

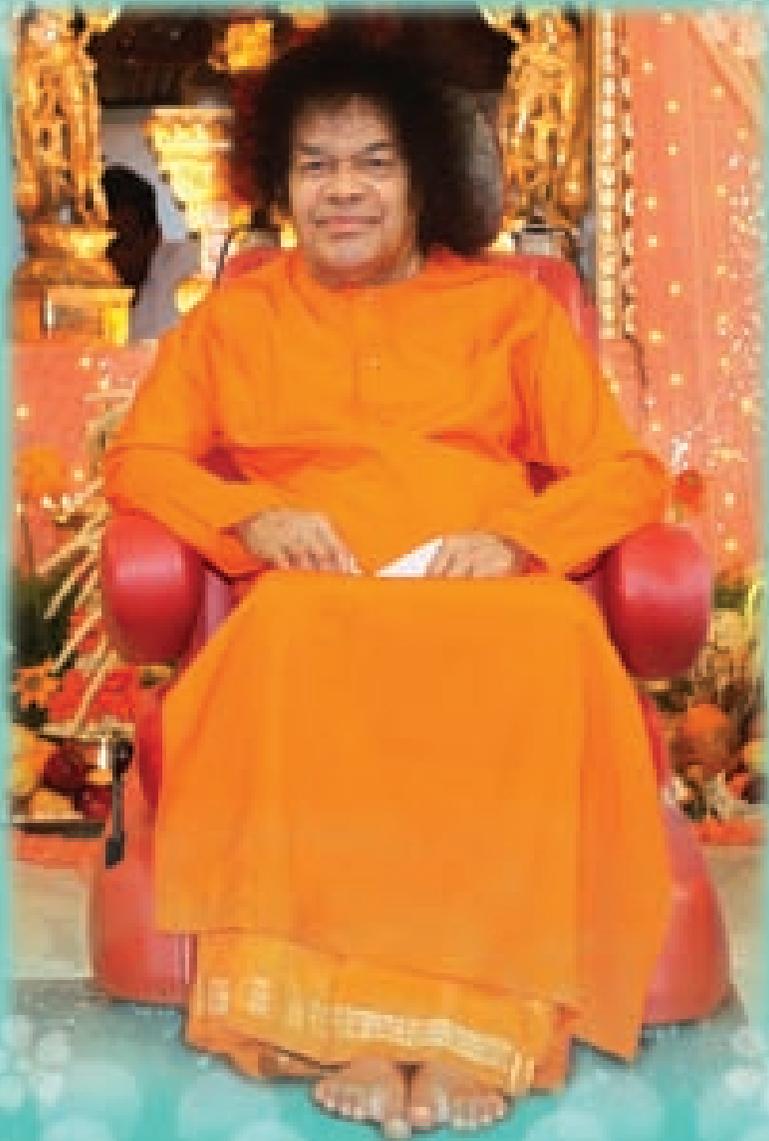


NOVEMBER 2009

Sanathana Sarathi

Special Issue





*Dedicated at the Lotus Feet of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
on the Auspicious Occasion of
His 84th Birthday
23rd November 2009*

Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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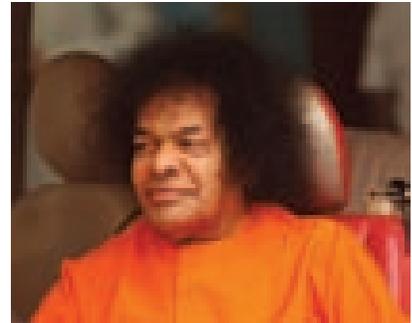
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*"Those who have love for God will
have fear of sin. Where there is fear
of sin, there is morality in society.
Morality is very essential for the
progress of society. Those who observe
ethics and morality in life are held in
high esteem by all in society."*



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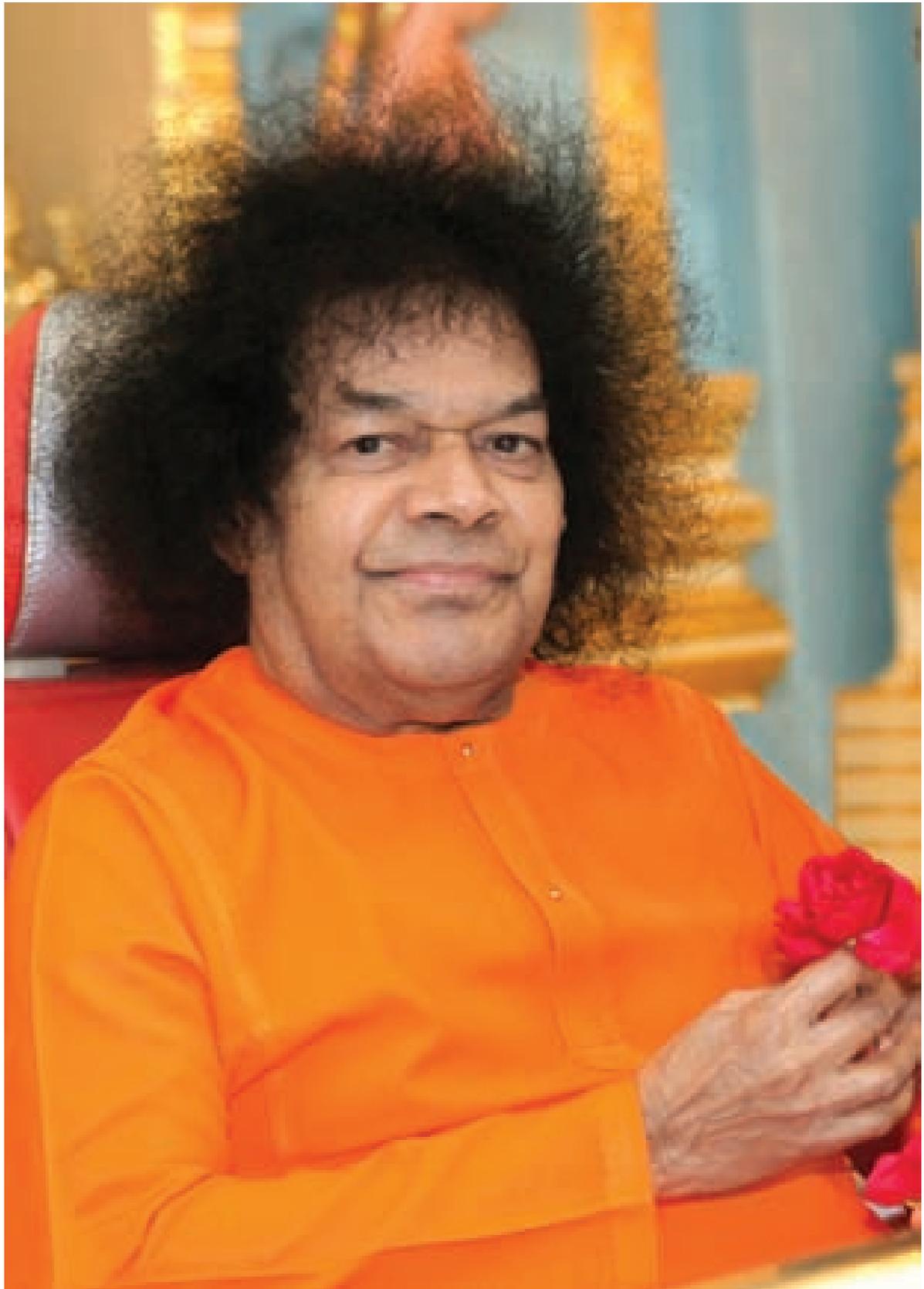
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Cover Page Photograph: Mahabharata scene as
portrayed in Bhajan Mandir, Prasanthi Nilayam.



TREAT NATURE WITH REVERENCE

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA HAS BEEN EXHORTING MAN TO treat Nature with reverence, considering it as the vesture of God. All the five elements, viz., earth, water, fire, air and space are divine as they have emanated from Brahman (Supreme Being), declare the Vedas. Man has no right to talk of conquering Nature or exploiting the forces of Nature, says Bhagavan.

But contrary to the advice of Bhagavan and the Vedic sages, man has exploited and vandalised earth, polluted air and water by releasing toxic wastes and poisonous substances in them, and above all has vitiated space by his unsacred words and negative thoughts. He has also forgotten the Vedic tradition of performing Agnihotras (fire sacrifices) to propitiate fire and other elements. Taking note of these wanton acts of man, Bhagavan warned way back in 1968 in His Discourse given in Kampala, East Africa, "All efforts to establish mastery over Nature or command it or employ it for personal aggrandisement are bound to fail, and are certain to recoil on man with deadly impact."

This deadly impact is much more visible today than ever before because of the depletion of ozone layer, global warming, receding glaciers and shrinking rivers. As a result of climate change, many islands are facing the danger of sinking under rising water of the oceans. Recently, the cabinet of an island nation met under water to express their concern at this climate change and imbalance in Nature.

The Vedic sages of Bharat were aware of these dangers and therefore devised various means of sanctifying the elements and maintaining balance in Nature. They adhered to the values of Sathya and Dharma, performed Yajnas to propitiate the elements and chanted Vedic Mantras. The Vedic Mantras when recited with the heart purified by the practice of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa (truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence) generate divine vibrations which not only have a positive effect on the thoughts and feelings of those who chant and hear them but they also sanctify the elements specially Akasa or space which symbolises cosmic sound.

The Vedas, Bhagavan says, embody Sabda Brahman (cosmic sound), and Vedic Mantras are actually the manifestation of Brahman in the form of sound. "The divine force that emerges from human beings merges in the cosmic sound

and assumes the form of Universal Consciousness; the Naada (sound) is Veda”, says Bhagavan. Man should understand the subtle truth of the intimate relationship between purity of elements and performance of Yajnas along with chanting of Vedic Mantras, and follow the glorious example of Bhagavan who has been performing Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna at Prasanthi Nilayam every year strictly according to Vedic injunctions since 1962 and has been encouraging the students and devotees to chant Vedic Mantras with devotion and faith. Chanting of Vedic Mantras is a regular practice in the educational institutions of Bhagavan, and Prasanthi Nilayam reverberates with the sacred sounds of Vedic Mantras both in the morning and evening. Not only that, thousands of children are being exposed to these Vedic chants in Bal Vikas / Sai Spiritual Education classes all over the world. It is also heartening to note that many overseas devotees of Bhagavan recite Vedic Mantras with perfect rhythm, intonation and pronunciation when they come in groups and present their music and cultural programmes in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

The solution to the problem of climate change cannot be found at technological level alone. All effective steps should, of course, be taken to avert any danger to the world and emission of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere should be minimised. But, at the same time, there is urgent need that man should minimise selfishness and greed in his heart. This is possible only when man follows the path of Sathya and Dharma as taught by Bhagavan. At a time when the world is facing a great threat to its existence due to imbalance and disturbance in Nature, Bhagavan has incarnated on earth to show to modern man the age-old path of wisdom devised by Vedic sages of Bharat. Let us hope and pray that man would follow the path shown by Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to save himself and the world!

– Editor



NOBODY CAN FATHOM THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S CREATION

WHAT IS NEEDED TODAY IS HUMANNESS

AEONS AGO, THE EARTH WAS enveloped in total darkness and there were neither human beings nor any living beings. There was nothing like day or night. For a long time, continuous torrential rains lashed the earth and everything was submerged in water. All the hills and mountains



were washed away. Even the Himalayan mountains that we see now were razed to the ground.

The Beginning of Creation

Afterwards, light appeared on the earth, and the sun, the moon, the stars and other heavenly bodies manifested in the sky. As a result, the earth became visible. Gradually, mountains arose and forests appeared on the earth. Insects, birds, animals and other creatures came into existence. With the

What you have to understand is, God is one, goal is one, truth is one, love is one. There may be different names but the divine principle of Atma is one only. You may call it Atma or Om, but divinity is one. People call God by various names such as Rama, Krishna, Govinda, Narayana, etc., but God is one. Therefore, contemplate on any name of God.

passage of time, they multiplied into millions of species.

Long ago when I was very young, I went to Anantapur. There, I stayed in the bungalow of

the Collector. He said to Me, "Swami! There are a number of deer here. Please take some of them and keep them in Your Ashram." I took only two of them to Bengaluru. But soon they multiplied into hundreds. As there was no sufficient space for their movement, they were shifted to Prasanthi Nilayam. However, Prasanthi Nilayam building had not yet been constructed. In the same way, God's creation multiplied manifold. Small creatures grew into bigger animals through the process of evolution and started inhabiting land and water. When you sow one seed in soil, it grows into a big tree and produces numerous seeds. In the same way, many living beings grew on earth and multiplied in number. The concept of division of time into days and years also came into existence. The main feature of the creation is that it goes on increasing with the passage of time; it does not decrease. Henceforward also, the same trend will continue.

The ultimate creation of God was man. In the beginning, there were two human beings, one male and one female. They formed the genesis of the entire human race. Man developed his family, his progeny grew in number and human population inhabited the entire earth. With the growth of human population, many nations and religions came into existence. Today there are more than six billion human beings on earth, but they lack the quality of humanness. What is the use if human beings are bereft of human quality? Therefore, what is needed today is humanness.

The colour of the sky appears to be blue. The oceans also appear to be blue. But actually, the water of the oceans is not blue. It is only due to the vastness of the oceans that it appears so. Similar is the case with the sky; it appears blue because of its vast distance.

Since God is all-pervasive and has no limit, He is also portrayed as blue-complexioned. The mystery of God's creation is wonderful and unfathomable. Nobody can describe this mystery in words. (At this point of time, there was a heavy shower of rain and devotees standing outside Sai Kulwant Hall were getting drenched. Seeing this, Bhagavan instructed the organisers to accommodate them inside the hall. Then, He continued His Discourse.)

Scout Duty at Pushpagiri

When I was studying in a school in Kamalapuram, I was very young and short. Even now I am quite short. You can well imagine how small I was in those days. One day, the drill master of the school came into the class and announced, "Next week, a big cattle fair is being held at Pushpagiri in Kadapa district. We have to send a team of boys as scouts from our school to control the crowds and help the people visiting the fair." The fair was held at a place which was full of sand. In the class, I did not talk to anybody much. Other boys in the class used to form groups and keep chatting. But I never joined any of those groups. I never touched anybody's books. In this way, I conducted Myself in an ideal manner in the classroom. Noticing this, the drill master came to Me and said, "Raju! You should be the leader of this group." I said to the drill master, "How can I be the leader of the group? I am so small and there are so many big boys in the class. It will not be possible for Me to control them." Then all the boys said in one voice, "Only You should be our leader." All the teachers also came there and said, "Only You can control the boys." I had no option but to agree to the proposal. Next day, the drill teacher again came and said, "All the boys going to the fair should have a Khaki dress, shoes, a whistle, a torchlight and a stick." I did not have even a naya paisa with Me. There



were two other boys, Ramesh and Suresh, who sat with Me on the same bench. Ramesh was the son of a Sirastadar (revenue officer) who was quite well-to-do. Without telling anybody, he went to his father and requested him to get two pairs of Khaki dress stitched for him, saying, "Father! I like Khaki dress very much. Please get two pairs of Khaki knickers and shirts stitched for me." He was of the same height as I was. So, he thought that the dress that fitted him would also be suitable for Me. But he did not tell his father that he intended to give one pair to Me. He packed the dress in a paper and put it in My desk with a small chit, on which he wrote, "Raju! You are my brother. You must accept this without thinking otherwise. If You return it to me, I will give up my life." I returned the clothes with a note: "If you and I are to continue as good friends, you should take these clothes back." I am of the view that one should not accept anything from anybody, even from friends. There should be no give-and-take relationship between friends. Otherwise, the friendship will break. In those days also, I used to impart such teachings to others. Ramesh reluctantly took back the dress, shedding tears.

Next day, the students had to start their journey to Pushpagiri. Each student had to pay ten rupees to meet the expenses for the journey by bus and stay at Pushpagiri. But I did not have even a naya paisa with Me. As I had passed the examination and was promoted to the next class, I decided to sell My books to meet the expenses of My stay there. I took My books of all subjects such as history, geography, civics, etc., to a student who needed these books as he was in lower class. As he was very poor, he could not buy new books. The total cost of these books was eighteen rupees. But the boy said, "I don't have so much money." Then I told him, "You



Love your mother, respect her and offer your salutations to her. Even if the mother and the son go to a court in a property dispute, the mother will say, "he is my son" and the son will say, "she is my mother," when questioned by the lawyer. Therefore, the relationship that one has with one's father and mother is eternal. Whether she is alive or not, mother is mother forever! There is no higher feeling than the feeling of love towards one's mother. Many devotees address Me as "Mother Sai" while writing letters to Me. As the devotees consider Me as their mother, I also treat them as My children and shower My motherly love on them.



don't need to worry. It is enough if you give Me five rupees." In those days, currency notes were very rare. Therefore, the boy paid this amount of five rupees in small coins. I brought that money home and tied it in an old cloth. As the cloth was very old and worn out, it gave way when I tried to tie the bundle tightly. All the coins fell on the floor. Hearing the sound of the coins, the lady of the house came and asked, "Where did You get all this money from? It is all my money." She began admonishing Me in this manner. I explained to her, "No, mother! I sold My books to a boy who has given this money to Me." I called that boy and he also said, "Yes mother, I have given this money." But she did not believe him also and told him, "You are also telling a lie." As she took away all the money, I was left with not even a single paisa.



All the boys of My class came to Me in their new Khaki dress and asked Me to accompany them to Pushpagiri. As I was not in a position to go with them, I pretended that I had stomachache and was therefore unable to go with them. If I had told them that I had fever, they would have come to know easily. Therefore, I made this excuse. The boys felt very sad and left for Pushpagiri. The same night, I set out for Pushpagiri all alone in moonlight. I walked all the distance and reached Pushpagiri early in the morning.

As I had walked a long distance, I was tired and thirsty. But there was no water anywhere nearby. However, there was a masonry tank in which there was some water used for bathing cows and buffaloes. Though the water was very dirty, I had no other option but to wash My hands and face with the same water and also drink a little to quench My thirst. There on a boulder, I noticed that someone had left a one anna (one-sixteenth of a rupee) coin and a bundle of beedies (country cigarettes). I had nothing to do with beedies. So, I tore them into pieces and buried them in the sand. I took the anna coin and exchanged it for four bottus (paise). In the fair, I noticed a person sitting on the roadside with cards spread on a cloth and inviting passersby to bet on the cards. When I passed that way, he invited Me also saying, "You are a lucky boy. Come, come, bet some amount on any card of Your choice and I will give You double the amount if You win." No doubt, it was a sort of gambling, but I started playing this game. Every time, I was winning the bet and getting double the amount. Though people gathered around were encouraging Me to go on playing, I stopped after I gained twelve annas. This money was enough for Me. I did not want more. So, I left that place. In My heart

of hearts, I felt that I should not have resorted to this type of gambling. We are all aware how much Yudhisthira had to suffer by playing the game of dice.

In those days, one dosa was available for one dammidi ($\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a bottu). So, I managed with three dosas in the morning and three dosas in the evening, spending two bottus per day. In this way, I managed to stay at Pushpagiri. However, I did not tell My condition to other boys and performed My duty with great diligence.

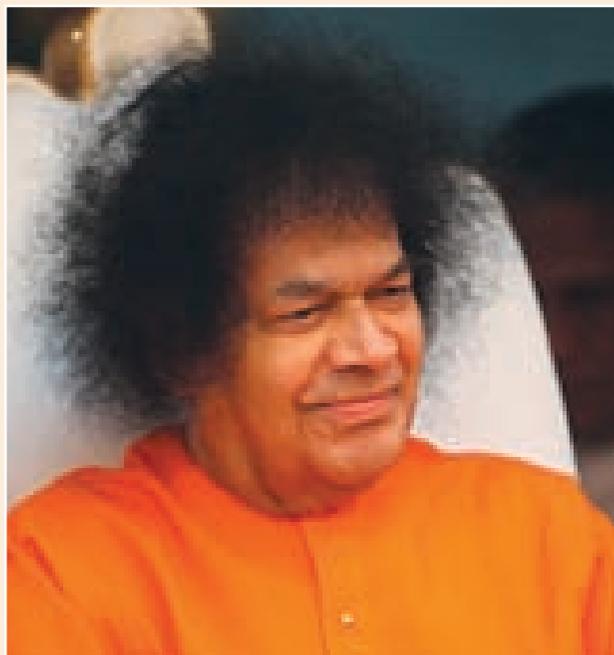
Hard Life at Kamalapuram

While returning from the scout camp, I purchased some sweets, flowers and packets of Kumkum (vermilion) for My sister-in-law. When I gave those flowers to her, she threw them away. She refused to accept even Kumkum, when I offered it to her because she was angry that she had to fetch water from the well during My absence. My elder brother, Seshama Raju who had gone on a training had also returned. When I reached home, he was drawing some lines with the help of a ruler. As My sister-in-law complained to him against Me, he became furious and hit Me on My hand with the ruler. He hit Me so hard that the ruler broke into three pieces and My hand was swollen. I did not reveal this to anybody and tied a bandage of wet cloth on My hand. The next day, Seshama Raju's son died. He sent a telegram to Griham Abbayi (Swami's father) to come immediately. He received the telegram at Bukkapatnam where he had gone to make some purchases in the market. On seeing the telegram, he rushed to Kamalapuram from Bukkapatnam itself. After consoling the members of the family, he enquired as to why My hand was swollen and bandaged? I tried to explain away very casually as if nothing had



happened. I told him that there was a slight pain due to a blister on the palm and therefore I had tied a bandage on it.

There was a lady in the neighbouring house who told Griham Abbayi how much suffering I was undergoing. My daily work in the house included fetching water from the well both in the morning and evening, heating water for bath, preparing coffee for Seshama Raju and his wife and doing various other odd jobs. I had to get up early in the morning at 3 o'clock to finish all this work and attend school. Whenever I was late in bringing water from the well, My brother and sister-in-law used to shout at Me saying, "You are a young fellow. You should run. Why should You be late?" But I did not



pay any attention to their shouting, thinking, "In what way am I affected by their shouting? Let them say what they want. Whatever they say, it goes into thin air." With such feelings, I carried on My work as usual. All this work which I used to do in the house was disrupted when I went to

Pushpagiri. People in the neighbouring houses were very good and were affectionate towards Me. They were very fond of My singing.

In the evening, Griham Abbayi took Me out on the pretext of answering the call of nature. In those days, there were no electric lights. Therefore, I accompanied him with a lantern and a pot of water. After going some distance, I kept the pot of water and the lantern on the ground and was about to return when he caught hold of My hand and said in great anguish, "Sathya! Did I ever beat You on any day all these years? But here You are put to a lot of suffering everyday. If one is alive, one can make a living even by selling salt. Let us

The ultimate creation of God was man. In the beginning, there was only one male and one female human being. They formed the genesis of the entire human race. Man developed his family, his progeny grew in number and human population inhabited the entire earth. With the growth of human population, many nations and religions came into existence. Today there are more than six billion human beings on earth, but they lack the quality of humanness. What is the use if human beings are bereft of human quality?

leave their house and go back to Puttaparthi." Then I tried to pacify him, saying, "It is not proper for Me to leave the house now when they are grief-stricken at the death of their son. You may go now, I will come later."



Griham Abbayi returned to Puttaparthi and related to Griham Ammayi (Swami's mother) all that he had seen here. Griham Ammayi shed tears at My plight and said, "Sathya is a very good boy. I have never beaten Him even once. How sad it is that this wicked fellow is beating Him on the complaints of his wife! Bring Him back at once." Then Griham Abbayi said, "If I go there, He will not listen to me." Therefore, he sent a telegram, "Mother serious, come at once." But I knew that nothing had happened to her. As Griham Abbayi was sending letters to Me to come immediately, I finally returned to Puttaparthi. As soon as I reached home, Griham Ammayi caught hold of My hand and asked Me with great concern, "Still there is swelling on Your hand. Do You have pain?" Saying this, she applied a homemade medicine on My swollen hand. Everybody in the house shed tears at My condition. But I tried to pacify them, saying there was nothing to worry and everything would be all right. Seshama Raju came to Puttaparthi during holidays. Both the mother and the father severely scolded him, saying, "You don't even deserve food in this house. You took this boy along with you for education but you have been torturing Him. What sort of education is this?"

Beginning of Divine Mission at Uravakonda

After Seshama Raju was transferred to Uravakonda, he again came to Puttaparthi and persuaded Griham Abbayi and Griham Ammayi to admit Me in Uravakonda High School for further studies. All the teachers in the Uravakonda High School were very good. Thammiraju and H.S. Venkataramana loved Me very much and they used to invite Me to their houses also. Not only these two, all the teachers in the school were very affectionate

towards Me. As I was a good singer and had a melodious voice, they once asked Me to sing a song on the stage during a function. I sang a song describing the life at Uravakonda. All the teachers praised and congratulated Me for singing this song. Thereafter, they asked Me to lead the daily morning prayer in the school assembly. The following was the prayer that I used to sing:

*Moment to moment, Thy clarion call
resounds –*

*Hearing Thy magnanimous words,
The Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Parsees,
Muslims and Christians*

*Come to Thy throne, from East and West
Making the garland of love.*

Hail to Thee who unites all humanity!

*Hail to Thee who controls the destiny of
Bharat!*

Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee!

(Sanskrit Song)

The teachers of the school used to stand on either side of Me during the prayer meeting, shedding tears of joy at My singing. One day, I decided to leave the school and announced, "The time has come for Me to embark on My Mission and spread My Message." When the teachers and the students of the school came to know about My decision to leave the school, they all started crying. The headmaster of the school Lakshmipathi declared a holiday in the school.

Next day, one Muslim boy was asked to lead the prayer. He was also a good singer. But when he went on to the stage to lead the prayer, he started crying, unable to bear My separation. From that day onwards, prayer in the morning assembly was discontinued. Instead, the headmaster of the school used



to address the assembly briefly. At the time I discontinued My studies, I was only in third form (eighth class). But people who talked to Me were surprised at My scholarship, thinking that I was a holder of some high degree. I could write very good poetry also. However, I used to talk very little and maintain silence for most of the time.

All are Children of God

After My return to Puttaparthi also, I observed silence most of the time, even at home. After having My food in the house, I would either go to the bank of Chitravathi and sit there quietly or sit on the top of the hill by the side of Chitravathi. Many people including children from Uravakonda and neighbouring villages started coming in bullock carts to see Me, calling Me “Sai Baba”. Subbamma used to serve food to all of them. She was very happy to serve the children, thinking that they were Swami’s classmates. From that time onwards, Swami’s name and glory started spreading far and wide. Once Maharaja of Mysore Jayachamaraja Wodeyar came to Swami by his car. As there was road only up to Bukkapatnam, he left his car there and came to Karnatanagepalli in a bullock cart and from there to Puttaparthi on foot. He told Me, “Swami! Why do You stay here and put Yourself to so much inconvenience? Kindly come to Mysore. I will build a big mansion for You.” Then I told him, “A tree must grow where it is planted. If you shift it from place to place, it will not survive. Therefore, one should remain where one is born.” The Maharaja was a great devotee. He used to visit Chamundeswari temple daily in the morning and in the evening. He also used to sing songs in praise of the goddess Chamundeswari.

The Mysore Maharaja visited Puttaparthi again. Seeing the difficulties faced by people

to reach Puttaparthi, he requested the government authorities to lay a good road to Puttaparthi. He offered to provide necessary funds for this. The government appointed a chief engineer by name Tiruvannai Iyengar to undertake a survey of the project. The chief engineer surveyed the area, travelling in a bullock cart. He found that the river Chitravathi encircled the village on three sides and the fourth side was available for laying a road. It was therefore planned to lay a tar road to Puttaparthi without touching Chitravathi river. Finally, a direct road to Puttaparthi was made, by which people could reach the Mandir.

Once the road was made ready, a number of people including Baroda Raja, Bobbili Raja, Venkatagiri Raja started coming to Puttaparthi. Many of them brought tents with them and stayed in them. The brother of Trivandrum Raja also came here. He was a film director. Many people in the villages around Puttaparthi started saying, “Does Swami belong to only Rajas and Maharajas and not to us?” I used to pacify the villagers, saying, “All are My devotees and I do not make any distinction whatsoever.” All are Mine. Many of these Rajas built houses for the devotees and provided many conveniences for them. Later, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Bezawada Gopala Reddy also started visiting Puttaparthi and attended many functions. It was he who inaugurated the General Hospital here. Gradually, a large number of people started coming to Puttaparthi. As the number of people increased, even those Rajas and Maharajas who were earlier close to Swami, lost their proximity with Swami.

I have come not to give Discourses on divinity but to make you understand that God

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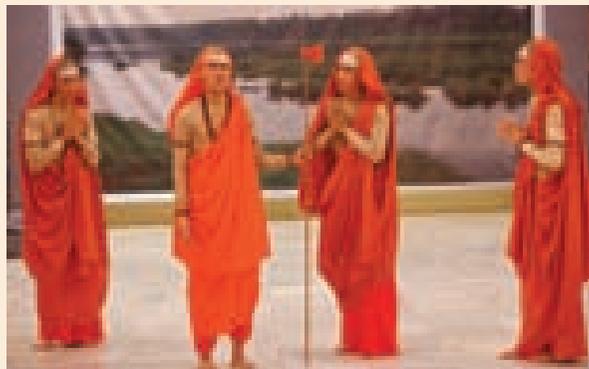




CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES OF ZONE 5 COUNTRIES

A GROUP OF 270 DEVOTEES came from Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and China (Zone 5 countries of International Sai Organisation) on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 30th September to 4th October 2009 to experience the bliss of Bhagavan's proximity and seek His blessings. During their stay at Prasanthi Nilayam, the devotees attended Darshan and Bhajan sessions held daily in Sai Kulwant Hall. They also had the opportunity of listening to the talks of some eminent speakers in the lecture hall. On 2nd October 2009, these devotees presented a delightful music and cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The programme began at 5.05 p.m. with welcome drums and instrumental music. This was followed by Veda chanting by the entire group. Beginning with Ganapati Prarthana (prayer to Lord Ganesh), the group chanted Nila Suktam and a part of Narayanopanishad with perfect pronunciation, rhythm and intonation to the delight of one and all. Veda chanting was followed by Bhajans in Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Sanskrit languages, and were alternately led by ladies and gents singers. The next item of the programme was a drama on Adi Sankara enacted by Japanese youth. The drama depicted the main events from the life of Adi Sankara and showcased his teachings, particularly his philosophy of non-dualism. Embellished with well-rendered immortal



A scene from the drama presented by the Japanese youth on 2nd October 2009. It depicted the main events from the life of Adi Sankara and his teachings.

verses of Sankara like "Bhaja Govindam", the drama made a mark by the powerful acting of the youth, appropriate background music, perfect make-up of the actors and excellent direction. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the participating youth and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the youth who enacted the role of Sankara. After this, there was a brief session of Bhajans which were again led by the Japanese devotees. Meanwhile, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed in the entire hall. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m.

YOUTH CAMP OF KERALA

More than 2,000 youth came from different parts of Kerala to participate in the youth camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala at Prasanthi Nilayam from 1st to 3rd October 2009. During their stay at Prasanthi Nilayam, they attended daily Darshan and Bhajan programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall and



listened to the talks of eminent speakers in a specially erected Pandal. On 3rd October 2009, a group of these youth presented a drama “Sant Tulsidas” in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The drama depicted how Tulsidas in his youth craved for carnal pleasures and



The youth of Kerala presented a drama “Sant Tulsidas” on 3rd October 2009, portraying the life story of this great saint and poet of India.

was transformed by his wife who reprimanded him for his craving for worldly love and showed him the path of devotion to Lord Rama. Seeing his deep devotion and strong yearning for Rama, Hanuman manifested before him and helped him to attain the Darshan of Rama, at whose command he wrote his immortal work “Ramacharitamanas”, the story of Rama in Hindi. Superb acting of the cast, excellent sets, colourful costumes, good make-up, thrilling music, perfect choreography and soul-stirring songs made the drama an impressive presentation. The drama which started at 5.40 p.m. after Bhagavan’s Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 6.30 p.m. with a vibrant dance by a group of youth. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan showered His love and blessings on the cast, gave them the coveted opportunity of photo sessions with Him and distributed clothes to them. He

also materialised a gold chain for the youth who enacted the role of Tulsidas. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall in the end. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

DASARA CELEBRATIONS

Dasara at Prasanthi Nilayam is a festival of great spiritual significance. The festivities start on the first day of Navaratri (nine days dedicated to the worship of the Divine Mother) and culminate on Vijaya Dasami or Dasara, signifying the victory of good over evil. Worship of the Divine Mother in the forms of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati for nine days, performance of the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna amidst Vedic chants, holding of talks by eminent scholars on spiritual subjects for seven days and presentation of cultural and devotional music programmes in the Divine Presence of Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba surcharge the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. Another significant dimension was added by Bhagavan to these celebrations in the year 2000 with Grama Seva which is performed by the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions for ten days. Thus, Prasanthi Nilayam verily becomes the confluence of the three main streams for man’s liberation, namely, Bhakti (devotion), Jnana (knowledge) and Karma (action) represented respectively by the worship of the Divine Mother, Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna and Grama Seva.

Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna

During this year, the festivities began on the first day of Navaratri on 19th September 2009 with the start of Kalasha Puja (worship of the sacred vessel) by the Mandir priest in Bhajan Hall after Bhagavan blessed the Kalasha. The



worship of the Kalasha continued for three days in the Bhajan Hall from 19th to 21st September 2009.

On 22nd September 2009, Bhagavan came to exquisitely bedecked Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.20 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants by students and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram by a group of musicians. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Hall where He distributed silk clothes to the Ritwiks (priests) assembled there. At 9.00 a.m., the procession of Ritwiks started from the Bhajan Hall amidst sacred Vedic chants and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram. The head priest holding the sacred Kalasha led the procession which was followed by priests and students dressed in ochre clothes. On arrival in Poornachandra Auditorium, the venue of the Yajna, the priests started necessary preparations for the conduct of the Yajna. Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba graced the event by His Divine Presence. Soon the sacred fire was produced by churning one piece of wood over the other as per the tradition. The priests brought it to Bhagavan and received His blessings before putting it in Yajna Kunda. The fire was lit in the Yajna Kunda and four priests started offering oblations in the sacred fire with chanting of Vedic Mantras while one priest started performing Surya Namaskar (worship of sun god) and a group of four priests started chanting the Mantras of Krishna Yajur Veda. Simultaneously, Parayana (ceremonial reading) of the Ramayana, the Bhagavata and the Devi Bhagavata was commenced by three scholars. The Mandir priest started reciting the Durga Saptashati, while another priest started Sahasra Lingarchana (worship of 1,000 Lingas). At the same time, worship of

the sacred Kalasha, symbolising the worship of the Divine Mother, was started by a priest and his wife. The students also joined the priests in Vedic chants and Parayana of sacred texts. The entire auditorium thus reverberated with sacred recitations and Vedic chants, sanctifying the entire milieu and radiating spiritual vibrations in all directions. At about 10.00 a.m., Bhagavan went to the western corner of the stage and blessed the garland for offering on the sacred Kalasha. After this, Arati was offered to Bhagavan. All the priests then stood up in a row and chanted Vedic Mantras collectively in coordination with the students sitting on the stage.

The Yajna continued in this sacred manner from 22nd to 27th September 2009 and concluded with Poornahuti (final oblations) on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami on 28th September 2009. On the day of Poornahuti, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.10 a.m. in a sparkling maroon robe amidst sacred Vedic chants by students and auspicious Nadaswaram music by a group of musicians. After showering the bliss of His Darshan on the huge assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Hall and blessed the priests assembled there. The procession of priests led by Nadaswaram musicians then proceeded from Bhajan Hall to Poornachandra Auditorium for the offering of Poornahuti in the sacrificial fire. On arriving in Poornachandra Auditorium, the priests started the preparations for Poornahuti. Bhagavan came to Poornachandra Auditorium at 10.10 a.m. and showered His blessings on all. Soon after this, Bhagavan went near the Yajna Kunda and blessed the precious material for Poornahuti which was put in the sacrificial fire at 10.20 a.m. amidst loud Vedic chants of priests and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram





Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessing the performance of Poornahuti (final oblations) on 28th September 2009, which marked the completion of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna.

music, marking the completion of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna. Bhagavan then sprinkled Akshatas (sacred rice) and Teertham (sacred water) on the priests and showered His blessings on them. After this, Bhagavan went to the western corner of the stage and blessed the priest and his wife who conducted Kalasha Puja for seven days. At 10.30 a.m., Arati was offered to Bhagavan. With this, the seven-day-long Yajna for peace, prosperity and welfare of the entire mankind came to a happy conclusion.

PRASANTHI VIDWAN MAHASABHA

While the Yajna was conducted in Poornachandra Auditorium in the morning, the proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha were held in Sai Kulwant Hall in the afternoon. In the first session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on the afternoon of 22nd September 2009, Bhagavan blessed three speakers to address the assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University, introduced the speakers. He introduced the speakers on the subsequent days also and described

the glory of the Divine Mother in Telugu on all these days. The first speaker of the first session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was Prof. Vishwanath Pandit, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University. Referring to the recent financial crisis in the world, Prof. Pandit observed that solution to such problems lay in observing ceiling on desires, discriminating between need and greed and fulfilling one's commitment to society as Bhagavan is teaching through His example and activities like Grama Seva as well as other humanitarian projects for the welfare of mankind. Happiness did not lie in accumulating wealth; it was directly related to the extent one could go to help others, said the distinguished speaker. The second speaker of this session was Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of the university. Extending his greetings on the holy festival of Navaratri to one and all, Sri Giri observed that this period of nine days provided man the opportunity to develop deep devotion, total purity of mind and love without expectation through observance of austerities and worship of the Divine Mother. Sri Giri concluded his speech with the famous saying of Bhagavan: "Duty without love is deplorable, duty with love is desirable and love without duty is divine." The last speaker of this session was Dr. T. Ravikumar, a faculty member of the Brindavan Campus of the university. Referring to the chanting of Lalita Sahasranama (one thousand names of the Divine Mother), Dr. Ravikumar observed that the Divine Mother is the embodiment of divine love, which Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is showering on one and all. Narrating how Bhagavan restored his eyesight and cured his father's cancer, Dr. Ravikumar expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for giving him the experience of His divine love.



Sri Aman Jhaveri, a second year M.B.A. student of the university, was the first speaker of the second session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on 23rd September 2009. Narrating his personal experience how Bhagavan cured his backache in a dream, Sri Jhaveri said that it was our highest good fortune that Bhagavan is amidst us and is showering His unconditional divine love on all. Through activities like Grama Seva, Bhagavan is providing to the students the opportunity to expand their consciousness and see themselves in others and others in themselves, eradicating all thoughts of duality, said Sri Jhaveri. The second speaker of this session was Sri Robin Sharma, a Ph.D. scholar of the university. Narrating how omniscient Bhagavan answered his prayers, Sri Sharma observed that prayer was a devotee's greatest strength. All sincere prayers from the deepest recesses of the heart are answered by God, stated Sri Sharma quoting from the reply of Bhagavan to a student's question in the Bhajan Hall.

Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of the university was the last speaker of this second session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha. Quoting from the text of Lalita Sahasranama, Sri Narasimha Murthy stated that the Divine Mother worshipped during Navaratri in the forms of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati is present before all in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Referring to a question of a devotee in a meeting as to who Sri Sathya Sai Baba is, the learned speaker said that he also did not know who Bhagavan is even after writing two volumes of "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram" because intellectual approach did not help in knowing God who could be experienced only through the heart.

The first speaker who delivered his talk in the third session of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha on 24th September 2009 was Sri Shashank Shah, a research scholar of the university. Referring to the Navaratri celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, Sri Shah observed that Bhagavan is the Divine Mother who is presiding over Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna as Durga, over the Karma Yajna in the form of Grama Seva as Lakshmi and over Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha as Saraswati. Sri Shah concluded his speech by exhorting one and all to make the best use of this unique opportunity when omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God has incarnated on earth in the human form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The second speaker of this session was Sri Akshay Kamath, a second year M.B.A. student of the university. Sri Kamath urged one and all to be constantly aware of the Divinity of Bhagavan, to offer gratitude to Him and to follow the path shown by Him. This was the way to experience the bliss of Bhagavan's divine love, said Sri Kamath. The next speaker of this session was Dr. Subhash Subramaniam, a faculty member of the university. Quoting a Sloka (verse) of the Gita, describing the five main qualities which made devotees dear to God, Sri Subramaniam narrated significant incidents from the life of Bhagavan's five devotees, viz., Smt. Sakamma, Rajmata of Nawanagar, Prof. N. Kasturi, Col. Joga Rao and Sri Ramabrahmam who imbibed these qualities. They were respectively Anapeksha (dispassionate), Shuchir (pure), Daksha (intelligent), Udaseena (detached) and Sarvarambha Parityagi (without any sense of doership) and so were dear to Bhagavan.

Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations was the first speaker of the fourth session of Prasanthi



Vidwan Mahasabha held on 25th September 2009. Dwelling upon the importance of the festival of Navaratri which was celebrated in all parts of India for nine days, Sri Srinivasan observed that this was the opportunity for all to make their life sacred and sublime through worship, austerities and service to mankind. Referring to a recent declaration of Bhagavan on the imminent unity of mankind, the distinguished speaker said that the entire human race could be united by adopting the path of love as Bhagavan was showing to mankind by His example. Speaking in chaste Hindi, the second speaker, Sri Bhabani Shankar, an M.Phil. student of the university, spoke about the glory of the Divine Mother and observed that the merger of the devotee with God was possible only by total surrender without even a trace of ego. Acts of service to others like Grama Seva were the potent means to achieve egolessness, added Sri Shankar. The last speaker of this session was Sri G.S. Srirangarajan, Controller of Examinations in the university. Man's journey of life would become smooth if he developed faith in God instead of blaming Him for all his sufferings and asking questions like "why me?" and "why not me?", observed Sri Srirangarajan and added that perception of non-duality was true wisdom. Surrender to God and sincere prayer for His grace could alleviate man's suffering, said the learned speaker.

Two distinguished speakers addressed the gathering on 26th September 2009. The first speaker, Prof. A. Anantha Raman, a faculty member of the university, spoke about Bhagavan's divine love which was overflowing all man-made boundaries and was transforming man, society and the world. Man's natural state was unbounded joy and total bliss; all his sufferings were caused by his wrong company,

wrong reading, wrong advice and wrong thinking, observed the learned speaker. The second speaker of this session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was Sri K. Chakravarthi, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. Speaking about Bhagavan in his emotion-filled speech, Sri Chakravarthi observed that Bhagavan's story had no beginning and no end; it was a continuing saga to which the devotees could add a chapter, depending upon their earnestness and devotion. It was a humbling experience to watch the love and devotion, faith and determination of Bhagavan's devotees – young and old, men and women, rich and poor, the mighty and the meek – from all over the world whose life Bhagavan had touched in some mysterious way, stated the distinguished speaker. In conclusion, Sri Chakravarthi remarked that violence prevalent in the world could not be contained by violence; it could be ended only with love as taught by Bhagavan who is creating an ever-widening circle of people who are adopting the path of love.

The last session of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was held on 27th September 2009, the day of Mahanavami, the 9th and final day of Navaratri festival. On this auspicious day, Bhagavan gave His Dasara Message to the huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. Before the Discourse of Bhagavan, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University delivered his talk, in which he exhorted the devotees to eradicate animality and demonic tendencies which represented true victory over the demon Mahishasura. Explaining the significance of Vijaya Dasami falling on the next day, the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagavan's devotees had a role to play like the Vanaras when Rama killed Ravana on this day. Bhagavan's teachings were available



in plenty and each one of them was a precious gem, said Dr. Venkataraman. He exhorted the devotees to put them into practice to attain the goal of their life, God-realisation. In His Discourse, which followed the speech of Dr. Venkataraman, Bhagavan dwelt upon the mystery of creation of the universe and explained how the heavenly bodies and living beings came into existence. He also revealed many subtle truths about His childhood days. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) The proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came to a happy conclusion with Bhagavan's Divine Discourse, which provided most befitting finale to the deliberations of this assembly of erudite scholars.

SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2009

Since its beginning in the year 2000, Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva has become an annual feature of Navaratri celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. The students and staff of the three campuses, viz., Anantapur, Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam of the university assisted by the senior students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam organise this stupendous task of preparing food and distributing it along with clothes to villagers in the nine days of Navaratri festival, adding an important dimension of selfless service to these celebrations. Through Grama Seva, Bhagavan has not only been sensitising the students of the university to the needs of the rural population, but has also been imparting the practical lesson how selfless service should be performed with humility and love.

This year, Grama Seva started on the first day of Navaratri celebrations on 19th September 2009. The students and staff of the university circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir



Bhagavan's Prasadam was offered at the doorstep of the villagers with humility and love during the Grama Seva performed by the staff and students of Sri Sathya Sai University in September 2009.

while singing Bhajans and chanting Vedic hymns, boarded nearly 50 vehicles loaded with food packets and clothes and departed on the sacred mission of carrying Bhagavan's Prasadam with His message of love to the villagers. They were divided into groups and each group was assigned a specific number of villages to be covered on a particular day. Staff members and senior students guided the groups in the performance of the assigned task. On reaching the villages, every group first did Nagar Sankirtan, in which the villagers also invariably joined. After this, the staff and students went to the doorstep of each house, greeted the inmates with 'Sai Ram' and gave Bhagavan's Prasadam to them with humility and love. The villagers received the Prasadam with great reverence and thanked Bhagavan for His love and blessings and for sending His students to their village.

Grama Seva was performed in about 150 villages for nine days from 19th to 27th September 2009 by the staff and students of Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan Campuses, serving Bhagavan's Prasadam to more than 2,50,000 villagers. The work of preparation of food and packing was done by the students of Anantapur Campus on all the days. They also distributed Prasadam to the inmates of Prasanthi Nilayam on the sacred day of Vijaya Dasami on 28th September 2009. This year, the students of the nursing college attached to Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital, Prasanthigram joined the Anantapur Campus students in this work.

GUJARATI NEW YEAR

More than 2,500 devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam from various parts of Gujarat to celebrate Gujarati New Year in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan and to bask in the ambience of His grace. On the auspicious day of Gujarati New Year on 19th October 2009, they presented a cultural and music programme which began at 6.00 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first part of the programme consisted of instrumental music presented by two renowned musicians Sri Shyamkumar Bhosle and Sri Hemant Bhosle who enthralled the devotees with their scintillating performance on Santoor and Jaltarang respectively. After



A scene from the drama "Sai Bhaja Govindam" enacted by the Bal Vikas children of Gujarat on the occasion of Gujarati New Year on 19th October 2009.

this excellent musical presentation, Bal Vikas children of Gujarat enacted a drama entitled "Sai Bhaja Govindam", which depicted the main teachings contained in the verses of Adi Sankara's immortal work "Bhaja Govindam" through commentary and short skits based on the incidents described in the stories of "Chinna Katha" narrated by Bhagavan in His Discourses. Excellent rendering of "Bhaja Govindam" verses, appropriate selection of episodes and good acting of the children made the drama an impressive presentation. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the children, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.05 p.m. after the distribution of Prasadam to all.

"SANATHANA SARATHI" – AUDIO CD

Audio CD of Sanathana Sarathi (English) is now available in mp3 format from **September 2009 issue** onwards. The price of Audio CD of each issue is **Rs. 49.00** only.

The audio CD will be supplied **free to visually challenged individuals and institutions** for the visually challenged on request. Orders / requests may be addressed to: **Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam.**



– Convener

OBSERVE ETHICS AND MORALITY IN LIFE

Man is born in action, is sustained by action and ultimately merges in action. Action is the cause for pleasure and pain. Truly speaking, action is God for man.

(Telugu Poem)

PERFORM ALL TASKS WITH PURITY OF HEART

Embodiments of Love! People of Kerala!

BALI WAS THE EMPEROR OF THE land of Kerala. He was a good ruler who treated his subjects like his own children, provided all types of comforts and conveniences to them and developed sacred feelings in them.

Vamana Incarnated to Liberate Bali

He started the performance of the Yajna by name Viswajit to demonstrate his authority as the emperor of a big empire and to show the path of truth to his subjects. People thronged the venue of the Yajna in large numbers. He gave valuable gifts and performed many acts of charity during the course of the Yajna. While he and his family members were seated in the Yajnashala and everybody was watching the grand spectacle of the Yajna, a handsome boy arrived there, holding a small umbrella. Captivated by the beauty of this boy, the daughter of Bali, Ratnamala started thinking, "How happy I would be if he were to be my son!" Everybody was overjoyed to see this boy when he entered the Yajnashala. Bali welcomed him, garlanded him, washed his feet, offered him a seat of honour and asked

him, "Sir, who are you? Where have you come from?" After exchanging pleasantries with him, Bali asked him, "Sir, what can I do for you?" The boy replied, "I have heard that you are

Today you need to develop morality. If you have morality, it should reflect in your life. You should follow the principles of Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society), considering them as your goal of life. Therefore, oh people! Do not deviate even a bit from the path of morality. One bereft of morality cannot be called a human being at all. Such a person becomes unfit to live in human society. Only the one who observes morality can lead a virtuous life. You should develop humility and obedience. This is the ideal set by Bali for people to follow. Your life will become worthwhile if you adhere to this ideal.

performing acts of great charity. I have also a desire, for the fulfilment of which I have come here.” When Bali asked him to express his desire, the boy said, “I don’t want anything more. If you give me three steps of land in charity, that would be enough for me.” Expressing his surprise, Emperor Bali said, “You are asking for something petty and trivial. I thought you would ask for something big. I am surprised that you are asking for such a small thing. Is that all you want or you want something more?” The boy emphatically replied, “I want only three steps of land and nothing more.”

The boy was none other than Lord Vishnu who had incarnated in the form of Vamana to subjugate the ego of Bali. Vamana measured the entire earth in one step and the entire sky in the second. Then he asked Bali to show the place where he could put his third step. The emperor said, “Sir, you have occupied the entire earth with one step and the sky with the second. I don’t find any place for your third step. You can put it on my head.” Saying this, he bowed down before Vamana. Vamana put his foot on Bali’s head, pushed him to the nether world and granted him liberation which is the goal of life. Seeing this, his subjects were grief-stricken and lamented, “Alas! We have lost our emperor who treated us like his own children. It was he who sustained us. We cannot live



Celebration of Onam should not be limited to wearing new clothes and eating delicious dishes. It is the day on which people should rededicate themselves to the ideals of Bali and put them into practice in their life. Even if you have some doubts and misgivings, you should give them up on the day of Onam and follow the teachings of Bali, considering them as Vedic injunctions. This is true penance. Love All, Serve All. There is no greater penance than this.

without him.” Such a magnificent and blissful Yajna came to an abrupt end in this way.

Pleasure is an interval between two pains. As the people were feeling sad over the loss of their dear and benevolent king, Vamana told them not to worry and promised them, “Every year on this day, I will send Bali to visit this land.” People of Kerala celebrate this day as Onam to welcome their beloved king. They decorate their houses, put on new clothes and



prepare a variety of dishes. In this way, they have been celebrating this festival of Onam with great joy and enthusiasm. Emperor Bali considered his subjects very dear to him, solved all their problems and made them happy and comfortable. That is why the people were steeped in sorrow when he left them.

Do not Deviate from the Path of Morality

The sacred land of Kerala is the gift of God. People of Kerala are following the ideals set by Bali even today. That is why Kerala has made great progress. There is no dearth of food and water in Kerala. The people of Kerala lead a happy and comfortable life. They should uphold the sacredness of their land. Kerala is small in size but it is thickly populated. In spite of its large population, the people of Kerala are prosperous and enjoy all types of comforts and conveniences.

Due to the impact of Kali Age, there may be changes in the feelings of some individuals, but by and large their hearts are pure. They still follow the Vedic injunctions, *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth, practise righteousness). They respect their elders and serve them with love. The main reason for this is their love for God. Because this is the land where people have love for God, they are afraid of committing any sin, thinking, "What will be the result if I commit sin?" Those who have love for God will have fear of sin. Where there is fear of sin, there is morality in society. Morality is very essential for the progress of society. Those who observe ethics and morality in life are held in high esteem by all in society. People will say, "He is a good person. We should respect him." Since ancient times, people who uphold morality have been respected, extolled and given a

place of honour in society. Only the one with morality can be called a true human being. It is necessary for all to observe ethics and morality in life, the basic principles of which are speak truth, practise righteousness. The people of Kerala have given utmost importance to truth and righteousness. They celebrate Onam in a grand way to honour and revere Emperor Bali. They consider Bali not only as their emperor but their mother and father also. Our sacred texts also propound these principles: *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). First comes the mother. It is she who brings you up and teaches first good lessons to you. Next comes the father. The father is the second Guru. Preceptor occupies the third place who not only gives you the worldly knowledge but shows you the path of God-realisation also. In this manner, human life begins in the lap of mother and ends with attaining God. You should never forget your mother howsoever old you may grow in age or high in status. You should always respect her. If you go to Kerala, you will see that people respect their elders and help them in every possible way. On the days of festivals like Onam, they offer new clothes to their elders and make them happy in many ways. Therefore, you should always remember the high ideals which the people of Kerala uphold, and try to emulate them.

The whole country waits for the rains to start in Kerala. Monsoon first enters the land of Kerala and from there spreads to the other parts of the country. Water is essential for growing crops, fruits, flowers and food grains. Just as rains start in Kerala and spread to all other places, God may incarnate in one particular place but He is present everywhere. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is



one, but the wise refer to it by various names). God is one, not two. It is due to your delusion that you consider Rama, Krishna, Govinda as different from each other. The sun is one. It is not different in different parts of the world. Here it is now 9 o'clock in the morning but in America it is night time. In this way, the sun appears in different parts of the world at different times. Likewise, the same God appears in many forms. Do not think that there are many Gods with different forms. God is one. *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many). The divine principle permeates every individual, every region and every country. It is due to difference in our feelings that we consider various forms of God as different from each other.

Rededicate yourself to the Ideals Set by Bali

How fortunate Emperor Bali was, for God Himself came to grant him liberation! You should glorify Bali and live up to his ideals. What does Onam really mean? On the day of Onam, you should not only wear new clothes but should also make your body and mind pure and contemplate on God with sacred feelings. This is real Onam. On the day of Onam, people of Kerala make many delicious dishes and various types of sweets with plantains. All these dishes are made by them with great purity of heart as an offering to God. Even if we prepare one dish, we have to undergo a lot of strain. But the people of Kerala make numerous dishes on the day of Onam with sacred feelings. That is why their dishes taste so delicious. Not only do they prepare such delicious dishes as an offering to God with purity of heart, they also make their houses clean and sacred, considering them as the temples of God. Kerala is the only land where



Those who have love for God will have fear of sin. Where there is fear of sin, there is morality in society. Morality is very essential for the progress of society. Those who observe ethics and morality in life are held in high esteem by all in society. People will say, "He is a good person. We should respect him." Since ancient times, people who uphold morality have been respected, extolled and given a place of honour in society. Only the one with morality can be called a true human being. It is necessary for all to observe ethics and morality in life, the basic principles of which are speak truth, practise righteousness.



people do everything with purity of heart. Celebration of Onam should not be limited to wearing new clothes and eating delicious dishes. It is the day on which people should rededicate themselves to the ideals of Bali and put them into practice in their life. Even if you have some doubts and misgivings, you should give them up on the day of Onam and follow the teachings of Bali, considering them as Vedic injunctions. This is true penance. *Love All, Serve All*. There is no greater penance than this. Whomsoever you come across, offer your salutations to him. Even if you meet your enemy, you should offer your salutations to him. Then he will also reciprocate your gesture. In this way, lead your life with love and unity. Those who lead this type of ideal life can be

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POWER OF DEVOTION

A FEW DAYS AFTER VIJAYA Dasami, Baba took all the devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam to the river-bed of Chitravathi. After Bhajan, Baba spoke

were influenced by the teachings of the Gita, especially its message about the renunciation of the fruits of action. He said that the book, “The Thousand Suns” about atomic explosions



Devotees with Bhagavan on the river-bed of Chitravathi where Bhagavan performed many Leelas (divine sports) and demonstrated His Divinity in early days.

on the practice of Sadhana and its necessity. Dr. S. Bhagavantham, Director of the Indian Institute of Science, who was present, informed that many among even western scientists

was so named, because the author was reminded of the Viswarupa Darshan (vision of Cosmic Form) in the Gita, which is described as “Divi Surya Sahasrasya”, etc. While Dr.



Bhagavantham was talking of the influence of the Gita on science, Baba materialised from the sand on which He was sitting, a copy of the Bhagavadgita, which He handed over with His blessings to the Director!

Later, Baba noticed Sri Kota Reddy from Damaramadugu, who was sitting opposite Him, wearing a badge with a photo on it. He asked him to pass the badge on to Him. Holding it in His Hand, Baba explained that the picture was of Kusuma-Haranath, who had given a great fillip to the Nama Sankirtan movement in North India. Haranath, He said, was considered an incarnation of Gowranga and Kusuma Bai was his consort. He then suddenly materialised from the sand, a charming idol of the couple, an exact prototype of the figures on the badge, except for a three-coiled serpent on which they stood and the hood over their heads! On the forehead of Kusuma could be seen a fresh Kumkum (vermilion) dot! Baba gave the idol to Sri Kota Reddy and asked him to offer Puja to it at his home.

We must, every one of us, grasp the inner significance of these and similar miraculous Leelas (divine sports). Sathya Sai Avatar has

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called human beings in the true sense of the term. Only such people uphold morality. Today you need to develop morality. If you have morality, it should reflect in your life. You should follow the principles of *Daiva Preeti*, *Papa Bheeti* and *Sangha Neeti* (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society), considering them as your goal of life. Therefore, oh people! Do not deviate even a bit from the path of morality. One bereft of morality cannot be called

come not to destroy but to fulfil. He takes all by the hand from wherever they are at present, and strengthening faith, vouchsafing courage and patience and guiding the Sadhana, He leads them on to the realisation of the goal. He has come, not to establish a new religion but to feed the roots of all religions. That is the reason why that evening, He gave the Gita to Dr. Bhagavantham and the Kusuma-Haranath image to Kota Reddy. That is why He gave a rosary with the image of Christ to a missionary at Kodaikanal, and a picture of Ramakrishna Paramahansa to a devotee of that God-intoxicated saint at Bengaluru.

Baba has said, one can realise the Lord, whatever name or form one adopts for meditation and Japa (chanting of God's Name). As a matter of fact, the Lord will be forced, He says, to adopt that very form and name in order to bless the devotee. Such is the power of devotion. We have the unmistakable testimony of the devotees of Baba Himself, for He has assumed the name and form of Ganesh, Panduranga, Padmanabha, Rama, Shirdi Sai, Krishna and Venkateswara in order to bless His devotees who worshipped Him under those names and forms!

N. Kasturi

"Sanathana Sarathi", December 1959

a human being at all. Such a person becomes unfit to live in human society. Only the one who observes morality can lead a virtuous life. You should develop humility and obedience. This is the ideal set by Bali for people to follow. Your life will become worthwhile if you adhere to this ideal.

– From **Bhagavan's Onam Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 2nd September 2009.**



EVER SINCE MY FIRST MEETING with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on 2nd July 1972, I have been going to Him for spiritual sustenance two or three times a year. Contact and conversation with Him, even simply seeing Him, is an uplifting and ennobling experience. His emphasis on the importance of human values of truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence

me on 22nd June, I had, in passing, mentioned my wife's three or four daily prayer sittings at the Sai shrine in our home in Delhi and in our apartment in London. He knew that, He said, and added, "She has devotion, but her faith wavers." He then looked straight into my eyes and said; "And now doubt is beginning to assail you also!" I demurred, but the All-knowing One was right, of course. I had been

Maharajakrishna Rasgotra

A REVELATION OF SAI BABA'S REALITY

"In these last four decades, I have had several personal experiences of Sai Baba's supernatural powers; the most stunning revelation, in my direct personal experience, of Baba's Avatarhood took place on 23rd June 2009", says Sri Maharajakrishna Rasgotra, former High Commissioner of India to U.K., describing his experience of Bhagavan's Divinity in this article.

in human conduct and of one humanity bound together in love and service are of critical relevance to today's world torn by political confrontations, economic greed and religious strife. That is why millions flock to His Ashram at Puttaparthi, and are moved by what they see and spread the word in far corners of the earth that a new Avatar, in the tradition of Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Jesus, is here to usher in the dawn of a new, more humane civilisation.

In these last four decades, I have had several personal experiences of Sai Baba's supernatural powers; the most stunning revelation, in my direct personal experience, of Baba's Avatarhood took place on 23rd June 2009. In the course of an audience Baba gave

paying attention to sarcastic remarks by some 'devotees' about the Avatar in wheelchair, or even nursing some disappointment over Baba not fulfilling this or that wish or desire which, in Baba's divine wisdom, should not have been there in the first instance. Once in a while, I would ask myself whether Baba's divine powers had come under an eclipse. I love Him with all my being, adore and worship Him as an Avatar, but a tiny taint was lurking in some dark recess of my mind. Baba had decided to root it out.

I was due to leave Prasanthi the following day and Baba had graciously said, He would see me at the Mandir on the morning of 23rd June. Accordingly, on the morning of Tuesday,



23rd June, I took my usual chair in the Mandir's outer veranda from where I get a clear view of Baba's arrivals and departures and of much of the round He makes to give Darshan to the devotees assembled in Sai Kulwant Hall. From my seat, I can see Baba almost as He leaves His residence to begin the short journey to the Mandir. He usually takes about three minutes to reach the gate of the hall, the adjoining area of which is reserved for women devotees. Everything seemed normal that morning, and as usual, my gaze was fixed on the spot beyond the gate where Baba would come into view. A moment after Baba came out of His residence, and my eyes caught sight of Him, things started happening the like of which I had never experienced before. All of a sudden, I felt a surge of mild warmth in my body and a change started coming over my vision. All that was static and stable a moment earlier – the boundary wall, the gate, the solid buildings beyond and the serried rows of women devotees in their multicoloured Saris, the vast Sai Kulwant Hall itself – all became a sea of gentle waves of multi-hued light.

Instinctively, my right hand went to the pulse in my left wrist. The pulse beat was normal. I could still clearly see, for a fleeting moment or two, Baba in the wheelchair, accompanied by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust's Secretary, Sri Chakravarthi, former Vice Chancellor, Sri S.V. Giri and a couple of other companions slowly advancing towards the gate. Momentarily, the scene changed again, and it was all light everywhere – the purest of pure white light enveloped all!

It looked as if nothing else ever existed there, nothing except the heavenly radiance I now beheld. Whichever way my gaze turned, I saw only light, an all-enveloping luminescence everywhere. Boundary walls topped by iron

As I write this in calm recollection of the event, two weeks after its occurrence, a question arises in my mind: Baba had, indeed, given me a vision of His Reality, but wasn't there more to the panorama He had laid bare before me? He is that Divine Light, of course, but what about those thousands of ordinary men and women, and the solid mass of insentient matter all around which had also evaporated into light? Are they all integral part of that Being who is light? Hadn't Baba also given me a vision of the ultimate Truth, namely, the unity of all existence, animate and inanimate?

grills, solid buildings beyond the gate where I had had a clear view of Baba and His companions, and a few thousand devotees seated on two sides of Baba's route to the temple, Bhagavan Baba and His party – all had miraculously dissolved into that dazzling, transporting splendour of divine effulgence.

While beholding that marvel, I remember saying to myself: I am fully conscious, this is real but so strange. The light is so bright, but it is not harsh on my eyes, and no heat radiates from it! I also observed how remarkably calm I was as my eyes feasted on that cool, bright light which had transformed everything into itself. The supernatural spectacle did not unnerve me. And then suddenly the thought came to me: My Divine Master is giving me a vision of His Reality. No more doubt, man! I am saved; I am blessed!



In a trice, as it were, the scene began to change, the light swiftly receding from all sides to a point about 2 to 3 metres from the gate into Sai Kulwant Hall, where Baba and His party would then have reached. I could now make out Baba at the centre of a quickly shrinking glow. And, then, it was the normal everyday scene of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on His usual round to bless the assembled devotees. My eyes were filled with tears of love, joy and gratitude. How long did all this last? I cannot say. Perhaps not more than four or five minutes.

Bedazzled by the transfiguration of Baba and the surroundings into a sea of light that I had witnessed, I sat in my chair in the veranda, oblivious of my immediate surroundings. A few minutes later, someone nudged me, and I saw Baba's wheelchair advancing towards me in the veranda: quickly I rose and placed my head on His feet. As I rose and looked at Him, He beamed a beatific smile on me and raised His right hand in blessing. No words passed between us; none were necessary. The Avatar had blessed me with a revelation of His Reality.

The Gita says, the man who is of a doubting nature perishes (*Samshayatma Vinashyati*) Baba had said the previous afternoon that I was beginning to fall prey to doubt, and He had decided to reinforce my faith by giving me a vision of His Reality. The compassionate Master was not going to allow a lifetime of faith and devotion to be tainted with the smallest speck of doubt. Baba did not stay in the temple long that morning. Before leaving, however, He blessed me again and said; "All is well; you can go back to Delhi today."

As I write this in calm recollection of the event, two weeks after its occurrence, a question arises in my mind: Baba had,

Everything seemed normal that morning, and as usual, my gaze was fixed on the spot beyond the gate where Baba would come into view. A moment after Baba came out of His residence, and my eyes caught sight of Him, things started happening the like of which I had never experienced before. All of a sudden, I felt a surge of mild warmth in my body and a change started coming over my vision. All that was static and stable a moment earlier – the boundary wall, the gate, the solid buildings beyond and the serried rows of women devotees in their multicoloured Saris, the vast Sai Kulwant Hall itself – all became a sea of gentle waves of multi-hued light.

indeed, given me a vision of His Reality, but wasn't there more to the panorama He had laid bare before me? He is that Divine Light, of course, but what about those thousands of ordinary men and women, and the solid mass of insentient matter all around which had also evaporated into light? Are they all integral part of that Being who is light? Hadn't Baba also given me a vision of the ultimate Truth, namely, the unity of all existence, animate and inanimate?

In this way, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba revealed Himself to me as Supreme Light, which the Upanishads describe as Narayana, the Highest, the Supreme Reality which is also designated in the Upanishads as Brahman. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is that Supreme Light. Blessed are we who live in His time on earth.





EDUCATION SHOULD SET HIGH MORAL STANDARDS

“Bhagavan is not a teacher who follows a routine, comes to the class and teaches to the students. We have to learn things from Him by observing Him at every step, from His every word, His every action, every movement, every look. Every moment, He is a teacher, He is teaching”, said Prof. Hemalatha, former Principal, Sri Sathya Sai University, Anantapur Campus, narrating her experiences of learning from Bhagavan in her interview for Radio Sai Global Harmony.

WELCOME TO RADIO SAI Global Harmony, Prof. Hemalatha. You worked in the erstwhile Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College for Women, Anantapur almost from its inception in 1968, and for nearly 25 years, you worked as Professor of Telugu and Principal of Sri Sathya Sai University, Anantapur Campus. Please tell our listeners how you came to Bhagavan and when you heard about Him.

Unlike many other people, I did not come to Bhagavan's fold as a devotee nor was I attracted merely by His miracles. I first heard about Bhagavan in July 1968. At that time, I was staying at Rajendra Nagar, 10 km away from Hyderabad. One morning, I happened to go to my parents who stayed at Himayat Nagar. When I reached there, I found that my parents were about to go somewhere. My mother was happy on seeing me and asked me to accompany them as they were going to have Darshan of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I was absolutely unaware about Bhagavan who at that time happened to visit Hyderabad on His way back from Mumbai soon after the inauguration of Dharmakshetra. I was reluctant and refused to go, of course, to my misfortune

as I later realised. Subsequently, my mother told me that Bhagavan blessed my parents on that day with an interview.

So you missed the opportunity of interview with Bhagavan!

Those were wonderful moments. Swami used to come and stay for three or four days in the college very frequently in the early years, that is, in early 1970s. His visits were gradually reduced to two or three a year, that too from morning to evening only. He used to come in the morning and leave by evening. But it was just like being in heaven when Swami was there. Let us imagine a situation where our mother, father and God all three take one form and come to us. How would we feel? That was the feeling of everyone in the campus when Swami came.



Regretfully, yes. This was the first instance of my hearing about Bhagavan. But as I said, to my great misfortune, I did not pay much cognisance to it and forgot about it temporarily. Soon after this, in August 1968 my husband went to Gujarat on a deputation for his higher studies. My coming to Bhagavan's fold happened during that month in a mysterious way. On 12th August, my father and I happened to go to my professor who was an ardent devotee of Bhagavan Baba and whom I treated as my father. I told my professor about my husband's going to Gujarat for two years. Immediately, he said, "I think Swami is working it out in His own way." I did not understand what he was saying. I was perplexed. I asked him what he meant. He said, "All these days you had been refusing to work in any college outside Hyderabad as your husband was working here. Now that he is not here for two years, would you like to go and work for Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College at Anantapur? Their Managing Committee has asked me to send a suitable candidate to work as a Lecturer in Telugu. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the Founder President of this college. I am sure (this statement of my professor I can never forget) you would like Bhagavan and Bhagavan would like you." This is what he meant when he said, "Swami is working it out in His own way."

Next day, that is, 13th August, I went to receive the appointment letter from the then Honorary Secretary and the Correspondent of the college who was at Hyderabad. It was a unique case that after receiving the appointment order, I gave my application just to fulfil the formality. I was asked to join by 18th of August. That meant I had hardly 4-5 days. I arrived at Anantapur on 18th morning and reported myself for duty immediately. There I saw for the first time a full-length picture of

Bhagavan which kindled inquisitive feelings in me to know about Him.

When did you have Bhagavan's Darshan for the first time?

That happened in the college itself. A week or 10 days after my joining, Swami came to the college. It was really a miraculous thing that happened. His car entered the campus. At that time, the college was situated in a temporary building in the premises of Government High School, Anantapur. Swami's car stopped just in front of the classroom where I was teaching. Sitting in the car itself, Swami blessed me and moved on to the Principal's office. It was a very sacred day for me as I had the first Darshan of Swami. The same day in the evening, I had the good fortune of listening to His Divine Discourse.

At the end of His Discourse, Swami created Vibhuti and gave it to the then Principal. While I was witnessing it with great amazement and reverence, Bhagavan looked at me and said, "Oh, you have come. I am very happy." He continued, "The Management Committee selected someone else but I said no to it. I told them that I would have a candidate of My choice. You have come, I am happy." I did not understand the head or tail of this divine statement. I just kept quiet. After nearly one year, I came to know the secret of this. It was July 1969 when I was holding the additional charge of the Principal. The selection for some vacancies was being held. One of the applicants for the post of Assistant Lecturer in Telugu happened to be my classmate in Osmania University. After the interviews were over, she told me that she appeared for an interview for the post in 1968 also and waited for the result for a long time.

She did not get the reply?

Swami's miracle worked out as she did not hear from the college. Thinking that she was



not selected, she joined some other college at Vijayawada and signed a bond for one year. Just a few minutes after she had signed the bond, she received the appointment order from the management of Bhagavan's college. The postal department obeyed the command of unseen hand of Swami. It took more than 20 days for the letter to reach from Anantapur to Vijayawada, the two cities in the same State!

This was all Swami's work.

This is how Swami says yes or no as per His Will. Swami made me understand the mysterious way He works. He also made me realise how insignificant we were before the Divine. This is how I came to His fold in a very mysterious manner.

How did you develop faith in Bhagavan's Divinity?

A few incidents occurred in my personal life which strengthened my faith in Him as God. When my husband and children were caught in a cyclone and a train accident in March 1969, they were saved miraculously by Swami. When I started narrating these incidents to Swami during April, He Himself told me how all that happened. It gave the proof that He is the one who saved them. I will also tell you one thing. I never touched His Feet till July 1969. That was the first time when I had firm conviction that He is God. I prayed to Him, "Swami, can I do Namaskar?" Swami said, "Do, Bangaru (nugget of gold), if not for you, for whom else?" Many incidents took place later which strengthened my faith that He is God.

Madam, you joined the college in 1968. Therefore, who can be better than you to tell us a brief history of the college? Please share with us what you think was Bhagavan's vision when He started these educational Institutions.



Swami says, specially about education for women and how they should conduct themselves, "Woman is the foundation of society and her heart is the source of all virtues. I have established this college with the intention of keeping high moral standards and bringing respect and honour to womanhood so that our great tradition is revived." This is how He started this college. Being the instruments in His Divine Mission is itself a great fortune and, at the same time, a great responsibility.



Did Swami talk about His vision to you at any time?

Swami gives a lot of importance to education as all of us know. What is the type of education He wants? First we should know about it. You may have heard his Telugu poem, "Viswa Santhi Chekurchu Vidhamu Nerpi ..." which means, education should teach the way by which global peace can be attained. This is the most essential aspect of education. This is Swami's vision. This is the greatest problem of the entire world today, lack of peace. He says: "True education should eradicate the narrow feelings from our minds, and inculcate unity and co-operation." It is not for adding one more institution to the existing ones, but to train and mould the youth in the right path that Bhagavan has established these institutions.

Swami wrote a few letters to me. In these letters, He explains what type of education He



wants. I think, it would be of great value to the audience. Shall I read them out?

Yes, Madam, they will value it a lot.

I am reading a few letters in Telugu. Here are some excerpts from them:

Chitthamunu Metthaparachani

Hridayamunu Suddhiparachani

Manasunu Madhura-muga Cheyani

Panulalo Sahanamu Choopani

Chaduvulu Pottakooti Chaduvulu.

Bhikshagaandlaku Potta Nindutaleda?

Pottakai Inta Chaduvulu Chaduvanela?

(Education which does not touch the soft corners of our minds, and which does not purify our hearts cannot be called education. Education should make people courteous and tolerant. Otherwise, it is only gathering information to get some degrees and earn a living. Even beggars can earn to fill their belly. Just for that, we need not study so much.)

He expects the teachers to be very disciplined, exemplary in their behaviour. Swami wants all-round development of the students, not only getting degrees.

You are really very fortunate to have received these letters and Swami has shared His vision with you.

It is my great good fortune. Swami says, specially about education for women and how they should conduct themselves, "Woman is the foundation of society and her heart is the source of all virtues. I have established this college with the intention of keeping high moral standards and bringing respect and honour to womanhood so that our great tradition is revived." This is how He started this college. Being the instruments in His Divine Mission is itself a great fortune and, at the same time, a great responsibility.

You were the Principal of the college for 25 years. In fact, you were the longest serving Principal of Swami's college. So, you must have been blessed with rich experiences during that quarter century. I am sure our listeners would be delighted to hear about some of the lessons you learnt from Bhagavan during your long tenure.

Yes, the lessons I learnt from Bhagavan are umpteen in number. At every step, I have been learning some lesson or the other from Him. Throughout my entire career of 31 years in His institution, first as a teacher and then as an administrator, Bhagavan guided me through and through. In the earlier days, He gave me a direct helping hand in my endeavours, like a mother makes the child walk. Later, He was constantly watching and protecting and prompting at all times of need.

Once, here in 1969, I had to face some critical comments from some staff members. Unable to take those baseless allegations at that inexperienced young age, I poured out my heart to Swami. The consoling words that Swami spoke to me at that time gave me the strength to face any situation in the later period. He said, "If you feel that someone's comments are truly applicable to you, think about them and consider them. If you feel those words are not true, you ignore." A great lesson, till today I remember these golden words! Such words of wisdom from the Divine helped me immensely in discharging my duties sincerely, without any bias or hatred. That is very important. Though I used to get emotionally upset sometimes, it was a temporary thing.

He taught me to be balanced, which is an essential quality for an administrator and a teacher. When things were very hurting, beyond limit, like a child, I used to inform Swami for my own consolation. The letters that Swami used



to write to me in such situations giving divine assurance laid a very strong foundation in me for carrying out my duties boldly.

Could you share any one of your letters where He has given you such advice?

Sure, I will be happy to do so. On one occasion, I felt hurt by undesirable comments from some people. Remembering Swami's message, I was patient and did not react. I received a wonderful letter from Swami which I have kept as a guidepost throughout. I give some excerpts from it:

Induku Vichaarapada Avasaram Ledu. Ee Samayamuna Neevu Swami Aajnanu Anusarinchi Sahanamu Vahinchuta Saikenthanu Santhasamu. Aadhaaramulu leni Oohalaku Anumaatramainanu Neevu Vichaarinchaku. Saiki Sarvamu Vidithamu.

(There is no need for you to worry about what happened. I am happy to note that you followed the instructions of Swami and conducted yourself with patience and tolerance on this occasion. Do not bother at all about others' baseless opinions. Swami knows everything.)

These letters gave me a lot of strength. When I went wrong, Swami used to correct me too. Once a V.I.P. recommended an unworthy case for admission. As per Swami's command, I was always going according to rules laid down and therefore refused to oblige him. Then he went on pressurising. I too had to be a little curt. This matter was reported to Swami by that V.I.P. Swami called me and told me to stick to my decision but at the same time, advised me to speak obligingly, even if I could not oblige. This taught me to be more patient and speak softly even in critical and crucial situations.

And there are a few more lessons I learnt from Him. In July 1971, the new building of



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the college was inaugurated. After a massive work of construction, large quantities of stocks were remaining. Swami personally saw to it that most of the material was shifted to two big rooms in the building and got them locked. Then He sent for me. He handed over the keys of those rooms along with the key of His room to me, saying that I would be in-charge of the stores.

As I said earlier, I was not having much experience at that time. I said, "Swami, there is no stock register." Swami looked at me and said smilingly, "Oh, stock register? *Andari stock registers Anninti stock registers, Naa Daggare Unnayile.*" (the stock register of everything and everyone is with Me.)

And then hardly one month after that, Swami came to the college. He was standing in the auditorium and asked me to bring two paintings, one of Ramayana and another of Mahabharata lying in the store room. When I went, I could not locate any picture there. I came back and told Swami that they were not there. Swami was in the auditorium, personally



looking into the arrangements which picture was to go where. In those days, He was taking personal interest at every step. At Swami's instruction, I again searched. But it was of no use. Then Swami Himself came up and showed two huge boards which were turned towards the wall. I thought, those boards were some construction material! I was really sad for my lapse. I learnt a lesson that once we are in-charge of a thing, we should be aware of it fully and we should not be negligent even to the slightest extent.

Another small incident, I recall. Swami left the duplicate keys with me, saying that I could open His room once a week so that it could be cleaned. I along with a few other teachers used to carry out that work regularly. One week, due to some other pressure of work, we happened to ignore it, thinking that we could do it the following week. That was Sunday afternoon at about 2 p.m. Suddenly, Swami's car came to my house. I was staying in the town. The driver said, "Swami is waiting in the college. He has sent the car to bring you." It was like a shock. I immediately went. Swami was sitting in an ordinary chair in the college office. We can't even think of such things nowadays. He said, "I forgot to bring the keys of My room." I opened His room and requested Swami to give me two minutes' time. Swami came in. He smiled and said, "Why the room is not cleaned, is it?" I apologised profusely. What else could I do? It was a message that one should be meticulous and punctual and always prepared, ever ready for God.

During the time when you were at Anantapur, Swami must have visited the campus on many occasions. Could you recall for us what the day was like in the college when Bhagavan used to pay one of those rare and precious visits to Anantapur?

Those were wonderful moments. Swami used to come and stay for three or four days in the college very frequently in the early years, that is, in early 1970s. His visits were gradually reduced to two or three a year, that too from morning to evening only. He used to come in the morning and leave by evening. But it was just like being in heaven when Swami was there. Let us imagine a situation where our mother, father and God all three take one form and come to us. How would we feel? That was the feeling of everyone in the campus when Swami came. He was the goal of all – students, teachers, office staff, peons, watchmen, sweeper, everyone.

That was only to be experienced. It cannot be expressed in words. Once I happened to ask Swami, "Swami, what is heaven like?" The reply Swami gave was: "The present state in which you are is heaven." What a wonderful explanation! That was the feeling of all.

Finally, Madam, in a few words, what does Bhagavan mean to you? Who is Bhagavan, according to you?

We should go on thinking of Him, meditating upon Him. Bhagavan is not a teacher who follows a routine, comes to the class and teaches to the students. We have to learn things from Him by observing Him at every step, from His every word, His every action, every movement, every look. Every moment, He is a teacher, He is teaching. I look to Swami like this.

Thank you very much for taking time off your busy schedule and coming here; it was wonderful talking to you. Thank you very much.
Sai Ram.

It is my pleasure, Sai Ram.

Courtesy: Radio Sai Global Harmony





NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

ITALY

ABRUZZO IS A REGION IN ITALY, the western border of which is less than 80 km east of Rome. On the night of 5th April 2009, the Abruzzo region was affected by several violent shocks of earthquake, the strongest of which was of magnitude 6.3 on the Richter scale. The earthquake epicentre was in the area of L'Aquila, the regional capital, and its surrounding towns and villages, where nearly all houses and buildings were destroyed, resulting in the death of more than 300 people and injuries to about 1,600. About 65,000 people were rendered homeless, and were temporarily housed in tents and other



Members of Sri Sathya Sai Centre in Pescara arranged the distribution of relief materials to the victims of earthquake which caused great damage in Abruzzo region on the night of 5th April 2009.

shelters. Members of Sri Sathya Sai Centre in Pescara, located about 100 km from L'Aquila, immediately arranged for distribution of relief materials, starting with basic necessities. Sathya Sai volunteers travelled to remote

areas that were not covered by other major rescue efforts or the mass media. Relief packages were marked with Sarva Dharma labels. The Chairman of Sri Sathya Sai Italian Council requested all centres and groups to use their "ceiling on desires" savings to help the earthquake victims. This allowed the purchase and distribution of sheets and pillowcases, blankets, washing machines, ventilators, camp beds, trousers, T-shirts, mosquito nets, metal shelves, hygiene supplies, hair dryers, vacuum cleaners, food for animals and other items. Various Sathya Sai Centres helped in the transport of materials. Sathya Sai Youth also took an active part in this service project.

GERMANY

More than 700 devotees and guests participated in the Festival of Religions held in Cologne from 29th May to 1st June 2009. Under the title "God Has Many Names", the German Sathya Sai Organisation invited the Sai devotees of Germany and its neighbouring countries to celebrate a festival of all religions, presenting Bhagavan's teachings on the unity of religions to the public. The sacred teachings of Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam were depicted in written and audio-visual format in special rooms of worship. Each of these rooms was set up to offer worship in the tradition of each religion. To convey the spirit of unity of world religions, topics such as prayer, meditation, mysticism, sacred architecture, death and afterlife were presented in a large exhibition, the texts of which will be sent to Sathya Sai Centres or to public institutions upon request. Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Director of Sri





A festival of all religions was celebrated in Cologne from 29th May to 1st June 2009, in which more than 700 devotees and guests took part.

Sathya Sai World Foundation, spoke on the theme, "Love – the Foundation and Essence of All Religions." The second speaker, Phyllis Krystal, addressed the audience with her thoughts on "God Has Many Names." Both the speakers narrated their many experiences with Bhagavan and inspired the audience. Also, Radio Sai Germany interviewed the speakers, who spoke about the astounding humanitarian service projects of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The programme included a guided tour of the world-famous Gothic Cathedral of Cologne. Children and Sathya Sai Youth took part in programmes conducted for them separately. During evenings, two different multimedia shows with devotional songs in many languages from various faiths were presented, and a group from a German Sufi order gave an inspiring concert. This festival was open to the public as well as to devotees. The public had an opportunity to get a glimpse of Bhagavan's teachings. The four-day festival came to an end with a medley of songs from the featured six religions in which the audience participated with enthusiasm.

U. S. A.

The First National Youth Conference of the U.S.A. was held at Camp Duncan in Chicago, Illinois from 29th to 31st May 2009. Unifying love of Bhagavan brought over 400 youth from across the United States. The theme of the conference was "We are One for Sai." The four main speakers at the conference were Sri Shitu Chudasama, Dr. M.V. Veerabhadra Rao, Sri Anil Kumar and Smt. Malini Gadepally. Sri Chudasama spoke on the role of youth in Sathya Sai Organisation, based on Bhagavan's messages. Dr. Veerabhadra Rao centred his speech on synchronisation of thought, word and deed and its importance to the leadership process. Sri Anil Kumar stressed the importance of both inspiration and self-confidence in developing true leadership. He urged the youth to inspire others to do Bhagavan's work through love and harmony. Smt. Gadepally stated that it was the responsibility of Sathya Sai Youth to integrate values with day-to-day activities of life, conduct self-analysis and act with self-confidence.

The conference included a series of workshops on practical applications of spirituality. These workshops were grouped



The First National Youth Conference of the U.S.A. was held at Camp Duncan in Chicago, Illinois from 29th to 31st May 2009.



under three categories: “The Sai Life: Swami’s Teachings Applied,” “Sai Leadership: Leading with Love,” and “United for Sai: Developing Strong Young Adult Programmes.” Within these were a total of 18 different topics, ranging from “Making Smart Choices with Our Human Vessel” to “Man Management” to “Mentoring.” Sathya Sai Youth projects and activities from across the country were shared in a “Service Symposium.” Twenty-five projects were presented at the symposium including “Free Medical Clinics”, “Community Literacy Projects” and “Go Green – Live Well.” Sathya Sai Youth shared with each other their successes as well as some of the challenges they faced. A cultural programme conveying Bhagavan’s message included a story of transformation interspersed with well-coordinated dances, songs and music depicting the Hispanic, American and Indian cultures. A “Moving Forward” session was held on the last day of the conference, during which young adults could assimilate all the insights, lessons and experiences they had gathered over the course of the conference and commit to practising them in their daily life. Fourteen teams such as “National Young Adult Strategy,” “Personal Transformation” and “Medical Service” were created to guide the future direction of youth activities. Delegates left the conference, feeling energised, united and full of love.

CANADA

The Fifth Annual Walk for Values took place in Edmonton on 6th June 2009, with participation by members of the public and the local Sai Centre. The theme of the walk was “A Walk for Me, My Family, My Community and My Planet.” About 250 people participated in the walk which began with an address by

Sri Naresh Bharadwaj, MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta) and Sri Peter Johnston, Leader of the Green Party of Alberta. The Sai Centre President read a proclamation by the Mayor declaring 6th June 2009 as Human Values Day. Printed flags naming the human values were distributed to passers-by.

Sri Sathya Sai Centre of Cornwall, Ontario has been conducting SSEHV classes in Eamer’s Corner Public School of Cornwall since September 2007. The school has a total of 396 students with ages ranging from



The students of Eamer’s Corner Public School of Cornwall organised their Second Walk for Values on 19th June 2009. Sri Sathya Sai Centre of Cornwall conducts SSEHV classes in this school.

6 to 14. On 19th June 2009, the children of this school organised their Second Walk for Values. Students carried banners proclaiming human values, and many wore pledges on their arms, necks or heads expressing their commitment to practising a certain value. In a letter, the Principal of the school commented, “In many cases, the children we work with do not receive these important life lessons in their home environment and we are so pleased to be able to support their social and emotional needs.”

KENYA

As soon as an alert came from the Kenyan Government that approximately 10 million people may face starvation, Sri Sathya Centres in Kenya started a Famine Relief Project. On 14th June 2009, 21 Sathya Sai volunteers from Nairobi Sathya Sai Centre drove about 300 km to Itoleka and Kavuta villages in the Kitui district with over 5 tonnes of food supplies. Packages containing 10 kg of maize meal, 8 kg of red beans, 2 kg of cooking oil and 1 kg of sugar were distributed to each of the 333 households. The villagers expressed their gratitude to Bhagavan through a local song and dance. Sathya Sai volunteers were overwhelmed by the grace of Bhagavan that they could share their love with the villagers.

BRAZIL

Americana, a city located in the south-eastern area of Brazil in the State of São Paulo has witnessed the dissemination of Bhagavan's teachings through the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) programme. The current Secretary of Education of Americana, Dr. Milton Ortolan, a devotee of Bhagavan, had the opportunity to visit Prasanthi Nilayam, and was deeply touched by the Sathya Sai educational and medical institutions. This inspired him to include human values in all the schools. The founders of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Education of Brazil (SSSIEB), Dr. Marcos Cardoso Gomes and Maria Helena Gomes, were invited earlier this year to propose an education project for the city. This led to the development of an SSEHV programme for all the 52 schools in the city. The project has gained the Mayor's support. SSEHV courses were offered to teachers who were interested in the programme. The SSEHV project team

visited all schools and spoke about the programme and its impact on the education system, schools, teachers and children. Classes on the fundamentals of the SSEHV programme were offered on four different days of the week, with a total attendance of 320 participants, who were teachers, school principals, educational administrators and other employees. SSSIEB teachers from other cities were invited to participate in a three-month course. In addition, study circles are now being organised once a week, and have incorporated devotional singing. Special projects are being developed to rebuild the relationship between parents and schools in such a way that families would benefit from the SSEHV programme and share education responsibilities with schools. A separate programme provides support for families with working mothers and young children; it aims to eradicate illiteracy among adults.

DAGESTAN

The Republic of Dagestan is situated in the North Caucasus Mountains. Makhachkala, the capital of the Republic of Dagestan, is located on the western shore of the Caspian Sea. On 11th and 12th July 2009, the First United Family Volunteer Camp of the Caucasus region of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Russia and Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Azerbaijan took place in Makhachkala. Seventy-eight participants including 30 children took part in the camp. The camp included forest cleaning as well as Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV). The theme of the camp was "How Wonderful this World is!" On the first day of the camp named as "The Forest's Day", children and adults cleaned an area of the forest that was badly littered. Children were taught rules of conduct to preserve Nature and



forests. Various activities including quizzes, games, songs and poems about Nature and a conference of young ecologists took place. There was a concert in the evening. The first day ended with a play organised by the youth which highlighted love for Nature, protecting the environment, keeping the forests clean and caring for the inhabitants of forests. On a ten-metre long cloth, participants sketched whatever they loved about Nature. This drawing was sent to children in a boarding house in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan. SSEHV lessons were conducted using the five methods of teaching, namely, silent sitting, discussing quotations, story telling, singing and teamwork. The value “non-violence” was discussed in connection with the theme of the day. The second day was named “The Sea Day” with the motto: “We All are the Passengers of One Ship Called the Earth.” When the camp was brought to a close, the participants went out to the sea to take part in quizzes and other competitions related to the sea and its inhabitants.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Gathering about 400 Sai Youth and Seva Dal volunteers from all parts of

the district, Sai Organisation of Guntur district cleaned a drinking water lake spread over five acres in Pathamallayapalle village on 9th August 2009. The district distributed stationery items to 156 students in Gudavalli village and enrolled 150 new subscribers for “Sanathana Sarathi” magazine.

Assam: A two-day Summer Course on Indian Culture and Spirituality was held on 3rd and 4th July 2009. Organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Kamrup district, it generated tremendous enthusiasm among the 75 students drawn from within and around Guwahati. The State President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Assam and North-eastern States, Sri Achyut Prasad Sarma delivered the inaugural address followed by a lucid explanation of the objectives of the Summer Course by Smt. Eleye Changkakoti, State Coordinator (Seva). Other speakers who addressed the participants were Sri Monoranjan Mohanty, a special invitee, Sri Porag Bhattacharya, an ex-student of Sri Sathya Sai University, Dr. Manjira Sharma, an ex-Bal Vikas student, Smt. Shivani Goswami, a Sanskrit teacher and Smt. Monika Goswami, a Yoga expert. The students expressed their heartfelt gratitude for exposing them to such an elevating experience and a programme



The lake in Pathamallayapalle village before and after it was cleaned by about 400 Sai Youth and Seva Dal volunteers on 9th August 2009.

aimed at the mental, physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being.

Kerala: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala has started providing the facility of free dialysis to deserving patients in Sudheendra Medical Mission Hospital, Ernakulam. The project was inaugurated on 16th September



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala is providing the facility of free dialysis to five deserving patients every week.

2009, and the first dialysis was conducted on 28th September 2009. Sai Organisation is arranging free dialysis for five patients in a week. The first five patients selected were below the age of 30.

Acharya Devo Bhava (revere your preceptor as God) was organised in all the 14 districts in September 2009 to offer gratitude to teachers. Nearly 200 teachers participated in one district alone. Many teachers were overwhelmed and many shed tears of joy when Bal Vikas children performed their Pada Puja (worship of feet).

Essay Competition, an annual feature of the Sai Organisation, was conducted on 3rd August 2009 in all the 14 districts of the State, in which 8,639 students from 607 educational institutions took part. The topic was 'Nature is the Best Preacher'. Two Sri Sathya Sai gold medals were blessed by Bhagavan for

awarding to those who secured first two ranks. This is the sixth year that the Sai Organisation is conducting this competition.

Manipur: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Manipur organised Bal Vikas Day on 13th September 2009 in MDU Hall, Yaikul, Imphal, in which about 500 Bal Vikas children took part. The programme included a grand rally of Bal Vikas children, recitation of Vedic Mantras and presentation of cultural items by the children. The chief guest of the function was Prof. C. Amuba Singh, Vice Chancellor, Manipur University who stressed the need of spiritual education for children in his speech. The last item of the programme was Bhajans, which were also led by Bal Vikas children. The programme which began at 9.00 a.m. came to a close at 4.15 p.m.

Orissa: A conference of doctors of Orissa was organised at Rourkela on 14th June 2009 with active initiative of former students of Sri Sathya Sai University. Apart from doctors who are already members of Sri Sathya Sai Holistic



A conference of doctors of Orissa was held at Rourkela on 14th June 2009. The theme of the conference was "Humanising Medicare."

Healthcare, experts from prominent hospitals participated in this conference. The theme of the conference was "Humanising Medicare." The presentation "Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His Mission of Love" by Sri Y.



Arvind, Public Relations Officer of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Bengaluru inspired one and all. Sri Nimish Pandya, District President, Mumbai spoke on “Medicare – an Opportunity for Paradigm Shift.” A panel of selected doctors from various streams across the State discussed various aspects of health problems of the State, particularly in rural areas. Inaugurating the conference, State President of Sai Organisation of Orissa, Prof. Harikrishna Dash dwelt on the holistic health activities being conducted in the State. The doctors attending the conference were inspired to render loving service at their places of work.

Tamil Nadu: It was an evening charged with love and prayers when the Sai family of Mettupalam in Coimbatore welcomed their 65 Muslim brethren for Iftar programme on 9th September 2009 on the occasion of Ramzan. Sweet fragrance of Sai’s Divine ambience engulfed the Sai Kalyana Mandapam where this programme was organised. Welcoming the Muslim brothers, one Sai brother extolled the

... *Continued from page 331*

is one, goal is one, truth is one, love is one. There may be different names but the divine principle of Atma is one only. You may call it Atma or Om, but divinity is one. People call God by various names such as Rama, Krishna, Govinda, Narayana, etc., but God is one. Therefore, contemplate on any name of God. The Upanishads declare, *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). Mother is most important. The nectarine feeling in this country is the feeling of love towards one’s mother. Therefore, love your mother, respect her and offer your salutations to her. Even if the mother and the son go to a court in a property dispute,

significance of holy month of Ramadan, and how the all-day fasting helped to understand others’ suffering. This was the best way to purify oneself, it was highlighted. Conveying their deep sense of appreciation and gratitude to the Sathya Sai Organisation, Mettupalam for having organised the Iftar ceremony for the second year in succession and in much more grandeur, Dr. Ismail reverentially prayed for Sai’s mercy and blessings for all mankind. He recalled with devotion how his own patient, a very poor local girl of 4 years, was cured and saved of serious heart ailment without any expenditure at Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital by the Divine grace of Bhagavan. “She is now a healthy student of 17 years,” he added. He also exhorted his Muslim brothers to be of service, emulating the example of Sri Sathya Sai Baba who has been undertaking various service projects like Sri Sathya Sai Water Project. The ceremony ended with traditional prayers. It was really a blissful evening to remember and cherish.

the mother will say, “he is my son” and the son will say, “she is my mother,” when questioned by the lawyer. Therefore, the relationship that one has with one’s father and mother is eternal. Whether she is alive or not, mother is mother forever! There is no higher feeling than the feeling of love towards one’s mother. Many devotees address Me as “Mother Sai” while writing letters to Me. As the devotees consider Me as their mother, I also treat them as My children and shower My motherly love on them.

– From Bhagavan’s Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 27th September 2009.



Consecrate your Vision

THERE LIVED A RICH MAN IN A village. Once he was afflicted with a serious illness. Many doctors examined him and administered several types of medicines to him, but he got no relief.

One day, a noble man came to that village. The friends of the rich man took him to their friend's house. After examining the rich man, the noble man said to him, "Sir, the illness lies in your eyes. They do not remain steady on



The noble man advised the rich man to look at only one colour for a certain period of time to make his vision steady.

anything. If you look at only one colour for a certain period of time, then your vision can become steady." After giving him this advice, the noble man went his way.

The rich man called all the villagers and told them to paint all their houses and walls, and trees and temples with green colour and wear only green clothes. The colour merchants and painters did a roaring business. Even the traders from the surrounding towns came to this village to sell these products. Within a short time, the entire village was turned green.



The rich man ordered the villagers to paint everything with green colour.

After a few months, the noble man came to this village again. Wherever he went, he saw only green colour. He asked the villagers what that queerness was. They told him that all this was done by the orders of their master. Regretting the ignorance of the rich man, the noble man went to his house. The rich man offered his salutations to the noble man and said, "Swami! I have done as commanded by you. I have doused the entire village in green colour." Distressed at the action of the rich man, the noble man said to him, "My dear! You have subjected many people to a lot of strain and have spent an enormous amount of money on purchasing so much colour. Isn't it all a waste of money and labour? You could have as well bought a pair of green colour spectacles for a few rupees and put it on your eyes."

The defect lies in our vision. We will see unity and equality in the entire creation if we consecrate our vision with the divine principle of Brahman.

SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Ph.: 08555-289289, E-mail: ssshss@gmail.com, Website: ssshss.org.in

Admission to **Class I (Boys and Girls)** and **Class XI (Boys and Girls)** of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Anantapur Dist., (A.P.) will take place in **June 2010**. It is an English medium, wholly residential school.

Prospectus and Admission Forms can be had from the Principal from **01-01-2010** by paying **Rs 50/-** either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on **State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch** (code no: 2786) in favour of the Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, with a self-addressed cover (size 15 cm x 24 cm) with Rs. 20/- stamps affixed.

Last date for issuing the forms is **15th February 2010** and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before **1st March 2010**.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st standard in between **5 ½ years** and **6 ½ years** as on **30-09-2010**.

– Principal



Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences

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E-mail: registrarblr@sssihms.org.in

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– Director

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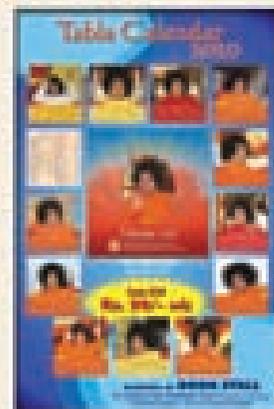
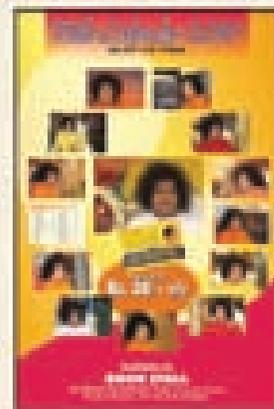
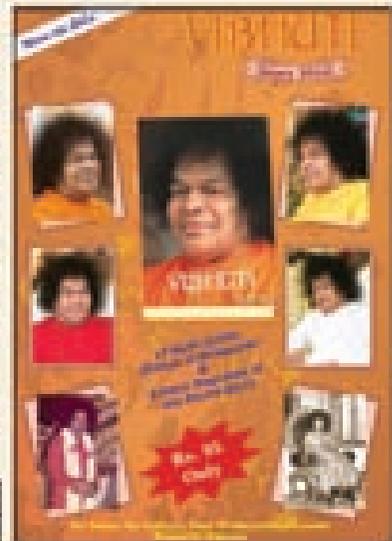
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Utilise the chance of association with Me as much as possible, and endeavour as quickly and as best as you can, to follow the directions that I have been giving. Obeying My instructions is enough; it will benefit you more than the most rigorous asceticism. Practise Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace) and Prema (love), which are dear to Me; resolve to keep those ideals before you ever, in all your thoughts, words and deeds. That can confer on you the *summum bonum* of mержence in the Supreme Substance of Divinity.

– *Baba*

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