their hermitage with thousands of his disciples and asked for food. He told them that they were going for a bath in a nearby river and would come back to have food. The Pandavas were gripped by anxiety as to how to provide food to so many guests when they had nothing with them. Fearing the curse of Sage Durvasa, Draupadi prayed to Krishna to save them from this predicament. Krishna promptly appeared on the scene and asked Draupadi to give Him something to eat. Then Draupadi replied, "Krishna, if we were living in Hastinapur, I would have certainly given You a sumptuous feast. But alas! We are living in a forest eating roots and tubers. In such a situation, what can I offer You?" Krishna told her to look into the vessel, which she had already cleaned, if there was any food particle left in it. She did accordingly and found a tiny piece of leaf sticking to the vessel. Krishna ate that leftover leaf. As soon as He did so, the hunger of Durvasa and his disciples was satiated and they went away without bothering the Pandavas. In this way, Krishna saved the Pandavas from the curse of Durvasa.

When you satisfy God, the entire world will be satisfied with you. If God disowns you, then the world will also disown you. One who is disowned by God will not be accepted by anyone. If God accepts you, everyone will accept you. Therefore, when Krishna's hunger was satiated, Sage Durvasa and all his disciples felt satiated. After their bath in the river, they did not come back to the Pandavas for food.

Draupadi's devotion and her sense of surrender to Krishna were matchless. God Himself extolled her virtues as she bore all her difficulties with fortitude. There is no need for you to make efforts to please this person or that person. Do not waste your life in the pursuit of mean and petty desires. Make earnest efforts to please God. When you please God and become dear to Him, the entire world will become yours. Thyagaraja also said, "Oh Rama! If I have Your Anugraha (grace), all the Navagrahas (nine planets) will become subservient to me." In order to become the recipients of God's grace, you should treat the pairs of opposites like pleasure and pain, happiness and sorrow, praise and blame with equal-mindedness. Always contemplate on God's Divine Name and become deserving of His love. Once you become the recipients of God's love, you need not be afraid of anything. You will achieve everything in life. Therefore, develop equal-mindedness and make efforts to earn divine grace.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Govinda Gopala Prabhu Giridhari...")

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 9th July 1996.



Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality



S U M M E R
Course in Indian
Culture and
Spirituality was

organised by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Prasanthi Nilayam from 10th to 12th June 2011, in which staff and students of the Institute's three campuses, namely, Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan and Anantapur participated. Poornachandra Auditorium which was the venue of the deliberations was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

Day 1: 10th June 2011

The programme began at 8.30 a.m. with Veda chanting by a group of students from the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, followed by a welcome note by the Registrar of the Institute, Dr. Naren Ramji. Thereafter, the Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad delivered his Inaugural Address. Dwelling on the salient features of Indian Culture and Spirituality, Prof. Prasad observed that India's rich heritage vouchsafed the welfare of all without any distinction of caste, race or nationality. Referring to Prasanthi Nilayam as the abode of all religions, the Vice Chancellor said that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba had always emphasised on the unity of all faiths and had declared that selfless love and service were the panacea for all the problems of the world.



Participants in the Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality organised at Prasanthi Nilayam from 10th to 12th June 2011.

After the Inaugural Address, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Sri Anil Gokak, 7th Vice Chancellor of the Institute, who spoke on the topic 'Salient Features of Indian Culture and Spirituality'. Divinity of man, Sri Gokak said, was the salient feature of the Indian Culture. This also formed the main subject of the Upanishads. Referring to the universe as the projection of God, the learned speaker observed that man had to overcome Maya and consider all differences between man and man as superficial to realise the truth of oneness of mankind. Sri S.V. Giri, the 6th Vice Chancellor of the Institute, and Member, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, was the next speaker. He spoke on the topic 'Philosophy and Concept of Ancient Gurukula System'. In his erudite exposition, he dwelt on the merits of the ancient Indian system of education which inculcated values in the students in the sacred environment of an Ashram where the Guru communicated deeper truths of



life to his disciples and developed their self-confidence and character. He emphasised the need to integrate this ancient system with today's secular education as has been done by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning under the guidance of its Revered Founder Chancellor – Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. These talks were followed by a short video film entitled 'Living with God is True Education' which showcased how the integral system of education of the Institute combined values with academic excellence and developed the character of the students.

The video film was followed by two more talks. The first talk was delivered by Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy who spoke on the topic 'Ideal Masters and Disciples from Ancient India'. Quoting from Bhagavan's magnum opus on true education – "Vidya Vahini," the learned speaker observed that ideal teachers of ancient India like Yajnavalkya, Jaimini and Sankara were the masters of Atma Jnana (Self-knowledge) and imparted this supreme knowledge to ideal disciples like Janaka, Swetaketu and Padmapada. Secular education, he said, was needed for a living but more important was spiritual education which showed the path of liberation to man. The second speaker was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus of the Institute who spoke on the topic 'Education Philosophy of Bhagavan Baba'. The education philosophy of Bhagavan, Sri Sahni said, was deeply rooted in Indian Culture and Spirituality. Quoting Bhagavan's dicta: *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth, practise righteousness); *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava* (revere your mother and father as God); *Paropakara Punyaya Papaya Parapeedanam* (one attains merit

by serving others and commits sin by hurting them); *Janani Janmabhumischa Swargadapi Gariyasi* (mother and motherland are greater than heaven) and *Samasta Loka Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!), the distinguished speaker suggested that each of these provided guidelines for practice of values at the individual, family, society, national and cosmic level. These also formed the basis of Bhagavan's educational philosophy.

Day 2: 11th June 2011

Four speakers addressed the gathering on the second day as well. The first speaker for the day was Dr. G. Venkataraman, 5th Vice Chancellor of the Institute who dwelt on the topic 'Relevance of Sai Education Philosophy in Contemporary World'. The distinguished speaker observed in his erudite exposition that spirituality could not be practised in isolation; it carried with it social responsibility. True spirituality, he elucidated, was to see God in the heart of all and to love and serve all. When the education system developed integrity in students, only then could there be honesty and goodness in the world, stated the learned speaker. The next speaker was Prof. Vishwanath Pandit, 8th Vice Chancellor of the Institute. Speaking on the topic 'Role of Values and Ethics in Education', Prof. Pandit observed that the modern ills of the world could be traced in the failure of its education system which emphasised merely the development of skills and neglected the inculcation of virtues and values in students. Prof. Pandit quoted statistics to show that in the absence of ethics, there was growing nexus between the government and the corporate world which had made the rich fabulously rich and the poor abysmally poor.



The only solution to this problem of the world was 'Ceiling on Desires' as prescribed by Bhagavan, said the learned speaker.

After Prof. Pandit's talk, the second part of the film 'Living with God is True Education' was screened. It emphasised the need to combine spirituality with social commitment. Sri K. Chakravarthi, Member, Council of Management, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and the first Registrar of the Institute spoke thereafter. Quoting from a wide range of poets and writers, the learned speaker focused on the need for training of the minds of students. As someone closely following the progress of the Bhagavan's university for over three decades, Sri Chakravarthi expressed satisfaction that Sai students were among the topmost in the country. The quality of the Institute's research, he said, was better than the national average, but there was scope for improvement. He suggested that the teachers of SSSIHL must teach their students on how to learn and classroom learning should inspire students to read the classics from their respective fields. The extracts in textbooks would be understood more in context only when the entire original text was studied, he emphasised. Even for relaxation, instead of fiction, the students should resort to poetry since it was not only relaxing but also elevating, he added. He stressed the need to train the students' mind to attain divine identity and the need to inspire them to work for the uplift of their less-privileged fellowmen. Stressing the need for cultivation of values in students, the learned speaker observed that conscious cultivation of values ensured ascent of man to the divine level. The fourth speaker of the morning session was Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri

Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Specifying the guidelines for the Institute, Sri Srinivasan said that the first guideline was service to society, considering service to society as service to God; the second was to cultivate love in heart since only then could one begin one's Godward journey; and the third was harmony between head, heart and hands or thought, word and deed.

Prior to Sri Srinivasan's speech, there was a lively quiz programme on the life and message of Bhagavan, in which three teams of students (two from the men's campuses and one from the women's campus) participated. The quiz master, Dr. Shashank Shah, Post-doctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Management and Commerce of the Institute, brought the entire life and mission of the Avatar of the Age in front of the audience through insightful questions and slide shows of rare photographs. Even elders enthusiastically participated in the event answering questions passed by the participating students. Fittingly, the quiz ended in a tie with all three teams scoring exactly 80 points.

Day 3: 12th June 2011

On the morning of the last day of the Summer Course, there were three speeches by the Institute staff members and two by the alumni of the Institute. The first speaker was Dr. Naren Ramji, Registrar of the Institute who spoke on the topic 'Vision and Mission of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning'. Delineating the ethos which formed the core of Institute's education system, Dr. Ramji categorised them into four cornerstones, namely, discipline, connection with Bhagavan, right attitude, patience and



perseverance. Bhagavan, he said, had set up the Institute as a modern Gurukula where discipline was the medium of instruction and all activities were designed to connect the students with Bhagavan, under whose Divine guidance they inculcated values and developed character so that by the time they left the portals of the Institute, all the practices of the Institute became their second nature. The second speaker of the morning session was Dr. Rajeshwari Patel, Head, Department of English, Anantapur Campus of the Institute. Speaking on the topic 'Blending Science and Spirituality at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning', the learned speaker observed that science without humanity was not only useless but positively dangerous as was proved by two world wars in the first half of 20th century when science and technology were used for destruction of man by man. Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning provided the ideal to the world as it blended material science with the science of values and spirituality, Dr. Patel said.

After the talk of Dr. Patel, the third part of the video film 'Living with God is True Education' was screened. The third speaker of the morning session was Dr. T. Ravi Kumar, Warden, Brindavan Campus of the Institute. He spoke on the life of Bhagavan as an ideal Master and an ideal student. Narrating some incidents of the earlier summer courses held at Ooty and Brindavan, he remarked that Bhagavan's entire life was a saga of service to humanity which inspired one and all to selflessly serve their fellowmen. He exhorted the students particularly to imbibe the spirit of service as demonstrated by Bhagavan in His life and utilise every opportunity to serve society. After the talk of Dr. Ravi Kumar, two

alumni of the Institute, Sri Venkatesh Prasad and Smt. Niramala Shekhar spoke on the topic 'An Ideal Sai Student and her / his Role in Society'. They narrated select incidents from their student days spent in the proximity of Bhagavan and elucidated on the lessons learnt by them from Bhagavan.

Interactive Sessions

The talks of learned speakers were followed by interactive sessions which were held campus wise in different locations on all the three days of the Summer Course. The subject of the interactive sessions was 'Select Summer Course Discourses of Bhagavan'. On 10th June 2011, the interactive session comprised team discussion, on 11th June, intra-team presentation and on 12th June, global presentation.

Devotional Music Programmes

While other proceedings of the Summer Course were conducted in Poornachandra Auditorium in the morning, devotional music programmes were organised in the Sai Kulwant Hall in the evening. Devotional music programme on 10th June 2011 was presented by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan Campuses, while on 11th June 2011, Anantapur Campus presented their programme. Music programmes were preceded by presentation of the summary of proceedings of the Summer Course sessions held in the Poornachandra Auditorium and were followed by Bhajans which devotees in the hall followed in chorus.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the Summer Course commenced with the release of the

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From our Archives

SOW THE SEED OF GOD'S NAME IN YOUR HEART

GOD'S GRACE CAN MAKE THE DESTINY INOPERATIVE



THOUGH I HAVE BEEN COMING to this city for over twenty years now, this is the first time I am speaking to a gathering of people living here. The time, the need and the deed have to coincide; and today they have. Guru Purnima has provided all three and collected together in this sea of humanity the waters

of many areas through many channels and tributaries. Mysore city has earned fame by its devotion to music, sculpture and other fine arts. But there is an art finer than all these: the art of living. Many persons skilled in other fields are a failure in so far as this art is concerned. They live miserably, without a trace of joy, contentment or peace. They know only pain and give only pain to others.



The world is a huge hospital and humanity is bedridden. Some are writhing in the pain of envy, some are bloated with pride, some are losing sleep through hate, some have become blind through miserliness, some are struck down by selfishness; everyone has some illness or the other. On this Guru Purnima day, you have to render gratitude to the doctors who diagnose your diseases and prescribe remedies, and the nurses who tend you back to health. You should also resolve today to follow the treatment recommended and the regimen ordered.



Mysore is also famous for the fragrance of its sandalwood. So far so good. But I would like the fragrance to emanate from your feelings and thoughts and deeds, not so much from the trees that grow in the forests. Then only is the fame fully deserved. If the sense of beauty and the sense of harmony are not translated into the daily life of men and women and children, then that life is a waste, a burden, a hoax. Man has to lift himself from the animal level through his own Sadhana. There are three types of men: the Pashavi or the animal type, the Sahaja or the human type and the Divya or the divine type. Man has evolved from the stone through plant and tree, worm and insect, bird and mammal; but some are still grovelling in the early stages though they have achieved the human form.

The World is a Huge Hospital

Chief Minister Jatti has said that you are all like boulders, rough and hard, and that Bhakti has the power to make you soft and smooth. Now, what does a sculptor do when he sees a good boulder? He pictures in his mind the lovely idol of God that is sleeping inside it. He becomes possessed with the idea of liberating the idol from the hard clasp of the stone. He takes up his chisel and removes the extra stone that lies around the beautiful figure; at last, he liberates the image. The boulder has to suffer all that hard chiselling in order to become the image of God; so, too, you should cast off all the impediments, all the encumbrances that drag you down and make you a boulder instead of a Bhakta (devotee), a Paramahansa (realised person of the highest order) or even Paramatma (Supreme Being).

The world is a huge hospital and humanity is bedridden. Some are writhing in the pain of

A bar of iron sinks in water; but beat it into a hollow vessel and it will float merrily and even carry some weight. So, too, man's mind sinks easily in the sea of senses. Beat it hollow, hammering it with the Name of the Lord. Then, it will float safely on the sea of troubles. Do not be like gramophone records singing someone else's song, ignorant of the genuine thrill of music. Sing of the grace and glory of the Lord from your own experience.

envy, some are bloated with pride, some are losing sleep through hate, some have become blind through miserliness, some are struck down by selfishness; everyone has some illness or the other. On this Guru Purnima day, you have to render gratitude to the doctors who diagnose your diseases and prescribe remedies, and the nurses who tend you back to health. You should also resolve today to follow the treatment recommended and the regimen ordered. It is not enough if you learn the prescription by heart or read the label on the bottle three times a day or visit the hospital everyday. Praising the doctor or worshipping him might induce him to take pity on you, but your illness can be cured only by your taking the drug and obeying the restrictions on food and drink and on your habits.

While talking of doctors, I must also say that doctors, who fight for the patient's purse or who try to grab a patient before a rival appropriates him, are a danger to society. The doctor who despises other doctors or sticks



to his own patent cures irrespective of the experience of failure, or who is guided more by his whims, fancies and prejudices, or who considers the patient's caste rather than his disease as more important; such men are also dangerous. Today we find doctors and Gurus who have deteriorated to the level of wrangling for patients and their purses, and for the sale of their own or other people's patent remedies.

Vyasa is the Greatest of Spiritual Doctors

This is the day when mankind pays homage to the greatest of spiritual doctors, Sage Vyasa. He is the greatest of such doctors, for he put together the Vedas and composed the Puranas and the Mahabharata and gave humanity the Bhagavata. He is the primal Guru for all who walk on the path of God. He planted the seed of theism and nurtured it through Sruti (revealed texts) and Smriti (texts composed by sages), Sastras (scriptures) and Puranas (mythological texts). He gave the world the Bhagavadgita and the Brahma Sutras, the idea of the immanent Atma, the story of the Divine Leelas of the Lord, the secret of this changeful creation. He lived around 3800 B.C.; he was the great grandson of Sage Vasishtha, the son of Parasara and the father of that celebrated gem among Rishis, Suka. His life story is a series of miracles, a divine saga. He came from Vasudeva, recounted the Leela of Vasudeva to all and finally merged in Vasudeva. He established the era of Nama Parayana (recitation of Lord's Name) and made all mankind aware of the sweetness of the



It was Vyasa who first revealed to man the secret of making the mind as clear and as full of cool rays as the moon on a full-moon night. That is why this Purnima is associated with him and with all Gurus. Today every Astika (theist) must refuse to be content with a feast and a lecture. He should try to sow today the Nama Bija (seed of Lord's Name) in his well-prepared heart, devoid of the thorns of egoism, water it with Prema (love), fence the sprout with Sraddha (steadfast faith), nourish it with the fertiliser of Smarana (remembering the Name), and from the grown-up tree of the Mantra, pluck the fruit of Ananda (bliss) and relish the sweetness.



Name of the Lord, which evokes His Form and His Grace.

Offer Prayer Daily to God

It was Vyasa who first revealed to man the secret of making the mind as clear and as full of cool rays as the moon on a full-moon night. That is why this Purnima is associated with him and with all Gurus. Today every Astika (theist) must refuse to be content with a feast and a lecture. He should try to sow today the Nama Bija (seed of Lord's Name) in his well-prepared heart, devoid of the thorns of egoism, water it with Prema (love), fence the sprout with Sraddha (steadfast faith), nourish it with the fertiliser of Smarana (remembering the Name), and from the grown-up tree of the Mantra, pluck the fruit of Ananda (bliss) and relish the sweetness.

A person may boast of vast treasures in the vaults of his bank, but he will get credit only for that which he has actually earned and deposited therein. Do not fritter away the time allotted to you. Offer it to Keshava, who is Kala Swarupa (embodiment of time). Know that waking from sleep is birth and going to sleep is death. On waking up every morning of your life, pray, "Oh Lord, I am born now from the womb of sleep. I am determined to carry out all tasks this day as offerings to Thee, with Thee ever present before my mind's eye. Make my words, thoughts and deeds sacred and pure; let me not inflict pain on anyone; let no one inflict pain on me; direct me, guide me, this day." And when you enter the portals of sleep at night, pray, "Oh Lord! the tasks of this day, the burden of which I placed on You this morning, are over. It was You who made me walk and talk and think and act; I therefore place at Thy Feet all my words, thoughts and deeds. My task is done.

If you win the grace of the Lord, even the decrees of destiny can be overcome. There are certain drugs which come in bottles on which the manufacturer has given an expiry date, beyond which the drug loses its efficacy. Of course, the drug will be in the bottle, but would no longer be effective. Similarly, Lord's grace can make the destiny inoperative. The Guru is one who shows you the path for getting that grace, and to such a great one this day is dedicated.

Receive me, I am coming back to You." Adopt these as your daily prayers. The best thing is to have your own Self as the source of light, as the Guru. The inner intelligence, the inner Guru will reveal the Truth. This prayerful attitude will so educate your impulses that the inner intelligence will be fully revealed.

Do Everything in a Spirit of Dedication

Begin with the cultivation of Prema. I have found that the people of Karnataka have great faith and devotion; they are simple in their habits and thoughts. Do not allow these to decline; cultivate them with care. The Chief Minister has said that all are children of the Lord. It is better to say that all are actors in the drama designed by Him; dolls dancing and acting as He pulls the strings. The role you have might be that of an officer, a soldier, a ryot, a beggar or a clerk. Act well your part so that the drama might be a success. Do everything in a spirit of dedication, as if in each moment you act, speak and even feel in response to a command received. To get that mood of dedication, the Bhakti



Sutras (aphorisms on devotion) prescribe nine paths but the easiest and the most practicable is Smarana---a life lived in the constant remembrance of the Lord.

A bar of iron sinks in water; but beat it into a hollow vessel and it will float merrily and even carry some weight. So, too, man's mind sinks easily in the sea of senses. Beat it hollow, hammering it with the Name of the Lord. Then, it will float safely on the sea of troubles. Do not be like gramophone records singing someone else's song, ignorant of the genuine thrill of music. Sing of the grace and glory of the Lord from your own experience.

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fifth and final volume of 'My Dear Students' by the former Controller of Examinations, Prof. M. Nanjundaiah. The 'My Dear Students' series of books is a rare compilation of Divine Discourses by Bhagavan to His students, delivered over the past three decades. Compiled by the Publications Division of the Senior Students Hostel at Prasanthi Nilayam, volumes 1 to 5 of the series consist of 108 Divine Discourses delivered at Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan and Kodaikanal. While the first four volumes of the series were released by Bhagavan during the last two years, the final volume was offered to Him on this auspicious occasion.

The last part of this session was the felicitation of some of the pillars in Bhagavan's educational mission, His chosen instruments who lived an illustrious life contributing to His Divine Mission. They included Prof. Jayalakshmi Gopinath, former Warden of Anantapur Campus for over 35

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– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse at Mysore on the occasion of Guru Purnima on 27th July 1961.

years who also served as its Principal; Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, former Warden of the Brindavan Campus who served in that capacity for 23 years; Prof. U.S. Rao, former Principal of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus who served in that capacity for 16 years and also as the Dean of the Business School for 21 years; Prof. V.E. Ramamoorthy, Professor at the Business School for 17 years; and Dr. S. Siva Sankara Sai, former Warden of the Senior Students Hostel at Prasanthi Nilayam who served in that capacity for 17 years as one of the youngest and most popular administrators of the Institute. With a deep sense of gratitude and heartfelt appreciation, the Institute recognised their outstanding contribution and their yeoman service in Bhagavan's Divine Mission.

Thus ended this short yet illuminating Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality on the afternoon of 12th June 2011 with Arati to Bhagavan and distribution of Prasadam.



How Far is Vaikuntha?

IN AN ASSEMBLY OF learned men organised by a king in his court, a learned man narrated the story of liberation of Gajendra (king of elephants) by Lord Narayana in a very sweet and absorbing manner, describing how the Lord is always ready to protect His devotees. “On hearing



The learned man narrated the story of Gajendra's liberation by Lord Narayana in the court of the king.

the cry of Gajendra, Lord Narayana rushed immediately from Vaikuntha (heaven) to protect it without even telling His consort Lakshmi and without taking His weapons like mace and wheel with Him,” said the learned man. After listening to this description of the learned man, the king promptly asked him, “Swami! Kindly tell us correctly how far was Vaikuntha from the place where Gajendra made its supplication to the Lord.” Striking his cheeks with his palms to express his inability, the learned man said to the king,

“Maharaja! It is beyond my understanding to tell definitely how far Vaikuntha is. None except a holy man can tell this. In any case, I am unable to say anything about it. May be, some other learned man in the court can say something on this subject.” At this, all the learned men in the court bent their heads, unable as they were to answer the question of the king.

At that time, the servant who was employed to fan the king with a hand fan while standing behind the king's throne, said to the king, “Oh master! If you kindly give me permission, I can tell how far Vaikuntha was.” “Okay, tell,”



The servant of the king prayed to him to grant him permission to answer the king's question.

ordered the king. The servant said, “Master! Vaikuntha was as far as the cry of Gajendra could be heard.”

God is always near His devotees and hears their distressful prayers.



*Effulgence of Divine Glory***DIVINE HEALING**

IN A GROUP interview, just after Swami had asked her about the twins (Dorothy and Moyia), whom He called, “your sisters,” Valmai said boldly: “May I talk to You about Dorothy’s knees, Swami”? Swami encouraged her to continue, so Valmai went on, “She is suffering a great deal of pain, and walking has become very difficult. A surgeon has recommended an operation on her knees. Should she have it, Swami”? “No,” Swami replied firmly, “No operation.”

Immediately after the interview, Valmai telephoned the twins in Brisbane and told them the news. This was received with joy because His firm answer gave a strong hope that the Lord Himself would help Dorothy. Back at Prasanthi Nilayam, Valmai wanted to make quite certain that she had understood Swami’s words and His intention correctly. To ask Him again would seem like checking Him out, so she hesitated but when a few days later she found herself in the interview room again, she took courage in both hands and said, “Swami, I want to make sure that I heard and understood You correctly about Dorothy’s knees. The surgeon says she must have an operation. Please tell me again what You said about that.” Swami replied quite decisively,



Bhagavan blessing the twin sisters, Dorothy and Moyia.

“No. No operation. I will operate. I will cure her.”

Hearing this second reply, Dorothy felt no doubt whatever about Swami’s intention to cure her. She felt overjoyed and immediately phoned to cancel the arrangements which had already been made for the operation. The surgeon, who was exceptionally understanding, wrote back to say that he was very happy about what she was doing but he would like her to know that if ever she needed his help in future he was there to help her.

It seemed providential that one of their most trustworthy part-time helpers by the name of Elma was able to do full-time service as manager of Swara as Dorothy and Moyia both went away to India. The



twins, with their spiritual sister Valmai, arrived at Prasanthi Nilayam full of joy and faith early in September 1992. It happened that my wife Iris and I were in residence at the Ashram when they arrived. It was rather late in the afternoon when they reached their unit, which was next door to ours in Round House 5. They managed, however, to get to the afternoon Darshan and, as Swami went past their line, He remarked to Valmai in a cheerful tone, "Ah, you've arrived and you have brought the twins with you". This sounded like a welcome, and they all felt full of hope for an early interview.

This came a few days later. Dorothy was taken in a wheelchair to the door of Baba's interview room; she waited there among the other people who had been called. When Swami came back from His Darshan, He opened the door and called them all into the interview room. Valmai pushed Dorothy's wheelchair right up close to Swami's. Later, she felt very guilty about doing this. Swami seated everybody comfortably, materialised Vibhuti for the women, and sat in His chair, happily smiling at the faces before Him. Dorothy relates that He looked at her with great compassion and made several remarks about the bad condition of her knees. But He said comfortingly, "I will help, I will help."

After He had spoken to a few others in the room, He stood up and went through the curtain into the private interview room, telling the twins and Valmai to follow Him. Again, Valmai pushed the wheelchair through the doorway, bringing it close to Swami's feet as He sat in His own chair in the private room. A few other people were also called into the room, and they all sat expectantly, either on chairs or on the floor, silently waiting to

see what would happen. Swami stood up and placing His hands firmly on Dorothy's knees, one on each knee with palms down, He began to make circular motions with His hands still in contact with the knees. After a while, He raised His hands and continued the circular motion a few inches above each knee. This continued for some time and while, presumably, the divine healing power of the Avatar passed from His hands into Dorothy's knees.

Then He dropped His hands to His sides and asked Dorothy in a gentle, compassionate voice, "Can you stand up"? The reply came from her lips, "I think I could with Your help, Swami." Swami pushed Dorothy's chair back a little to make room for her to stand, then He took her hands in His to help her stand. Feeling that the ache and pain had gone from her knees, Dorothy stood up confidently on the floor. His next question was, "Can you walk now?" Her reply was, "I think I could with Your help, Baba." "Come on then", He said, taking her arms lightly.

Without pain and with complete confidence, Dorothy walked with the Lord across the room, through the doorway, up the step, across the floor to the people who were waiting in the outer interview room. Swinging open the main door, Swami led her out onto the verandah. There she stood for a few moments with Swami at her side, and all eyes of the great crowd outside were upon her. She felt very elated. It was years since she had walked freely, without crutches. After a few moments, Swami said to her, "Can you walk alone now"? "By Your grace and through Your power, I could", she said.

And Dorothy walked, through the great lines of people, who were waiting for the

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NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

ARGENTINA



ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2010, A medical camp was organised in San Isidro, Posadas, where about 60 Sathya Sai volunteers including medical professionals lovingly provided medical services to the needy. Over 80 medical consultations, 45 ultrasound scans, 80 paediatric consultations, 100 dental consultations and 150 ophthalmological consultations were provided. Eyeglasses and medicines were also distributed free of cost, and hair dressing and lice treatments were provided for 150 people. Sathya Sai volunteers humbly thanked Bhagavan for the opportunity to offer loving service to the needy.

KUWAIT

On 14th January 2011, Makara Sankranti festival was celebrated at the Indian Community School in Salmiya, located approximately 12 km southeast of Kuwait City. Over 180 devotees attended the programme. The beautifully decorated altar set up on this occasion included a picture of Bhagavan on golden chariot with the sun god as His backdrop. The programme included Veda chanting and Bhajans by all four Sai groups in Kuwait.

HUNGARY

Sopron is a small city in northwestern Hungary near the Austrian border at the foot of the Alps. On 19th December 2010, 12 volunteers including eight youth from the Sathya Sai Group of Sopron, supported by

two local bakeries and a restaurant, prepared and served hot meals, sandwiches, cakes and tea to over 70 needy people.

U. S. A.

On 12th March 2011, Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of America, Region 8, conducted the annual Corona-Norco Free Health Screening Fair in the city of Corona-Norco, California. Medical services were provided to over 990 people. A large number of volunteers including 94 medical professionals covering 28 medical specialities, 140 student healthcare professionals and 290 other volunteers rendered loving service during this screening camp. A variety of screening tests and services were performed including over 900 blood tests, electrocardiograms (EKGs), pulmonary function tests, bone mineral density tests, mammograms, pap



Over 990 persons were provided medical services in the Free Health Screening Fair organised by Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of America, Region 8, in the city of Corona-Norco, California on 12th March 2011.

smears, TB skin tests and diet consultations. Over 320 people were immunised, and free eyeglasses were distributed to more than 390 people. Individuals with abnormal cholesterol and sugar test results were seen by physicians and dieticians on-site. Patients were also directed to a referral clinic represented at the health fair. People with abnormal mammogram and pap smear test results have been contacted for follow-up care.

The Corona-Norco Free Health Screening Day started with members of the Corona High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) conducting the flag ceremony. Then Dr. Mike Congleton, President of Sathya Sai Baba Organisation, Region 8, welcomed the volunteers and introduced the Mayor of Corona, Stan Skipworth and various officials from the city and the Corona-Norco Unified School District. The Mayor was the first speaker, who was followed by Cathy Scirotino, President of the Board of Directors of the Corona-Norco Unified School District. The Corona-Norco Community Free Medical Screening Day exemplified Bhagavan's "Unity in Diversity" message, with everyone coming together to serve with love.

DUBAI

On 25th February 2011, 504 food packets were prepared and distributed to labourers at the Saleh Construction Camp in Jebel Ali, Dubai. After chanting the food prayer at the Sri Sathya Sai Mandir, the home-cooked hot food was transported and lovingly offered to each guest at the camp. The people at the camp were extremely happy and requested



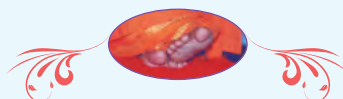
Sathya Sai volunteers of Dubai distributed home-cooked food to labourers at the Saleh Construction Camp in Jebel Ali, Dubai on 25th February 2011.

the Sathya Sai volunteers to come more often.

On 24th February 2011, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Dubai participated in the Annual Can Collection for a recycling drive organised by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG). While Sathya Sai volunteers set up the tents and made all the necessary arrangements, schools, restaurants, corporations, individuals and families brought in the cans. Sathya Sai volunteers registered each participant, assisted in weighing the cans and dropped the cans in the bins provided by the Dubai Municipality for delivery to the recycling plant.

REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

All members of all parties of the National Congress of Venezuela came together in unity, unanimity and brotherhood to pay their homage to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai



ASAMBLEA NACIONAL

LA ASAMBLEA NACIONAL
DE LA REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA

COMO VOCERA DEL PUEBLO SOBERANO

ACUERDO CON MOTIVO DE LA SENSIBLE DESAPARICIÓN FÍSICA
DEL LÍDER ESPIRITUAL DE LA REPÚBLICA DE LA INDIA, SATHYA
SAI BABA

CONSIDERANDO

Que el pasado 23 de abril, en la ciudad de Pattaparhi, República de la India, trascendió el plano físico de Sathya Sai Baba, uno de los líderes espirituales más importantes de la India;

CONSIDERANDO

Que el Gobierno de la India le rindió a Sathya Sai Baba honores durante sus horas fúnebres, acordando, además, duelo en reconocimiento de su valiosa trayectoria y el significado espiritual para su pueblo;

CONSIDERANDO

Que es innegable la amplia labor espiritual, cultural social y filantrópica de Sathya Sai Baba, quien creó instituciones caritativas de solidaridad social, educación, salud, entre ellas, universidades, hospitales de especialidades médicas e innumerables obras de ayuda a los más desposeídos en la India y en el exterior, incluyendo en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela la "Unidad Educativa Colegio Valores Humanos" de la Fundación Sathya Sai Baba que funciona actualmente en la zona rural de Abejales, municipio Libertador, estado Táchira;

CONSIDERANDO

Que junto a Mohandas Gandhi, la Madre Teresa de Calcuta y otros líderes espirituales de su país, Sathya Sai Baba es considerado como un "Mahatma", un alma grande de la India;

CONSIDERANDO

Que existen excelentes relaciones espirituales, culturales, comerciales, tecnológicas y diplomáticas entre los pueblos y gobiernos de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y de la República de la India.


ACUERDA

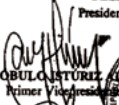
Primero. Unjimos espiritualmente al Gobierno, al pueblo de la República de la India, así como a la organización Sri Sathya Sai, por la desaparición física de Sathya Sai Baba, importante líder espiritual de ese país hermano.


Segundo. Designar del seno de la Asamblea Nacional, una comisión de diputados y diputadas para que haga entrega de una copia del presente Acuerdo, al Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de la República de la India en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, así como a la directiva de la organización Sri Sathya Sai de Venezuela.


Tercero. Dar publicidad al presente Acuerdo.


Dado, firmado y sellado en el Palacio Federal Legislativo, sede de la Asamblea Nacional, en Caracas, a los veinticuatro días del mes de mayo de dos mil once. Años 2011 de la Independencia y 152^a de la Federación.


FERNANDO SOTO ROJAS
Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional


ARISTOBULO TURIZ ARMEIDA
Primer Vicepresidente


LANCY KERHOUT GÓMEZ
Segunda Vicepresidenta


IVÁN ZERPA GUERRERO
Secretario


VÍCTOR CHIRAK BOSCAN
Subsecretario

The National Assembly of the Republic of Venezuela issued a proclamation on 24th May 2011 in recognition of Bhagavan's "countless charity services for the poor."

Baba. On 24th May 2011, one month after Swami's physical departure, the Congress of Venezuela nobly rose to the occasion and issued a proclamation, appreciating "the vast spiritual, cultural, social and philanthropic

work of Sathya Sai Baba" and acknowledging His Divine Glory.

GERMANY

A Sathya Sai Leadership Training Programme (SSLTP) for Sai Youth in Northern Europe was organised to convey practical knowledge on inspired leadership. Three senior teachers of the European



Practical training was provided on inspired leadership in the Sathya Sai Leadership Training Programme (SSLTP) held in Heppenheim, Germany from 8th to 10th October 2010.

Sathya Sai Educare Institute (ESSE) and 27 Sathya Sai youth from 11 countries took part in the first SSLTP seminar. The seminar was held in a beautiful old castle atop a hill in the picturesque town of Heppenheim from 8th to 10th October 2010. Sri Ivan Bavcevic, Youth Coordinator of Zone 6 and initiator of the SSLTP in South Europe, led the seminar. It was noted that by bringing God into all aspects of life, one could easily experience God in everything, everywhere, and thus lead a life of purpose.

A second SSLTP seminar was held from 26th December 2010 to 1st January 2011 at "Stilles Haus" (Silent House), in central Germany. Discussions on various practical aspects of leadership, dynamic team

exercises, and active planning for upcoming Sai Youth activities in 2011 took place. It was a reflective celebration of New Year's Eve for the Sathya Sai youth. Five Sai volunteers lovingly prepared food and provided other services to the participants. After nearly a week, participants left for their homes filled with great enthusiasm and many new perspectives.

KENYA

On 16th January 2011, Sathya Sai youth from Kenya visited a children's orphanage in Mununga village, located on the outskirts of Nairobi. The orphanage houses 30 children aged 2-14 years along with a few single mothers and deaf and visually challenged



Sathya Sai youth visited an orphanage on the outskirts of Nairobi on 16th January 2011, provided provision items to the orphanage and interacted with the children.

women who are in need of shelter. Flour, beans, cooking fat, blankets, clothes and assorted stationery items were donated to the orphanage, and the children were served scones and juice. The children of the orphanage recited poems and heart-warming songs. Sathya Sai youth sat under the shelter of a tree with children who prepared

artwork with the stationery supplies received by them.

ZAMBIA

The Sathya Sai School of Ndola celebrated its 21st anniversary on 19th and 20th April 2011. On 19th April, the Provincial Education Officer (PEO) of Copperbelt Province was the guest of honour. In addition, many senior educationists from the Ministry of Education took part in the celebrations. During his



The Sathya Sai School of Ndola, Zambia held a grand function to celebrate its 21st anniversary on 19th and 20th April 2011.

address, the PEO mentioned that the Ministry of Education had noted with interest the excellent results of the school for the past 20 years, with 100 per cent passes and dozens of distinctions at Grades 7, 9 and 12. He also highlighted the good relationship between the Ministry of Education, the community and the school.

The guest of honour, Sri George Kunda, Minister of Justice, in his speech highlighted the proven track record of excellence of the school in producing children with high academic and moral standards who will become the future leaders of the country. He mentioned that the government supported the lofty ideals of the school, which was making a positive contribution in the

building of the land of Mother Zambia. He also noted that the Sathya Sai School of Ndola was reputedly known both locally and internationally as a “miracle school” by achieving the unachievable and empowering and uplifting the spirits of the children. He also highlighted the five values (truth, right action, peace, love and non-violence), on which the school is sustained.

NEPAL

Education in Human Values (EHV) Awareness Programmes for teachers of public and private sector schools conducted over the years by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Nepal (SSSON) have elicited interest among the educational authorities



Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Nepal explained EHV concepts to more than 1,500 trainers of National Centre for Educational Development at 28 training centres in January and February 2011.

of the Government of Nepal including the Education Ministry, Department of Education, National Centre for Educational Development (NCED) and other agencies.

Acting on a request from NCED, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation trainers explained the EHV concepts to more than 1,500 NCED trainers at 28 training hubs in January and

February 2011. The sensitisation programme was completed on 5th March 2011. The EHV teaching materials supplied by the Sai Organisation were included in the NCED training kits. Some of these training hubs were located in extreme remote hilly areas, where the common mode of transport to such places is trekking, taking a few days to reach the nearest road point. Sai Organisation’s trainers felt Bhagavan’s presence throughout the programme, with many seemingly impossible activities falling into place at the right time.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: A two days’ programme entitled “Rededication” was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th and 12th June 2011, wherein nearly 700 State, District and Samithi level office bearers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh took part.

Speaking on this occasion, Sri V. Srinivasan observed that the office bearers of the Sai Organisation should have a strong faith and conviction in Swami’s divinity and they should work for the welfare of poor people. Addressing the participants of the programme, Sri R.J. Ratnakar observed that the gathering of such a big workforce was itself a proof of Swami’s presence though He was physically not present with us. The Sai Organisation, he said, was Swami’s own creation and He would surely look after it; there was no doubt about its growth and progress. Referring to Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation as one of the best and vastest organisations of the world, Sri S.V. Giri said that the devotees of Bhagavan Baba were highly disciplined as it was witnessed





About 700 office bearers of the Sai Organisation from all districts of Andhra Pradesh participated in a programme of Rededication held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th and 12th June 2011.

when Swami left His physical body. Nearly one million people visited Puttaparthi to offer their last respects to the Divine Body, but there was perfect discipline and order. Describing the various service activities being undertaken by the Sai Organisation, the State President of Andhra Pradesh, Sri S.G. Chalam informed the gathering that already 8,500 people were getting benefit under daily food service (National Narayana Seva) and cooked food service, and 287 orphan boys had been taken care of under Deenajanoddharana Pathakam (project to help destitute children). The two-day conference concluded with chanting of Sai Gayatri Mantra 108 times along with offering worship at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan by all the participants on 12th morning.

Maharashtra and Goa: On 12th May 2011, 44th anniversary of Dharmakshetra was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Maharashtra and Goa. The function began in the most apt manner as all office bearers from throughout the State of Maharashtra assembled at Dharmakshetra for a State-level meeting. The meeting began at 10.45 a.m. and went on till 3.30

p.m. This was a special gathering with one-point agenda, viz., to encourage all the office bearers to experience the omnipresence of Bhagavan, since the physical form was not



A grand function was held at Dharmakshetra to celebrate its 44th anniversary on 12th May 2011.

accessible any more. Soulful and powerful talks delivered by senior office bearers of the organisation reiterated the omnipresence of Bhagavan. The beautiful evening ended with the rendition of Arati, while the flames of devotion, and the new found purpose of seeking Him within, lit every heart with hope, love and faith.

Almost one year after the water tanker was commissioned in Maharashtra and Goa, one more water tanker was inaugurated at Dharmakshetra on 8th May 2011 to provide solace to people of far flung villages by providing the basic need of potable water at their doorstep. This tanker has 16 taps, through which village people can fill their containers and meet their need of clean drinking water.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand: Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) erected Sri Sathya Sai Sarva Dharma Ekta Stambh (unity of faiths Stupa) at a beautiful





A majestic Sarva Dharma Stupa like the one at Prasanthi Nilayam was erected at Aligarh and was inaugurated on 27th March 2011.

prime location on the main G.T. Road (N.H. 91) which passes through Aligarh. This 10 m tall stone structure inaugurated on 27th March 2011 is an intended replica of the

... Continued from Page 222

Bhajans to begin. After the Bhajans ended, Dorothy walked slowly all the way back to Round House 5, where her unit was situated on the first floor. It was a triumphant walk, with people all the way trying to touch her, to talk to her, and those with movie cameras recording the first long march of the cripple-just-healed.

Iris and I awaited her arrival on the landing of the first floor of the Round House. We watched her climbing up the stairs towards

Sarva Dharma Stupa at Prasanthi Nilayam and heralds Bhagavan's message of unity of all major religions of the world.

The speakers who addressed the gathering on this occasion lauded the efforts of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Aligarh for installing this beautiful Stupa which would prove to be a beacon to spread the rays of love, unity and communal harmony among the people of various faiths. They also believed that Sri Sathya Sai Organisation was firmly committed to focus upon promoting inter-regional harmony. The Chief Guest, Justice A.P. Mishra (Member, Sri Sathya Sai Education Trust), expressed the hope that Sai ideas would create a revolution in human history. He also lauded the efforts of Sai devotees of Aligarh to erect this Stupa. Finally, Sri Rajiv Chopra, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand enlightened the audience about Bhagavan's Divine Mission to unite all mankind in one family under the umbrella of His Divine Love. The ceremony ended with the singing of national anthem followed by distribution of Prasadam.

us, holding the banister with one hand but needing no other help. Her sweet face was alight with joy as she reached us. We thought she would turn left into her own unit but, no, she turned right and came into our room. Moyia, Valmai and others followed. There was much celebration and rejoicing. In my own heart, and I suspect in Dorothy's and others', there was a flood of thanksgiving to the Lord for His divine healing that morning.

— Excerpted from "Sai Inner Views" by Howard Murphet.



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Applications are invited from qualified doctors/eligible candidates for filling up vacancies in the Urology and CTVS departments in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. For details of vacant posts and other information about the Institute, please visit our website (www.psg.sssihms.org.in). Compensation package will commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

Candidates may furnish their bio-data in prescribed form (to be downloaded from our website: <http://psg.sssihms.org.in/pages/Careers.htm>). Applications complete in all respects, along with a passport size photo and copies of qualifying degrees and experience, may be sent by post to the Director, SSSIHMS, PG, Puttaparthi-515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh. Applications may also be sent through email (humanresourcespg@sssihms.org.in) along with scanned copies of certificates and photo.

Last date for receiving applications is: 09/08/2011.

– Director

Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust

We are happy to announce that the Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust is now welcoming participation from Sri Sathya Sai Organisation women's wings from around the world. We encourage you to take up Seva projects that uplift women or children in your own places, under our umbrella. This can include health, education, training, food, clothing, housing or any other empowerment project. We also invite you to affiliate with our projects or to replicate these in your own locales.

With common interests and goals, we can work together. Any group wishing for more information, please contact us:

by email at: mothersathyasai@ewwt.org.in

by phone at: (0091) 08555-289909

by using the feedback form on our website: ewwt.org.in

The Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust is the only Trust established by Bhagavan anywhere for women. In founding this Women's Trust, Bhagavan commented, "This will go all around the world." We are happy now to extend our work by reaching out to our sisters, working together to uplift and serve women as Bhagavan wished.

– Managing Trustee

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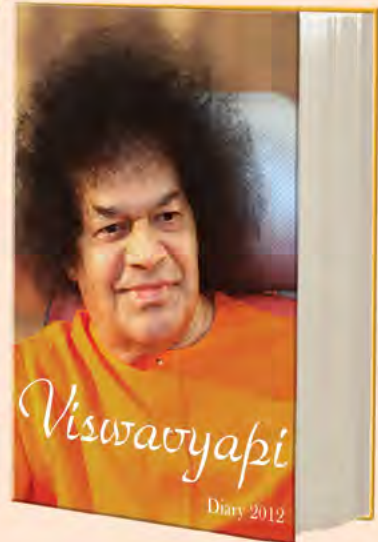
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From Saguna to Nirguna

Since you cannot swim across the flooded stream, you board a raft. So also, since you cannot master the Nirguna (God without form), you resort to the Saguna (God with form) and struggle to swim across to the Nirguna through Aradhana and Upasana (worship and contemplation). But it is not advisable to remain ever on the raft, amidst the currents and whirlpools; is it not? You must discard this conventional Aradhana some day and reach higher. Patram, Pushpam, Phalam, Toyam (offerings of leaf, flower, fruit, water) are all primers for the initial stages when children join school. Clean the mind of all the animal and primitive impulses which have shaped it from birth to birth.

– Baba

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