

# WORLD IS THE MANIFESTATION OF DIVINE LOVE

Is it possible to build a temple for the One who pervades the entire Brahmanda (cosmos)? Can anyone give a name to the One who is present in all beings? Is it possible to give a bath to the One who is present in all rivers? Can anyone offer food to the One who has the entire Brahmanda in His stomach? Man out of his ignorance and delusion is unable to know the reality of the Cosmic Being who is, in fact, the master of the entire cosmos.

(Telugu Poem)

**P**RAPANCHA IS THE NAME THAT has been given to the visible world. It is called Prapancha as it is constituted by the Pancha Bhutas (five elements). 'Pra' means to manifest or express. Hence, Prapancha is that which manifests the five elements, namely, ether, air, fire, water and earth. In man, these five elements represent the senses of Sabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa and Gandha (speech, touch, form, taste and smell), respectively.

Brahman Pervades the Five Elements

Prapancha is also the manifestation of Pancha Pranas (five life breaths), namely, Prana, Apana, Vyana, Udana and Samana. Thus, the five elements and five life breaths together form the basis of the entire world. Brahmatattwa (principle of Brahman) is present in all the five elements. It is eternal and immortal. Brahman pervades the Pancha Bhutas, Pancha Koshas (five sheaths of the soul) and Pancha Pranas. But man out of ignorance attributes a particular form to Brahman. Names and forms are transient. Brahmatattwa, which is the basis of all names and forms, is the only permanent entity. Out

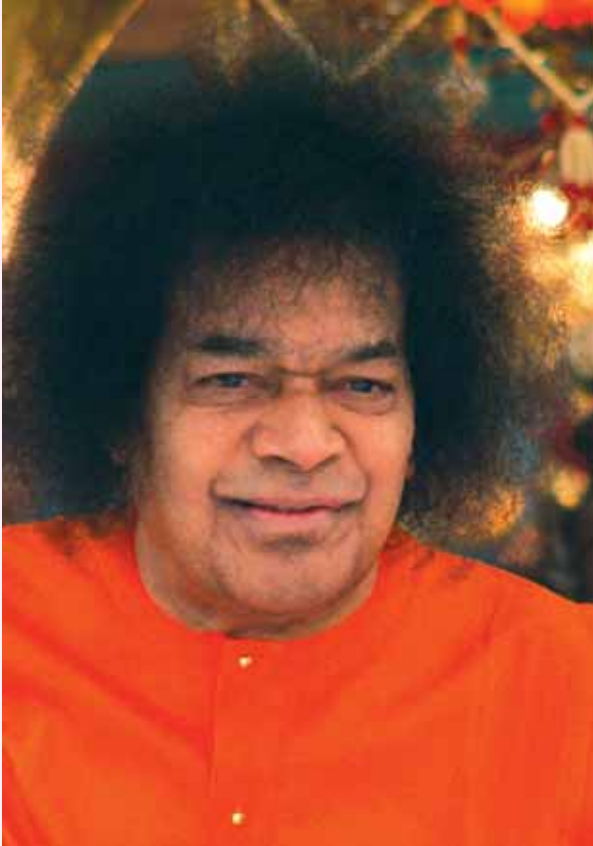
of our ignorance and short-sightedness, we confine such a cosmic principle of Brahman to a tiny form and worship it. We should worship the cosmic form of the Divine. Brahmanda (cosmos) is the very form of God. Brahman pervades Anda, Pinda and Brahmanda (terrestrial, celestial and cosmic planes). Anda is the combination of Padartha (matter) and Prana. Anda and Pinda ultimately become one with Brahmanda.

Embodiments of Love!

Prema (love) is the basis of Brahmanda. Without Prema, there is neither Prakriti

Human body is like a car. Mind is the steering wheel. Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha are its four tyres. They should be filled with the air of faith. Even if one of the tyres is punctured, your life will be put to danger. Have firm control over the steering wheel of mind. Only then can you reach the goal of life safely.

(Nature) nor Prapancha (world). The world is sustained by the principle of love which is uniformly present in the five elements. Any form of worship will prove futile if you forget the principle of love.



You can lead the life of a true human being only when you have proper balance of mind. If you lack proper balance of mind, your humanness will be destroyed. Human life is most difficult to attain. Having been blessed with such a precious human birth, what a shame if you behave like an animal! You should live like a human being. Keep your mind under control. This is My Message to you on this holy night of Sivarathri.

The five elements are responsible for the sustenance of human life and the world at large. Everything will come to a nought if even one of the five elements is missing. We hear with our ears. We see the world with our eyes. In this manner, we are able to experience the world through the five senses. It is the divine power that makes the senses function. But man has forgotten this divine principle and is striving to attain happiness through mean and worldly pursuits. It is said, Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). In fact, man is essentially divine.

God is the Eternal Witness

Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha (righteousness, wealth, desire and liberation) are prescribed as the four goals of human life. But, man today has given up Dharma and Moksha; he is running after Artha and Kama. God has created this world. Your wife, children, friends and even enemies are all created by God. They are all the very embodiments of Brahman. You should be able to see God in all. That is your primary duty. Even God had to fight against enemies sometimes. However, in spite of their animosity towards God, they ultimately merged in Him owing to His grace. In this world, there is no place where God does not exist. He is present everywhere. Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe).

The people around you may not be able to see what you do, but God is watching you. Others may not hear what you speak, but He is listening to you. He is the eternal

witness. Unfortunately, you are unable to realise this truth. Some people argue, "How can you say that God is present everywhere when we do not actually see Him? How is it possible for Him to hear our prayers?" In fact, sound is the very form of God. There is no place where there is no sound. He can hear everything since sound is His own form. Light pervades the entire world. God can see everything in this world as the very light is His vision. Hence, never be under the mistaken notion that God does not know what is happening. Do not doubt or deny His existence just because He is not visible to the naked eye. How do Sankalpas (thoughts) originate in your heart? They occur as per the Will of God. Changes occur only in the world; the divine principle is always changeless.

Loka (world) and Lokeshya (God) are inseparable. The creation and the Creator are one. There is an intimate and inseparable relationship between the two. Atma is the name given to the principle of divinity. It has no specific form. It is a grave error to attribute a particular form to the Atma. It is essential that we understand the oneness of the Atma and experience the same. Everything is divine. Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma (verily, all this is Brahman). As you are unable to comprehend the divine principle in totality, you confine God to a specific name and form such as Rama, Krishna, Vishnu, etc., and worship Him. A potter makes the idols of Rama, Krishna, etc. However, it is only the clay that takes the forms of various deities. The same clay is moulded into various forms.

Jewels are many but gold is one.  
Cows are many but milk is one.  
Beings are many but breath is one.  
(Telugu Poem)



As you are unable to understand the principle of unity, you are deluded by the apparent diversity.

True Happiness Lies in Union with God  
Embodiments of Love!

No one can describe God as having this form or that. He permeates the entire universe. Without name there can be no form and vice versa. The principle of divinity cannot be represented by any name or form. Every object and every being in this Prapancha is the manifestation of divine love. Hence, do not see the world merely from the physical point of view. Consider the world as the very form of God and the manifestation of divine love. Because of your limited understanding, you confine such an all-pervading divine principle to a name and form. Yada Bhavam Tada Bhavati (as is the feeling, so is the result). God responds according to your feelings towards Him. If you have Purna Bhakti (total devotion) and love God with all your heart, He will confer on you Purna Ananda (total bliss). God transcends the dualities of birth and death, happiness and sorrow. You may think that even God has pain and suffering. But, from God's point of view, pain does not exist at all! It is an aspect of divinity. Bliss is also an aspect of divinity. God is beyond pleasure and pain, merit and sin. Happiness and sorrow are of your own making. Pleasure is an interval between two pains.

God is not a separate entity. Unfortunately, people are unable to understand the principle of divinity; they indulge in all types of fantasies and suffer. God is one. Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). However, when the situation demands, Divine incarnations descend on earth to play their role in the cosmic drama.

When Draupadi was being humiliated by Duryodhana and Dussasana in the royal court, Bhima told his brothers that he could not bear this any longer and wanted to kill them. But, even under such circumstances, God did not Will their killing. It is most essential to understand that everything happens according to the Will of God. Whatever happens is for your own good. With such firm conviction, you should accept pleasure and pain, good and bad with equanimity. It may be difficult for you to bear misfortunes. You perform rituals and Puja (worship) which help you to bear difficulties. You may have difficulties today, but tomorrow it will be different. Difficulties will not last forever. They will certainly give way to happiness. Man always strives for happiness. How can he attain it? Happiness is union with God. You can experience true happiness only when you attain this union. Whatever you ask from God, He says, "Tathastu" (So may it be!). You will be free from sorrow once you understand the Bhagavattattwa (principle of divinity). If you are undergoing difficulties, do not get disheartened. Have faith that God is making you go through the ordeal for your own good. Happiness and sorrow coexist. You cannot attain happiness without undergoing difficulties.

Get Rid of your Evil Qualities  
Embodiments of Love!

Do not attribute multiplicity to divinity. Consider everyone as the embodiment of divinity. Imprint such sacred feelings firmly on your heart. Treat even the person who hates you as your own. Having attained human birth, you should be able to withstand pain and suffering with courage and fortitude. Be convinced that they are good for you. All that God has created is good. In God's creation, everything is good and

Prēma (love) is the basis of Brahmanda. Without Prēma, there is neither Prakriti (Nature) nor Prapancha (world). The world is sustained by the principle of love which is uniformly present in the five elements. Any form of worship will prove futile if you forget the principle of love.

sacred. There is nothing which will cause sorrow and misery. In fact, misery arises out of man's delusion. The delusion is because of his identification with the form. What is the meaning of the term Manava? 'Ma' means Maya, 'Na' means without and 'Va' means Varthinchuta (to conduct oneself). Therefore, Manava is one who conducts himself without Maya. If you fall a victim to Maya, you will never be able to understand Marmamu (reality). In fact, man himself is the cause of his delusion. It arises out of his imagination. You see a man expressing various feelings like love, anger, happiness according to the demands of the role being enacted by him in a cinema. But these are all the expressions of his imagination. Likewise, happiness or sorrow experienced by man are the results of his delusion.

However much one may try, it is not possible to know God in totality. Once Kunti said to Krishna, "Oh Krishna! Though You are God, we are deluded to think that You are a human being like us." Saint Thyagaraja too echoed the same feelings in the following verse:

Oh Lord! You answered the prayers of Draupadi and saved her from



humiliation. You made ugly-looking Kujja beautiful. You protected the Pandavas. Is it possible to estimate Your glory and splendour? You are beyond all description and human comprehension. Krishna, it is not possible for even Brahma to describe Your glory. (Telugu Song)

Good and bad lie in your mind; they are not outside. Hence, correct your feelings in the first instance. Get rid of all animal qualities so that humanness can blossom in you. If you notice even a trace of hatred in yourself, drive it away at once. Having attained human birth, it is shameful for man to harbour evil qualities like hatred. Do not fall a prey to infatuation. You should be attracted only towards God and none else. You love your son because you consider him to be your reflection. In fact, the one who loves you, the one who hates you, the one who criticises you, all are your own reflections. At one time, someone may be angry with you but later his anger may give way to love. People are carried away by the vagaries of the mind. Being deluded by the names and forms, they are unable to know the transient nature of the world. Truly speaking, you have neither friends nor enemies. It is only your love or hatred that is reflected from outside. God does not give you happiness or sorrow; they are of your own making. They originate from you.

Understand the Divine Principle of Unity  
Embodiments of Love!

God is present everywhere in the form of five elements. Everyone is endowed with five elements and everyone is an embodiment of love. All are one. There is no second entity. Wherever you see, there are five elements. You do not find a sixth element anywhere. The principle of love present in you represents Easwaratwa and

Brahmatwa (divine principle). It is merely Bhrama (delusion) to think that Brahma is separate from you. Everything is Brahman. Everything is the manifestation of Atma and Ananda. That is why God is extolled as Nityanandam, Paramasukhadam Kevalam Jnanamurtim ... (God is the embodiment of eternal bliss, He is wisdom absolute). Even the Karma (action) that you perform is the manifestation of Brahma. When you perform actions with such divine feelings, they will yield good results. Never criticise God. Never deny Him. Everything is the manifestation of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara. All are divine. This is what you have to learn on this auspicious day of Sivarathri. There is nothing other than divinity in this world. The principle of divinity present in a grain of sand and in a big Laddu is one and the same. Once you realise this truth, you become Brahma yourself. You do not need to search for Brahma elsewhere. You are Brahma, you are Vishnu, you are Siva, you are the very embodiment of the Divine Trinity. It is only your feeling that assumes the form of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara.

At one time, you may have the feeling of anger against someone, but at another time that of love. In fact, anger and love are the expressions of your feelings. You are subjected to unrest and suffering because of your dualistic feelings. You perceive unity as diversity, instead of visualising unity in diversity. Number 1 is the basis for all other numbers. Likewise, names and forms may vary, but all are essentially one. Other than divinity, there is no second entity in this world. Many spiritual aspirants and yogis made concerted efforts to understand the principle of divinity.

They ultimately realised that truth is one, but scholars call it by various





names. As you have not understood this truth, you are deluded by the apparent duality. You should understand the spiritual mathematics in order to know that divinity is one. It is most essential that you understand this principle of oneness and conduct yourself accordingly. You and your shadow are not two; they are essentially one. When you understand this



oneness, you will experience divinity. You will realise that the individual is not different from God. When you put a zero after the numeral 1, it becomes 10; add one more zero, it will become 100. In this manner, if you go on adding zeros, the value also increases to 1000, 10,000, 1,00,000. In this number 1 lakh, if you remove all zeros what remains is 1. Zeros gain value only when they are positioned next to

the numeral 1. 'I', 'my wife', 'my children', 'my property', etc., all these are like zeros. They will have value only when they are associated with God who is like numeral 1. The entire world is like a zero. It has emerged from the hero, God. It is because of your delusion that you mistake zero for hero. So long as you are immersed in delusion, you will never be able to realise divinity. Delusion gives rise to doubts which will rob you of your happiness. Doubts are like poison; remove this poison from your

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Some people argue, "How can you say that God is present everywhere when we do not actually see Him? How is it possible for Him to hear our prayers?" In fact, sound is the very form of God. There is no place where there is no sound. He can hear everything since sound is His own form. Light pervades the entire world. God can see everything in this world as the very light is His vision. Hence, never be under the mistaken notion that God does not know what is happening.

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mind. People doubt their wife, children and friends. It is a shame to doubt others. Hence, never entertain doubts. Even if doubts overpower you for some time, never let them remain with you for long. Strengthen your faith in God. If you want your faith to become strong, you should not entertain doubts. Doubts will put you to danger and you can be involved in many difficult situations in life.

A car can run smoothly only when there is air in all its four tyres. Human body is like a

car. Mind is the steering wheel. Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha are its four tyres. They should be filled with the air of faith. Even if one of the tyres is punctured, your life will be put to danger. Have firm control over the steering wheel of mind. Only then can you reach the goal of life safely.

Embodiments of Love!

The entire world is pervaded by the five elements. You should maintain perfect balance and harmony among them. When you ride a bicycle, you have to maintain perfect balance. If you do not maintain proper balance, you are likely to meet with an accident. Likewise, you can lead the life of a true human being only when you have proper balance of mind. If you lack proper balance of mind, your humanness will be destroyed. Human life is most difficult to attain. Having been blessed with such a precious human birth, what a shame if you behave like an animal! You should live like a human being. Keep your mind under control. This is My Message to you on this holy night of Sivarathri (loud applause).

Understand that you are born as a human being, not as an insect or a worm. Neither are you an animal, a bird or a beast. You should understand the meaning of the term Manava. 'Ma' means not and 'Nava' means new. You are not here for the first time. You are not new to this earth. You have gone through a number of births before attaining this human birth. Give up all your old and mean animal qualities and start your life afresh. Human life is highly sacred and mysterious. Only God can unravel its mystery. Visweswara (the Lord of the universe) permeates the entire Viswa (universe). He transcends all description. He is present in you in the form of

Atma. There is only one path for the realisation of Atma. Give up the feeling of 'mine'. You say 'this is mine and that is mine'. Once you get rid of such worldly attachment, you will develop purity, steadiness and selflessness. You will be free from suffering, worries and anxieties. Ultimately, you will attain Moksha (liberation). Having attained Manavatwa (humanness), you should make efforts to rise to the level of Madhavatwa (divinity). That is your goal. What is the use if you remain at the level of Manavatwa forever? You should develop Sanmathi (good intellect) to rise to the level of divine. Unity confers purity which will in turn lead to divinity. Hence, all of you must have unity. You belong to the human race. You belong to one family. Hence, you should conduct yourselves like brothers and sisters. Absence of the spirit of unity will affect your purity and distance you from divinity. Therefore, first and foremost you should develop unity. Only then can you think of experiencing divinity.

Embodiments of Love – Students!

You are the students of Sri Sathya Sai College. Being the students of this great institution, you should set an example of unity to others. Understand the principle of unity and put it into practice in your life. You deserve to be called Sai students only when you develop unity. Bereft of unity, how can you experience purity? Remove all your weaknesses. Love God with all your heart. When you have love for God in your heart, all evil qualities will be driven away from it. You can achieve anything through love. So, make every effort to develop love.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan "Prema Muditha Manase Kaho..." and continued His Discourse).



Chant the Divine Name Wholeheartedly  
Embodiments of Love!

Since time immemorial, the divine name of Rama has been protecting the devotees and leading them on the right path. One can very well imagine the potency of Rama's name as it has remained etched in the hearts of people through the ages. This in itself is a mystery. Thousands of years have passed since the advent of Rama, yet His name remains ever fresh and ever new. One may be on the top of a mountain or in a village or in a city, everyone derives immense delight in chanting the name of Rama.

Once in the court of Krishnadevaraya, there was a debate in which eight scholars of the royal court participated. Krishnadevaraya wanted to know who among them was the best. He wanted them to frame a meaningful sentence consisting of five letters, each letter having the same meaning in five different languages. "Whoever comes out with an answer to this question by tomorrow morning will be suitably rewarded", he added.

Since his house was far away, Tenali Ramakrishna decided to spend the night in his brother-in-law's house. When he was provided with a comfortable bed for the night, Ramakrishna refused to sleep on it. He said, "I have to think of an answer to a question put by the king by tomorrow morning. A bed like this is certain to put me to sleep in no time. So, provide a cot for me in the cowshed." As he was lying on the cot, at one o'clock in the night, one of the cows in the shed gave birth to a calf. Ramakrishna called out to inform his brother-in-law about this. His brother-in-law wanted to know which cow had given birth, since he had given different

names to his cows, like Parvati, Lakshmi and Saraswati. He asked Ramakrishna, "Ye Aav Ra Bava" (Oh brother-in-law! Which cow is that?). When Ramakrishna heard this, his joy knew no bounds, since he had found an answer to the king's question. So, he repeated the phrase again and again. His brother-in-law thought that Ramakrishna was behaving in this strange manner due to lack of sleep.

Next morning, Ramakrishna went to the royal court and found that no one else had the answer to the question. All others were convinced that it was not possible to frame such a sentence. "Ye Aav Ra Ba Va" is the answer, he said. Everyone was intrigued. Then he explained, "'Ye' in Marathi, 'Aav' in Hindi, 'Ra' in Telugu, 'Ba' in Kannada and 'Va' in Tamil convey the same meaning, i.e., 'come'." All the five languages are represented in this sentence.

Students!

The words you utter sometimes convey different meanings. Hence, you should be very careful while speaking. Develop virtues and lead an ideal life. Only then will Swami be pleased with you. If you make Me happy with your ideal conduct, I will confer much more happiness on you. Your happiness is My happiness. Wherever you go, earn a good name for yourself. Your character is very important for Me. Hence, make every effort to mould your character and be an ideal to others. This is the message I would like to give you on this auspicious day of Sivarathri. The day on which all of you experience eternal bliss is Sivarathri for Me.

Once Thyagaraja performed a musical concert at Thanjavur. Many eminent

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# LINGODBHAVA ON SIVARATHRI AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

**N**IGHTLONG VIGIL AND BHAJAN during the night of holy Sivarathri on 26th February 2006 culminated in the divine phenomenon of Lingodbhava at Prasanthi Nilayam when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba manifested a Hiranyagarbha Linga from His mouth on the morning of 27th February 2006 at 8.25 a.m. before a mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam had the great good fortune of witnessing this rarest of rare event of Lingodbhava besides taking part in nightlong vigil and Bhajan and listening to the nectarine Discourse of Bhagavan on this holy festival.

Showers of Divine Grace

On the morning of 26th February 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.30 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras.



Bhagavan with one of the cars given by Him to His chosen devotees for their meritorious service in His Divine Mission.

Nadaswaram and Panchavadyam troupes of students welcomed Bhagavan into Sai Kulwant Hall with their sweet notes. Before the commencement of the Sivarathri programme, Bhagavan blessed and honoured four of His ardent devotees who have been rendering outstanding service in His Divine Mission. Bhagavan rewarded each of them with a brand new car also. As their names were announced along with a brief description of their meritorious services to Bhagavan, they came one by one and received Bhagavan's blessings. Bhagavan garlanded them and gave them the keys of the cars blessed by Him. The first fortunate devotee who received this rare grace of Bhagavan was Sri A. Ramakrishna who recently retired as Vice President of Larsen and Toubro Limited (construction division) which undertook the construction of Chaitanya Jyoti, Sri Sathya Sai Super

Speciality Hospitals at Puttaparthi and Bangalore and executed Bhagavan's stupendous water supply projects of Anantapur, Mahboobnagar, Medak as well as East and West Godavari districts as also Chennai drinking water project under his stewardship. The second fortunate devotee was Sri R. Kondal Rao, who has been associated with Bhagavan's all water supply projects as a designer and also as part of the execution team. Sri K. Chakravarthi, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust who earlier served as Registrar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and was also

associated with Bhagavan's water supply projects was the third recipient of this rare grace of Bhagavan. The fourth devotee who was thus honoured was Dr. G. Venkataraman, who after serving as Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning is now associated with Prasanthi Digital Studio and Radio Sai Global Harmony at Prasanthi Nilayam. In a separate function on the morning of 27th February 2006, Bhagavan blessed and honoured Smt. K. Geeta Paramahansa and Sri K.R. Paramahansa for their meritorious service to destitute children in Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanoddharana Pathakam Ashram. Bhagavan rewarded them also with a brand new car and showered His benedictions on them and also the children being looked after by them. On this occasion,



The children of Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanoddharana Pathakam Ashram receiving the love and benedictions of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall on 27th February 2006.

Bhagavan spoke to these children who delighted one and all in Sai Kulwant Hall by Veda chanting and by leading a few Bhajans. Some of them made a brief speech expressing their deep gratitude to Bhagavan for taking care of them in every possible way.

Sivarathri programme began with a beautiful presentation of Siva Stotras and devotional songs in praise of Siva by the students. Interspersed with a meaningful commentary, the students recited the Stotras and sang songs set to sweet music. The Stotras and songs included Chidananda Rupah Sivoham Sivoham, Bilvashtakam, Lingashtakam, Ganga Taranga Ramaneyya Jatakalaapam, Neela Kanthara Deva Deena Bandhava Ra Ra, Sada Sivam Bhajamyaham Sakala Loka Nayakam, Siva Siva Siva Siva Anarada, Siva Sankari Sivananda Lahari, Om Namah Sivaya – Om Namah Sivaya. The last two were solo songs rendered very well by the Mandir Bhajan singers. Others were all group songs. Bhagavan was very involved throughout the presentation. After this, there was a brief programme of Bhajans. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to all the devotees. The programme came to a close at 10.15 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Before leaving for His abode in Poornachandra, Bhagavan ceremoniously cut the cakes placed in the verandah and lighted candles on them.

#### Sivarathri Bhajan and Vigil

Nightlong Sivarathri Bhajan started in the evening on 26th February 2006 after the Sivarathri Discourse of Bhagavan. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in the afternoon at 4.00 p.m. Soon after His arrival, Bhagavan distributed clothes and calculators to students. The Bhajans started at 5.45 p.m. As the Institute students led the Bhajans, the mammoth gathering of devotees followed in chorus. Seated on the dais, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan



on devotees. After a few Bhajans by the students, Smt. P. Susheela, a renowned singer, led a couple of Bhajans. Then Sri A.V.S. Raju, Chairman, Nagarjuna Construction Company delighted the gathering with his Telugu poems. After this, Bhagavan gave His Sivarathri Discourse (full text given elsewhere in this issue) which started at 6.35 p.m. and concluded at 7.30 p.m. with the Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Ram Ram Ram ...". The mammoth gathering of devotees followed the Bhajan in chorus with devotional fervour. Soon after this started nightlong Sivarathri Bhajan which was led by boys and girls students of the Institute alternately. Sivarathri Bhajan continued with zest and devotion up to 5.00 a.m. on 27th February 2006 when the Suprabhatam was sung invoking the blessings of Bhagavan. Bhajan was resumed immediately after Suprabhatam. While the devotees were thus engaged in Bhajan singing, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall to shower His blessings on them at 6.25 a.m. Bhagavan's presence rejuvenated the singers and devotees who sang Bhajans with great enthusiasm despite nightlong vigil.

#### Emergence of Hiranyagarbha Linga

Occupying His chair on the dais, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on devotees as the Sivarathri Bhajan proceeded towards its culmination. At about 7.15 a.m., devotees could observe signs of Lingodbhava as Bhagavan started sipping water from the tumbler placed on the table in front of Him. The Bhajans



Bhagavan showing to devotees the Hiranyagarbha Linga soon after its emergence.

gathered greater momentum as Bhagavan manifested more and more signs of the emergence of the Linga. The vast Sai Kulwant Hall reverberated with Siva Bhajans but all eyes were now riveted on Bhagavan because no devotee wanted to miss the rare opportunity of witnessing the divine phenomenon of the emergence of the Linga. Bhagavan started drinking water with more



Bhagavan went into the rows of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall to show them the Hiranyagarbha Linga.

frequency as His body movements showed sure signs that the Linga was about to come out. At this sacred moment, the students led Siva Bhajans at a high pitch followed with zeal and gusto by the mammoth gathering of devotees in the Hall. Now the total attention of one and all was on Bhagavan as Lingodbhava neared its culmination. As the Bhajan reached its crescendo, a big golden oval-shaped Hiranyagarbha Linga emerged from the mouth of Bhagavan at 8.25 a.m. inundating each heart with divine bliss. All anxiety was over and there was widespread

feeling of relief and happiness in the entire Sai Kulwant Hall. Soon after its emergence, Bhagavan cheerfully held the Linga in His hand and showed it to the entire gathering. Thereafter, Bhagavan went into the rows of devotees and showed the Linga to them. The function to honour and bless Smt. and Sri K. R. Paramahansa followed this. The holy function of Sivarathri came to a happy conclusion at 9.30 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was distributed to all the devotees at the conclusion of the Sivarathri function.

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musicians and scholars were present in the concert hall. In the beginning of the programme, Thyagaraja offered salutations to all of them through his famous composition, Endaro Mahanubhavulu, Andariki Vandanamulu ... (there are many great souls who have had the divine experience; I prostrate before all of them). Everyone was blissful listening to his melodious singing. He demonstrated by his example that one should pay his respects to everyone in the assembly before addressing them since there was divinity in all of them. Many years ago, a scholar was invited to address a congregation at Prasanthi Nilayam. While commencing his speech, he addressed the audience thus: "Brothers and sisters except one!" Then he explained that his wife was also present among the audience. Even while addressing a congregation, he was remembering his wife. One should not observe such differences while addressing a public gathering. One should offer his salutations to one and all.

Embodiments of Love!

I shower My blessings on all of you on this holy night of Sivarathri (loud prolonged applause). Sing the Divine Name throughout the night. To the extent possible, spend the night in the contemplation of God. Only then can you experience divine bliss. You can even witness the manifestation of divine effulgence. Sing Bhajans wholeheartedly. You may sing any name, but you should understand its inner meaning. For example, 'Digambara' is one of the names of Lord Siva. Digambara in common parlance refers to the one who is without clothes. But if you enquire into the inner meaning, you will know that Digambara is the one who has Dikkulu (four sides – east, west, north, south) as his Ambara (vesture). There is a possibility that people misunderstand this word and think that Siva does not wear anything on his body. Hence, it is better that you do not use this word in Bhajans.

– From Bhagavan's Sivarathri Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 26th February 2006.



# REALISE YOUR DIVINITY WITH FAITH AND DEVOTION

Everyone has to face the consequences of his Karma (actions). Who has made the bats to hang from the branches of a tree with their heads downwards? Has anyone tied them upside down out of hatred? No, it is their fate. Likewise, nobody can escape from the consequences of Karma.

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

**A**FTER THE CORONATION OF Parikshit, many people advised and assisted him. They wanted to help him to become an able and successful ruler. But it was not an easy task since Parikshit was merely a boy of tender age when he ascended the throne.

Rare Courage and Confidence of Parikshit

There were no elders left in the lineage of the Pandavas. Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva had already decided on their final journey to the Himalayas. Young Parikshit was the lone survivor of the Pandava clan. There was none who could ascend the throne except him. The young lad was thus faced with a heavy responsibility. Dharmaraja realised the gravity of the situation and advised him that the consequences of the passage of time were inescapable. Even Krishna who was their constant support had left them. They also had no choice but to follow in the footsteps of Krishna. After all, they had always adhered to the advice and guidance of Krishna.

Krishna treated them as His intimate friends. He had reared them like His

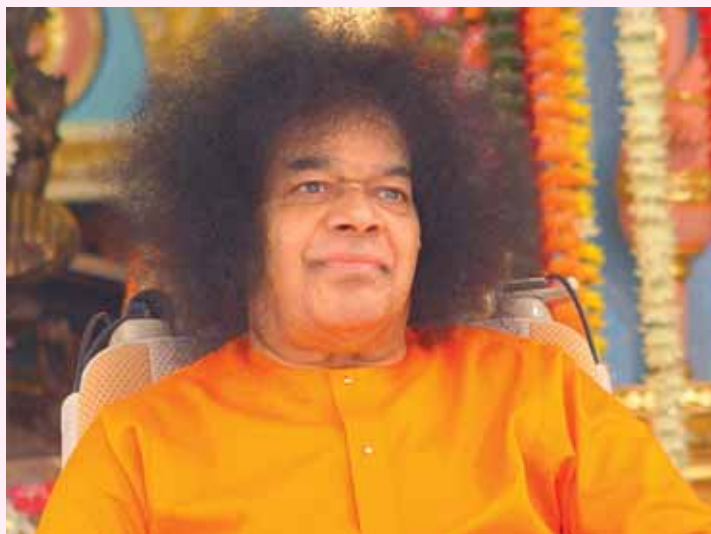


It is your great good fortune that you are listening to these words of Swami. Besides, you have the opportunity of listening to the chanting of the Vedas and singing of the glories of the Lord. All these merits will help you to cross the ocean of Samsara (worldliness). I exhort you to continue these spiritual practices throughout your life. Women should also participate in these spiritual practices and follow the ideals of Draupadi. Draupadi could achieve great heights of nobility because of her faith in God and firm devotion.

own children. He had been their closest relative. In fact, he had sustained them in every manner of relationship. He alone was their refuge. In this manner, Dharmaraja advised Parikshit to face his responsibilities with courage, confidence and faith in God. Both Dharmaraja and Draupadi were



eager to know how Parikshit would conduct himself in such a situation. Parikshit replied bravely that he would not shirk his responsibilities nor let down the glory of his lineage. "I shall rule this kingdom with your blessings and Lord Krishna's grace", he averred. He was full of confidence and courage. Dharmaraja and Draupadi were happy and relieved. They were astonished at the courageous demeanour of the young lad.



The unity achieved by Parikshit in his empire was indeed unmatched and rare. When there is the spirit of unity in the community, purity will prevail there. Bharat is suffering today because there is lack of unity in the country. Where there is unity, there is purity. And purity is the way to divinity. With divinity, all tasks will be fruitful. It is essential to sustain and maintain purity both at the individual and at the community level. In this way, people were taught the ideals of unity, purity and divinity. Thereby, an ideal community was created in his empire.

Parikshit was then reminded of the happenings prior to this. He had gone to each of the Pandavas and asked them to take up the responsibility of ruling the kingdom. But all of them had declined. Others insisted that Dharmaraja alone was qualified for ruling the kingdom, which was also the wish of the people. There were some who even thought that Draupadi herself might rule the kingdom. But in those days it was not possible for

women to become rulers of kingdoms. It was thought that women were soft by nature and could not take hard decisions when such situations arose in the management of the affairs of the kingdom. They only advised the king as to what was right to do. They strengthened his faith in God and led him on the right path. It was Draupadi who spoke reassuring words to Parikshit to infuse courage and confidence in him. Finally, they settled on the young Parikshit as the only suitable person. Thus, the crowning of Parikshit as emperor took place.

Unwavering Faith of Yudhishtira in Krishna

After this, the Pandavas and Draupadi made preparations for their departure. People closed their eyes when they saw them leaving the kingdom. Their mind was filled with anxiety, worry and fear. Then Draupadi said, "Please do not worry; worry is the worst enemy of mankind." Birth is worry, death is worry. Future is the cause of worry. In fact, life of man is full of worries.

The only way to escape from worries is contemplation of God. Devotion to Swami will make you free from all worries (loud applause). Follow the Godward path and act in the righteous way. Then God will help you at all times. The entire universe is under the control of God. But people fail to see this truth. Everyone only thinks of the body, which is made of five elements. It is bound to fall and disintegrate some time or the other. But the indweller is eternal. It is beyond birth and death. Draupadi said, "Oh! people, at least from now onwards develop faith in the indweller. Of what use is the Deha (body) without the Dehi (indweller)? Therefore, contemplate on the indweller. It is the indweller that protects all." Dharmaraja turned to Draupadi and said, "Truly, it is Krishna Himself speaking through you - such is your faith in Him." Dharmaraja felt as if he was hearing all this from Krishna Himself who seemed to promise him that He would be constantly overseeing the situation in the country. With this, Dharmaraja felt greatly reassured. He prayed to Krishna, "You are everything for us. It was Your power that helped us in war and peace. Of what value is power and kingdom without You? Hence, we want to come to You leaving all our worldly possessions. We leave the responsibility of looking after child Parikshit with You."

Dharmaraja then went before the people and reassured them not to be afraid of anything. He said, "Oh people! Krishna is always with us. He is protecting us, and all that is happening is the Will and play of Krishna. It is beyond our ordinary understanding because the ways of God are inscrutable and inexplicable. God is all-pervasive and indwells all beings though He cannot

be seen by the physical eyes." Listening to these reassuring words of Dharmaraja, the people were infused with confidence and courage.

#### Exemplary Qualities of Draupadi

After his coronation, Parikshit called an assembly of all his vassal kings. Some of them wrongly thought that the young king was fear-stricken and that was why he was summoning all of them. When all the kings were seated in the chamber of the court, Parikshit spoke to them with full confidence without even a trace of fear. He saluted all and said, "You see a young boy as the king of this great empire. Though I have no experience of ruling the kingdom, I shall not shirk my responsibility nor should you from yours. I extend all help and support to you and seek your help and support. We are together committed to see to the welfare of this empire." All the kings then assured him that they would accept him as their leader and extend all help to him. After deliberating on the affairs of the kingdom, all of them left for their respective places.

In spite of Parikshit's reassurance to all the kings under his empire, some evil-minded kings got together and started a war against him thinking that the youthful king lacked determination and could be vanquished easily. However, many other kings came to support him. He fought the battle with the name of Krishna as well as all the 12 names of his grandfather Arjuna on his lips - Arjuna, Phalguna, Partha, Kiriti, Swetavahana, Bheebhatsu, Vijaya, Krishna, Savyasachi and Dhananjaya. He prayed to Krishna and Arjuna as also to all the Pandavas as well as his grandmother Draupadi. This infused all the more courage and valour in him and he felt as if Krishna and all the



Pandavas along with Draupadi were present around him.

Draupadi was not an ordinary woman. She was a great leader in her own right and an ideal for the entire womanhood. In fact, Draupadi was Parikshit's mentor, both at worldly and spiritual levels. She advised him, "Dear child! You should love your subjects like your life-breath. Provide comfort and happiness to them. You are young and should avoid involving yourself in war, because war is harmful for the country. Draupadi's advice to Parikshit stood him in good stead. All his subjects young and old stood by him addressing and adoring him as Maharaja (the king of kings) with affection and awe. They were happy and proud that they were under the rule of a virtuous and valorous king. With such a king presiding over their welfare, where was the room for any fear? And Parikshit reassured them that in spite of his being so young, there was no power on earth that could vanquish him because he was the recipient of the blessings of his elders and grace of God. God alone was his refuge. He undertook the administration of the empire with full faith in God.

Draupadi had unmatched devotion for Krishna who showered His grace on her. He was always ready to grant her whatever she prayed for. Her grooming of Parikshit in administration helped him to become a successful ruler. Even before the formal coronation of Parikshit, Draupadi along with Dharmaraja used to address the people of Hastinapura, saying that this young child was their future ruler. They would say, "Do not be misled by his youthful looks. Parikshit might appear to be young, yet he was endowed with a sharp and mature

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The type of communication that should exist between the ruler and his subjects was exemplified by Parikshit par excellence. Young Parikshit had full faith in God whose benevolence and grace ensured the welfare of his subjects. He treated his subjects with kindness and love and made them happy. The people also loved and respected him. They were totally loyal to him. It is a matter of great significance that Parikshit ruled over this country.

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intellect. He is blessed with the grace of God and is replete with all kingly virtues. At present, he is a small child and needs your support and protection. Take this up as a duty given to you by God. In due course, he will be the king and will look after your welfare. When the time is ripe, you shall be protected and provided with your needs by him. He is not an ordinary child; he is verily a gift of God to us and to all. When you follow him sincerely, he will look after you with the same earnestness. Everything happens according to the Will of God. The Will of God cannot be tampered with by any other force."

Thus, Draupadi and Dharmaraja paved the way for the crowning of Parikshit. That was the manner of political administration in those days. The king used to treat the people as his own children. The people had also great love and respect for the king. When such a loving and noble king rules over such loyal and obedient subjects, the country will not lack anything. Thus, Parikshit became



a great emperor. Are there any parents who can bring up their children in this way? Even if you are prepared to train them in the right way, the children will not be ready to listen. But Parikshit was not such a child. He was intelligent and courageous. Courage is the means of success in life. This is also a true spiritual practice. That is the true strength. Armed with such divine and spiritual strength, Parikshit achieved greatness. And the whole empire prospered thereby. Such a great benefactor is very rare to find.

#### Unity of the Country under Parikshit

Parikshit summoned all his ministers as also representatives from the subcontinent and spoke to them on the importance of unity. The unity achieved by Parikshit in his empire was indeed unmatched and rare. When there is the spirit of unity in the community, purity will prevail there. Bharat is suffering today because there is lack of unity in the country. Where there is unity, there is purity. And purity is the way to divinity. With divinity, all tasks will be fruitful. It is essential to sustain and maintain purity both at the individual and at the community level. In this way, people were taught the ideals of unity, purity and divinity. Thereby, an ideal community was created in his empire. The young king Parikshit smilingly approached his people and even apologised to them for any mistakes that he might have unwittingly committed. The type of communication that should exist between the ruler and his subjects was exemplified by

Parikshit par excellence. Young Parikshit had full faith in God whose benevolence and grace ensured the welfare of his subjects. He treated his subjects with kindness and love and made them happy. The people also loved and respected him. They were totally loyal to him. It is a matter of great significance that Parikshit ruled over this country. You should have the same firm faith in God and purity of heart as exemplified by Parikshit.

Dasara celebrations will have significance if all of you imbibe virtues and adopt the path of righteousness. I bless you all to achieve this great ideal. If all of you acquire the greatness and idealism of Parikshit, the country will achieve rare glory. It is your great good fortune that you are listening to these words of Swami. Besides, you have the opportunity of listening to the chanting of the Vedas and singing of the glories of the Lord. All these merits will help you to cross the ocean of Samsara (worldliness). I exhort you to continue these spiritual practices throughout your life. Women should also participate in these spiritual practices and follow the ideals of Draupadi. Draupadi could achieve great heights of nobility because of her faith in God and firm devotion. You should also attain such nobility of character and mould your family to attain this greatness. With these words, I bring My Discourse to a close.

– From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 8th October 2005.

Our life is like a bird with two wings. We should have the two wings of love and service. Just as birds fly with their wings, we should reach noble heights with the two wings of love and service.

– Baba



# FESTIVITIES AT BRINDAVAN AND PRASANTHI NILAYAM

**I**N RESPONSE TO THE EARNEST prayers of devotees of Brindavan, Whitefield (Bangalore), Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba went there on 21st January 2006 and stayed on for nearly one month before

returning to Prasanthi Nilayam on 18th February 2006. Bhagavan's arrival created a festive mood at Brindavan where many cultural and musical programmes were held during this period.

## Chinese New Year Day Celebrations

Chinese New Year was celebrated at Brindavan on 6th February 2006. Over 200 devotees from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia specially came to Brindavan to celebrate this function in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, the venue of celebrations, was beautifully decorated in typically Chinese style

for the festive occasion. There were special decorations on the dais with attractive red and yellow lanterns, red paper cuttings, colourful bunting and cherry blossoms. Bhajan in the Hall started at 9.30 a.m. led by the Chinese devotees.

## CELEBRATIONS AT BRINDAVAN

Bhagavan came at 9.45 a.m. in a procession led by lion dancers and other dancers wearing masks. They danced their way to the Hall to the beat of drums and cymbals. After taking a round of the Hall and accepting letters from the devotees, Bhagavan came to the dais at 10.00 a.m. All the while, Bhajans led by the Chinese devotees continued.

As soon as Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the Chinese devotees started sacred chants which were followed by Lunar New Year songs. Thereafter, they made their customary offerings to Bhagavan on the dais. They went up in pairs, one lady from ladies



Chinese devotees making their offerings to Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall on Chinese New Year Day.



The skit presented by the Chinese children highlighted the significance of the customs associated with the celebration of Chinese New Year.



side and one gents from the gents side and offered to Bhagavan Chinese tea, Chinese cakes, Mandarin oranges and red packets considered as marks of auspiciousness and prosperity. One pair showed to Bhagavan the photos of the tsunami which destroyed big concrete buildings on a coast of Philippines but left the wooden mosques untouched showing how Divine grace saved the places of worship. They also showed to Bhagavan the photos of Seva done in Batam and Aceh in Indonesia.

After this, a group of Chinese children presented a skit highlighting the customs associated with the celebration of the Chinese New Year and their significance. It was noteworthy that the traditional Chinese teachings were similar to the teachings of Bhagavan whose axioms and dictums were quoted in the skit by the children. After this, there were Bhajans led by Chinese devotees. The pronunciation, tune and rhythm of the Hindi Bhajans were so perfect that none could say that the Bhajans were being led by overseas devotees. In the end, Prasadam of red packets (containing candies) blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all the devotees. The programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.05 a.m.

#### Excellent Programmes by Brindavan Campus Students

Bhagavan's stay at Brindavan provided a welcome opportunity to the students of the Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning to present some very beautiful and interesting programmes in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Their first programme was "Hridaya Pushpam" which was held on the afternoon of 29th January

2006. The students presented soulful group songs in Hindi, Telugu and English interspersed with speeches. The students narrated their experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity and expressed their love and gratitude to Bhagavan for the wonderful opportunity of His proximity.

The students presented their second programme entitled "Bhakti Sagar" on 5th February 2006 which described the nine modes of worship of God. Citing the examples of great devotees like Prahlada, Mirabai, Hanuman etc., students described each mode of worship followed by an appropriate devotional song sung by a group of students in different languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, etc. Besides Bhagavan, some other dignitaries including Sri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice President of India and Sri T.N. Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka enjoyed listening to this most captivating presentation. The programme which started after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the afternoon came to a close at 6.45 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.



One of the captivating programmes of the students of Brindavan Campus was Poets Meet which delighted one and all. A student reciting his poem in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall.



The students showed their poetic talent in a Poets Meet programme organised by them on the afternoon of 12th February 2006. Dressed in the traditional costumes of poets, 15 students recited beautiful poems in many languages which included Hindi, Telugu, English, Kannada, Nepali, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Oriya, Bengali, Tulu, etc. The themes covered by these budding poets in their poems included the Glory of Sai Avatar, Sai's Mission, Message of the Bhagavadgita, Role of Students in the Divine Mission of Bhagavan, etc. As the programme concluded, Bhagavan blessed the students and posed for photographs with them.

Yajna for the Welfare of Mankind

A Yajna was performed from 10th to 14th February 2006 in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam for the welfare of mankind. There was daily chanting of Vedic Mantras along with offering of oblations into the sacred Yajna fire, sanctifying the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. On 14th February 2006, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba put precious clothes and other offerings into the sacred fire to mark the Poornahuti (final oblations) of the Yajna. At the completion of the Yajna, Bhagavan distributed clothes to the priests who performed the Yajna, and blessed the couple who organised it. Thereafter, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the devotees by sprinkling Akshatas (sacred yellow rice) on them to mark the conclusion of the sacred ceremony.

## CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

The bond of love that exists between Bhagavan and His students is so deep and subtle that it defies all definitions and descriptions. But its sweetness and

bliss can be experienced not only by the students themselves but by those fortunate devotees also who get an opportunity to witness the programmes presented by the students in the close proximity of Bhagavan. Thousands of devotees got this rare opportunity when the students organised a series of functions in Sai Kulwant Hall to pour out their hearts to express their love for their Beloved Bhagavan.

The joy of students was worth seeing when they formed a colourful procession and performed a Bhangra dance before the car of Bhagavan when He came from Whitefield on 18th February 2006. They offered Bhagavan a hearty welcome with Poornakumbham and Veda chanting. They also organised a function in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 19th February 2006 in which the Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak and two students of the Institute expressed their feelings of delight and happiness on behalf of all the students and staff of the Institute on the return of Bhagavan from Brindavan.

After this, three more functions were held in which the final year students of undergraduate courses, Higher Secondary School students of 10th and 12th Classes and final year students of postgraduate courses made their presentations to express their gratitude and love for Bhagavan for His bountiful love and grace, and the priceless lessons learnt by them at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan during their stay in Bhagavan's school and college as students. The first programme was presented by the final year undergraduate students on the afternoon of 20th February 2006. The





programme, entitled “Educare: Education for Life and not for a Living” not only gave the essence of Bhagavan’s teachings on educare, but it expressed deep gratitude and love of the students for Bhagavan for His loving care and divine grace. The students presented various incidents from mythology and enacted some parables to elucidate these values taught by Bhagavan. The importance of Bhagavan’s teachings through experiences of some devotees and students was also highlighted by different student speakers. About 70 students took part in the programme. In all, they sang eight beautiful songs. Bhagavan showered His grace and blessings on the students in the end. He also materialised a gold ring for one of the students during the course of this excellent programme. The programme which commenced at 3.30 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 4.45 p.m.

On the afternoon of 23rd February 2006, the students of 10th and 12th Classes of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School made a musical presentation expressing their gratitude to Bhagavan, singing His glory in group songs and narrating their experiences of Bhagavan’s divine grace. The programme started after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.30 p.m. with a dialogue between two students reminiscing their sweet memories as students of Primary and Higher Secondary schools. What followed this was a beautiful medley of group songs, poems, anecdotes and experiences which delighted one and all. Bhagavan was touched by the sweet feelings of love expressed by the students and blessed them with a nectarine Discourse exhorting them to control their

senses and purify their mind and feelings. In the middle of His Discourse, Bhagavan called one of the students and materialised a gold ring for him to the delight of the entire gathering. Bhagavan concluded His Discourse at 5.30 p.m. after which there was a brief Bhajan session. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.45 p.m.



*The students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus expressed their love and gratitude to Bhagavan through a series of programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall. Final year students of postgraduate courses presenting their programme.*

The final year students of postgraduate courses presented their programme on the afternoon of 24th February 2006. The programme appropriately named “Prema Dhara” really was a stream of love which flowed in Sai Kulwant Hall immersing the entire gathering in sweetness of love and bliss. The students made speeches, recited poems and sang songs in Telugu, English, Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, etc., to express their love and gratitude to Bhagavan. At the end of this programme also Bhagavan blessed the gathering with a Divine Discourse from 4.45 p.m. to 5.55 p.m. The programme concluded at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## THAILAND

On 8th October 2005, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on Richter scale devastated north-eastern Pakistan. The immediate estimated death toll was over 87,000. On 17th October 2005, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Thailand donated 30,000 Baht (or 33,000 rupees) for the relief efforts. This led the Pakistani Ambassador of Thailand to enquire more about Bhagavan Baba and the Sathya Sai Organisation.

A medical camp was held on 16th October 2005 in the Khut Tung Khaopuang district in Chengdau. Thirty Sai devotees volunteered for the camp where 186 patients were seen for health screening and preventive healthcare. Lunch was served to all patients during the camp and the young adults played value games with children for two hours during the camp.

Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated in Thailand on 23rd November 2005 with ceremonial chanting by Buddhist monks at the Sathya Sai Foundation in Rajdamnern,



Buddhist monks reciting sacred chants to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Bhagavan in Bangkok.

Bangkok. This was followed by serving food to the monks followed by Bhajans. It was attended by approximately 100 devotees. A cake was cut for our Beloved Bhagavan and a birthday song sung in honour of the Lord.

Sai devotees of Thailand visited the Klong Toey slums on 4th December 2005 to



Sai devotees of Thailand serving meals in Klong Toey slums.

distribute 600 packets of full meals and deliver Swami's teachings on human values. This is part of a monthly service activity which also involves distribution of toys and clothes.

## L A O S

The People's Democratic Republic of Laos is landlocked between China, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In this tropical country, the Sathya Sai Organisation has been engaged in monthly activities and special celebrations. On 23rd November 2005, they celebrated Bhagavan's 80th Birthday with Bhajans and continued their weekly human values school attended by about 230 children. In addition, they have opened a Sathya Sai Community Centre and carry out weekly



Narayana Seva at a school for the visually challenged.

## S R I L A N K A

Devotees in Sri Lanka have been working on providing housing for the poorest of the tsunami victims. The district of Hambantota is a multi-religious set of villages located about 250 km south-east of Colombo and was devastated by the tsunami. Sai devotees in Sri Lanka undertook a project to provide



Houses for tsunami victims by Sai devotees of Sri Lanka. A happy family after receiving the new house.

houses for those families. A total of 10 furnished houses were built and donated to families during December 2005.

## S W I T Z E R L A N D



Milk and cereals are distributed daily to children in refugee camps.

In a large cooperative effort by Sathya Sai devotees of Ticino, Switzerland and Sri Lanka, several container loads of milk and rice cereal have been distributed to malnourished children between the ages of one and five in

tsunami-devastated villages. This project continues to the present day since the tsunami, and 254 children from several refugee camps have been given milk and rice cereal daily. The children are also visited by Sathya Sai physicians and screened and treated for any health related problems.

## I T A L Y

Large public meetings were held on 4th and 5th February 2006 at the Serena Majestic Hotel by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation in



Public meeting organised by Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Italy in Pescara.

Pescara, Abruzzo, one of the largest commercial and tourist cities on the bank of the Adriatic sea. The event was highlighted by four movies on Bhagavan and talks by four devotees. The first film shown was on the 80th Birthday celebrations in India. This was followed on the same day by screening "Sai Schools in the World." The next day, two films were shown entitled "Social Service in Africa" and "Water Project in Madras." On the second day, Gabriele Ducross, Amilcare Monaldi, Alberto Caratti and Gianni Cecere spoke of their personal experiences with Bhagavan and how they have had a major impact on their lives. Finally, Marco Pesce highlighted the messages of the 8th World Conference of Sai



Organisations and committed to a two-year programme of national activities.

## J A P A N

The historic city of Kobe, which is a twin city of Osaka, has one of the busiest ports in the world. Kobe which means “God’s Door” in Japanese established the first Sathya Sai Centre in Japan over 30 years ago. It was in this milieu that Japan’s Sathya Sai public meeting was held on 11th December 2005. More than 350 people from all over Japan attended including special guests such as the Ambassador of India to Japan, Sri Manilal Tripathi, Consul General of India in Osaka, Sri Om Prakash and President of Kansai India-Japan Cultural Society, Sri Kazuaki Kurosawa. The programme began with the screening of the movie “His Work” followed by inspiring talks by the Indian Ambassador, and by Ryuko Hira, Masako Yamamoto and Genzo Makino, the vice chairman of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Japan. They spoke about the national and worldwide activities conducted by Sathya Sai Organisation and were grateful for the opportunity to serve their fellow human beings. Finally, Hiromasa Fukai, the Councillor of the City of Ohmi Hachiman spoke on Bhagavan’s Education in Human Values.

## C O L U M B I A

The Sathya Sai Centre of Santa Elena has been renting a house for the past nine years for children who have been orphaned by violence. About 20 Sai devotees take turn to care for the 63 resident children. They wake up in the morning to prayer and meditation. They then eat a healthy breakfast before going to school. The children are given a snack to take to school. Once a week,

there is EHV instruction and they are asked to follow one value during that week.

For the past five years, the Laureles Sai Centre in Medellin has been working with children who are homeless and are addicted to drugs on the street. There are 29 children in the programme at present and about 18 Sai



The Sathya Sai Centre of Santa Elena, Columbia looks after orphan and drug addict children to bring about transformation in them.

devotees participate. They meet at the Sathya Sai Centre five days a week. Some of the devotees teach while others prepare and serve meals for the children. They also provide EHV instruction once a week and through constant interactions share Bhagavan’s love with the children. In fact, the children do not like weekends because there are no classes. Many of these children have been motivated to return to school to study. This has resulted in their remarkable transformation from high risk



social delinquents to loving responsible individuals.

### U. S. A.

In Jacksonville, Florida, a medical camp was conducted on 28th January 2006 wherein 74 patients were seen and screened for cholesterol, glucose, hypertension, HIV and sickle cell disease. Dental and visual examinations were also performed. The influenza vaccine was also administered. Primary prevention presentations were given on heart disease, obesity, cancer, stress management, diabetes and anger management. The event was covered by a local television station.

Amidst the glitz of Hollywood, downtown Los Angeles has a sizeable homeless population of about 48,000. These individuals have no shelter from inclement winter weather and often spend days without meals. The Glendale and Arcadia Sathya Sai centres teamed up on 26th January 2006 to provide



Homeless in downtown Los Angeles being served by Sai devotees.

blankets and toiletry bags to the homeless in downtown Los Angeles. The toiletry bags and full meals were handed out to 400 people. In addition, blankets were

imported from China and distributed to 1,000 people. These centres have been distributing full meals to the homeless every Sunday for the past 18 years.

### ARGENTINA

Inspired by Bhagavan's healthcare mission, the Sathya Sai Organisation of Argentina has a regular programme called Sai Medicare to provide both health education and medical treatment. The programme began in the year 2002 and, on an average, about 300 patients are seen in each camp. The camps are held 3 or 4 times a year in Santa Fe, Rosario, Gonzales Katan, Gran Bourg, Quilmes, Cordova and Tucuman. Health education addresses topics such as well-baby care, breast feeding, child development, alcoholism and family violence.

In addition, medical camps are conducted which not only include medical treatment but also the serving of meals and entertainment for children. The medical camps are conducted four times a year and about 3,000 patients have been seen so far. In one of the camps, an individual who was not familiar with Sri Sathya Sai was so impressed with the charitable and loving service that he donated 60 pairs of eyeglasses and free vision testing for all patients.

### INDONESIA

A free cataract clinic was organised in Surabaya in February 2006. At the opening of the clinic, 388 patients were seen and 112 of them were deemed as requiring cataract operations. First surgeries were conducted on 4th February 2006, and were followed by more surgeries every weekend.

- Prasanthi Council





Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam district distributed 108 tricycles to physically challenged children at Srikakulam and opened a Multipurpose Community Centre at Polla village in the presence of the District Collector on 25th December 2005. The district also distributed Amruta Kalasams to 300 poor tribal families at Polla and Killada tribal villages and came to the rescue of 65 fire-victim families by providing food provisions, new clothes and utensils in Ungarada village on 20th December 2005. This district came to the rescue of 201 fire-victim families of Chillapeta village on 22nd January 2006 by providing to each of the families, 8 kg rice, one mat, one blanket, one Sari, one Dhoti and a cooking vessel. Similarly, the district helped 64 fire-victim families of Santhakaviti village on 12th January 2006 by providing one cloth-bed, clothes and 5 kg of rice to each family. The district organised a service camp at the pilgrim place Suravaram on 18th January 2006, providing footwear-keeping counter, drinking water supply, Narayana Seva to 7000 pilgrims, first aid centre and information centre.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: Akhanda Bhajan was held from 6.00 p.m. on November 12th to 6.00 p.m. on November 13th in 18 centres of Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya. A total of nearly 1,500 people participated in the Akhanda Bhajan.

In Guwahati, Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations on 23rd November 2005 started with chanting of Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan from 4.30 a.m. onwards followed by Abhishekam of Shirdi Sai idol up to 12.00 p.m. in a traditional

way with Brahmaputra river water brought in vessels by 110 ladies. Narayana Seva was conducted from 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. for more than 1,000 people. Lighting of 80 lamps was done at 4.30 p.m. Bhajan initiated with Veda Mantras was conducted from 5.00 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. with more than 2,000 devotees participating. Bursting of fireworks marked the end of the programme. Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was also celebrated at Dibrugarh, Borgolai (Tinsukia), Digboi, Dhubri and many other places where various spiritual and social welfare programmes were organised to mark this important event. Similarly, many excellent programmes of far reaching importance were organised in Agartala (Tripura), Imphal East (Manipur) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Bhagavan.

Gujarat: A Conference was organised at Savani Hall, Rajkot on 5th February 2006 which was attended by nearly 800 persons. The theme of this Conference was Unity, Purity, Divinity. After deliberating on this subject in the Conference, a workshop was organised to discuss this subject threadbare. After the workshop, the recommendations of the Conference were finalised for follow-up action. Besides the State President and Trust Convener of Gujarat Sathya Sai Organisation and the Mayor of Rajkot, many dignitaries including the All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation guided the deliberations of the Conference.

Haryana and Chandigarh: 24-hour Akhanda Bhajan was conducted in 30 Samithis of all the 13 districts of the State attended by approximately 500-600 people at each place on 12th to 13th November 2005.

On 23rd November 2005, Youth Wing of the State held celebrations in



all the districts with Nagar Sankirtan, Veda recitation and 2 to 3 hours special Bhajan at Samithi level benefiting approximately 400-600 people at each place. Colourful Bal Vikas Rally at Panchkula, Ratha Yatra



Ratha Yatra at Yamunanagar as part of 80th Birthday Celebrations of Bhagavan.

at Yamunanagar and Palki with 80 Kalashas with recitation of Veda Mantras at Hisar were highlights of the celebrations of 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. On this auspicious occasion, special Narayana Seva was conducted in all the districts. Sai Samithis conducted health awareness and medical camps in all the adopted villages. 34 decently designed cushioned patients' trollies were also gifted to the PGI hospital by Chandigarh district for the convenience of the patients.

Declamation contests to create awareness about the Divine Mission of Bhagavan were held at school and college levels in Chandigarh, Panchkula, Gurgaon, Sirsa and Yamunanagar wherein 31 school and 17 college teams participated. 83 speakers took part in the contest in the presence of 1050 students and teachers.

Jammu and Kashmir: To follow the divine message that Grama Seva is Rama Seva and Manava Seva is Madhava Seva, two Samithis, namely, Talab Tillo and Marh, distributed blankets, shawls and other warm clothes comprising jackets, sweaters, shirts and pants among 558 very poor and needy villagers of Jammu district. Apart from this, 50 kg rice and 20 kg wheat flour was provided to a poor widow in village Rehal Kandarian. This act was appreciated by all the villagers. In order to help the poor people, the Sai Organisation has decided to adopt 12 villages. Efforts are being made to spread the message of Bhagavan in all these villages.

Orissa: Global Akhanda Bhajan from 6 p.m. on 12th November 2005 to 6 p.m. on 13th November 2005 was held in all Bhajan Mandalis and Seva Samithis of the State Sai Organisation in 1296 centres, covering 4 cities, 154 towns and 542 villages.

All the 160 Samithis and 549 Bhajan Mandalis and other 587 centres celebrated the 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba with various daylong programmes in a grand manner with common activities like Nagar Sankirtan, Puja, Satsang, devotees meet, Bal Vikas students cultural programmes and essay / elocution competitions among school students. In addition to that, some special activities were organised by Balasore, Bolangir, Gajapati, Ganjam and Sundergarh districts to celebrate this important event. Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Jarsuguda, Bhrajarajnagar Samithis also conducted many programmes to help the less privileged sections of society on this auspicious occasion.





**T**HERE LIVED IN A VILLAGE A reputed lawyer. He used to chant Panchakshari Mantra and one could hear the chanting of 'Om Namah Sivaya' from his Puja room everyday.

One day when he was in his Puja room, a person came to meet him for an urgent case. He asked his daughter-in-law who was present in the house, "Amma! Is the lawyer in the house?" "My father-in-law is in the house of the cobbler", replied the daughter-in-law rather loudly. On hearing these words of his daughter-in-law, the lawyer came out and shouted at her. "What is this?

What are you saying? You are telling that I am in the house of the cobbler when I am chanting the Panchakshari Mantra in my Puja room! Are you out of your mind?" The daughter-in-law replied calmly, "Father-in-law! While chanting Panchakshari Mantra, how many times did you ask: 'Amma, has he brought my shoe after repairing? Six days have passed when the shoe was given to him for repair; still he has not brought after

repairing it! All right, let him come, I will give him a sound thrashing.' Did you not say all this?" "Did you really recite the Panchakshari Mantra! Were you not thinking of the cobbler all the time?" She questioned. The lawyer realised his mistake and praised the intelligence of his daughter-in-law.



*"Amma, has he brought my shoe after repairing?"  
Asked the lawyer from his Puja room.*

While doing prayer, Bhajan, Japa (recitation) and Dhyana (meditation), we should not think of anything else; our entire attention should be fixed on God only. It is due to the effect of Vikshepa (unsteadiness) that our mind runs after all sorts of unnecessary matters and our concentration gets destroyed. Regular spiritual practice and God's grace are necessary to achieve concentration.

**The sensory world is the cloud that hides the soul which ever shines in the firmament of your heart. The same mind that gathers clouds can disperse them in an instant.**

ñ Baba

# **SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD FOUNDATION**

THE INTERNATIONAL SRI SATHYA SAI ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN FORMED FOR THE SPIRITUAL UPLIFTMENT OF MANKIND. FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER, AUTHENTICITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AMONG THESE ORGANISATIONS, THE “SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD FOUNDATION” IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED. BY THE DIVINE COMMAND OF BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA, THIS FOUNDATION WILL HENCEFORTH ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF ALL FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SRI SATHYA SAI ORGANISATIONS. THE FOUNDATION WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PRASAN THI COUNCIL TO ACCOMPLISH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THESE ORGANISATIONS.

## **BE IT KNOWN THAT:**

Sri Sathya Sai Baba teaches that man is born to live a spiritual life and demonstrate the principles of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Selfless Love and Non-violence.

Good-willed men and women have come together from many countries to study and incorporate these teachings in their lives and thereby uplift the quality of human life.

The incorporation of these teachings requires the practitioners to selflessly serve mankind and exemplify these noble principles in every aspect of their lives.

The Foundation called the “Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation” is formed to function as the highest administrative body of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations that have been formed.

## **THE MISSION OF THIS FOUNDATION IS:**

To ensure the authenticity of all programmes engaged in by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

To ensure that all programmes, publications, interactions with other legal entities is conducted in a manner that is compatible with the principles enumerated above.



To ensure that the actions of the International Organisations bearing the name of Sri Sathya Sai Baba are conducted according to His express guidance and the teachings that He has expounded all these years.

**RESPONSIBILITIES. THE FOUNDATION WILL COMMENCE ITS FUNCTION BY:**

Accepting international responsibility for all publications, films, photographs and audio/visual materials distributed by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

Accepting responsibility for all education programmes conducted by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations/Institutions.

Accepting responsibility for all healthcare programmes conducted by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

Accepting international responsibility for any other humanitarian programmes that will be initiated by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

Accepting comprehensive legal responsibility for all programmes and activities conducted by the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations.

The Foundation will assume the role of the governing body of all International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations and Institutions while the Prasanthi Council will remain the managing body of these Organisations and Institutions. The Foundation will initially be comprised of three Directors: Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman and Director, Dr. Narendra Reddy, Director, and former Vice Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Sri S.V. Giri, I.A.S. (Retd.), Director.

The members of the Prasanthi Council remain unchanged. With Bhagavan's Grace, this new structure and relationship between the Foundation and Prasanthi Council will enable us to bring all elements of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisations and Institutions together in a concerted effort towards the spiritual transformation of mankind.

**Michael Goldstein, M.D.**

*Chairman*

Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation





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