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Sanathana Sarathi



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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



"Where does God not exist? Wherever
you see, He is there. You yourself are
God. God is present in your heart and
not outside. He is with you, in you,
around you, above you and below you.
If you look for Him outside, how can
you attain Him? Turn your vision
inward. Strengthen your faith. One
who thinks that God is here and not there
is not a Jnani (one of wisdom). Here,
there and wherever you see, there is only
one principle of the Atma."

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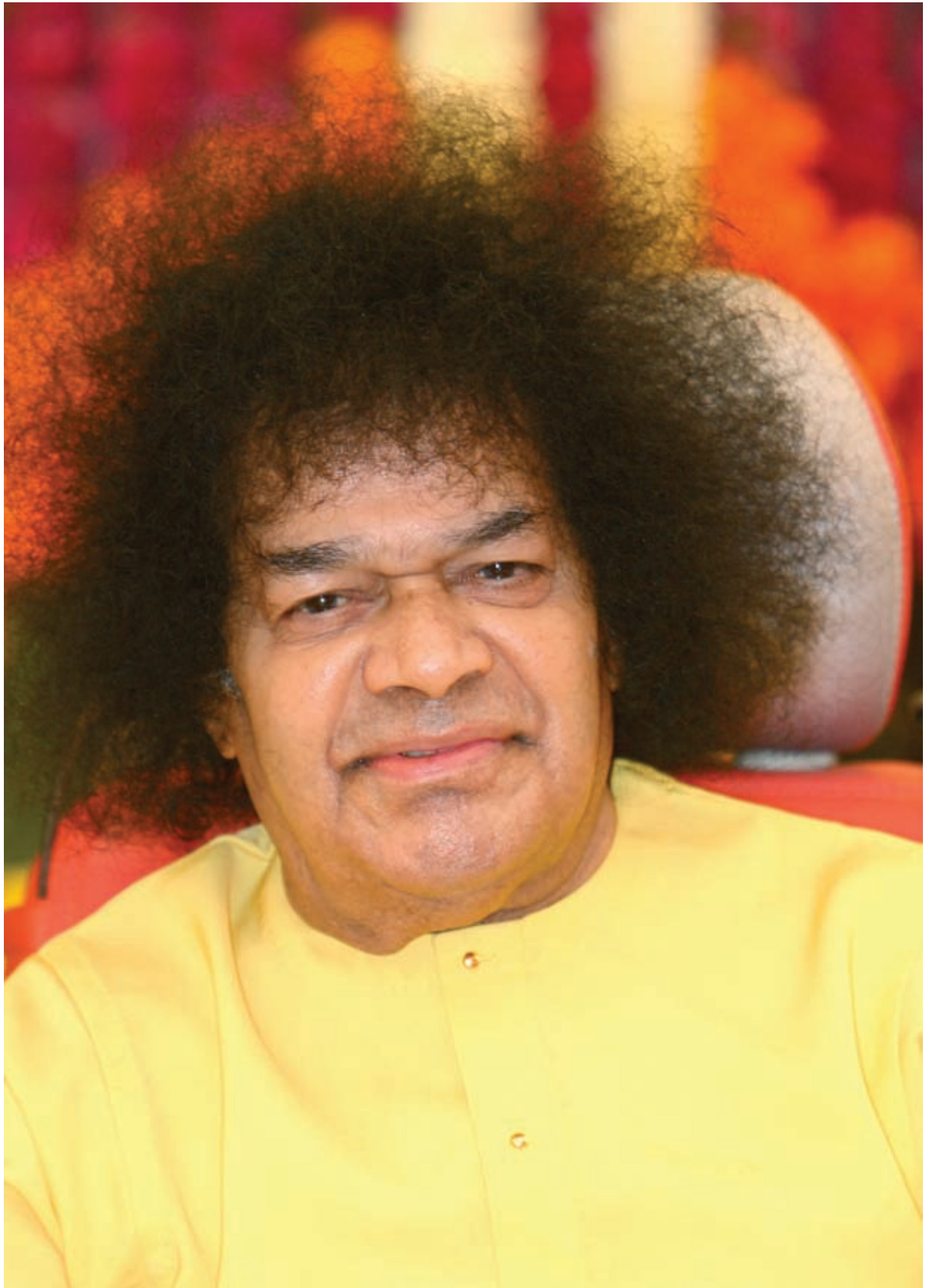
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Chinna Katha



Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 11th - 17th October Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna**
- 13th November 6 p.m.**
to 14th November 6 p.m. .. Global Akhanda Bhajan
- 19th November Ladies Day**
- 22nd November 29th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai
Institute of Higher Learning**
- 23rd November 85th Birthday of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



BE GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR ALL HIS BOUNTY

Students today acquire various types of education. Along with their education, their desires are also on the rise. They have become heroes in speech but zeros in action. What is the use of all their intelligence unless they practise at least a fraction of what they study?

(Telugu Poem)

MAN SHOULD LEAD A LIFE OF CONTENTMENT

Students!

MODERN EDUCATION AIMS AT providing only worldly comforts and conveniences; it does not aim at promoting social welfare, establishing righteousness and advancing world peace.

Utilise your Education for the Welfare of Society

The educated people today strive hard to secure jobs with high salaries. Considering securing of jobs as the very aim of their life, they use their education for personal benefits and not for the progress and welfare of the country. They go to their offices or colleges in the morning and return in the evening. Soon after their return from office or college, they change their dress, go to clubs and spend their evening in recreation in the hope of deriving peace and happiness there. Can peace be found in a club? Can a club provide rest and relaxation? No, not at all. Club is, in fact, the weakness of the so-called educated people. They are deluded to think that they can find peace and relaxation in a club. Even lying down on a bed in their home after the day's hard work

can give them more rest and relaxation than what they find in a club. What do they do in a club for peace and relaxation? They indulge in drinking and playing cards. When they lose their senses by consuming intoxicating drinks,

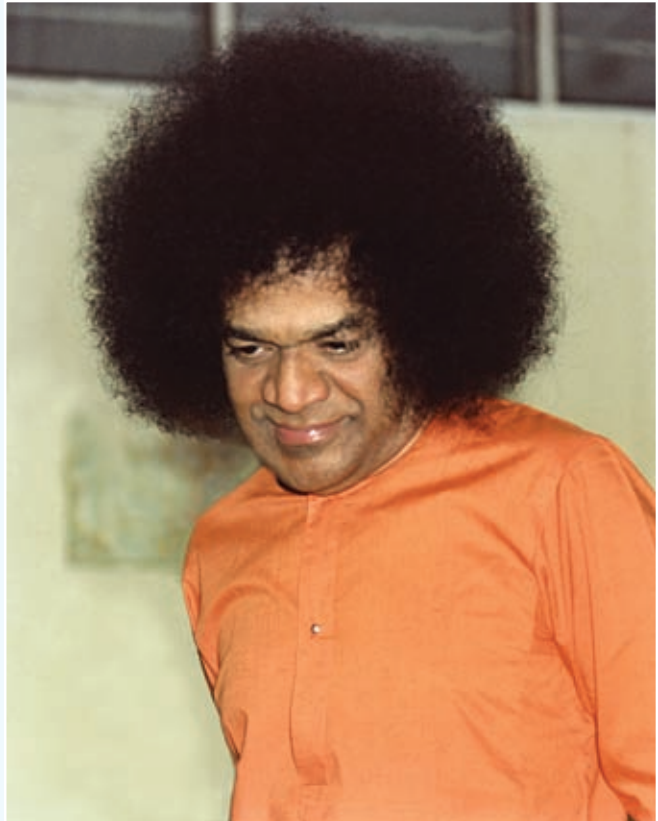
There should be a driver to run the train. There should be someone to control the automatic traffic signals. Likewise, there should be someone to create this world. There should be someone to show you that God is everywhere. God incarnates for this very purpose. God comes down not only to tell this truth but also to shower His love on man. However, the amount of love you receive depends on the size of your container, i.e., the heart. Therefore, make your container big by Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation) of the Divine. You can collect as much ambrosia as you enlarge the size of your container.



they are deluded to think that they have attained peace and relaxation. Is this a noble or ignoble path? Is it a path fit for educated persons? Those who follow it show, in fact, total lack of education. This habit of drinking is not only harmful to the individual who indulges in it, but it ruins his family and is dangerous to society at large. Instead of falling prey to such evil practices, one should utilise one's education for the benefit of family and society. Where does drinking lead to? First, man drinks the wine; next, the wine drinks the man and ultimately, the wine drinks the man. Unable to understand this truth, the so-called educated people take to such evil ways and are deluded to think, they are great intellectuals. They think that they are doing their friends a favour by giving them company in drinking and playing cards. They even thank those who join them in their game of cards. Before drinking, they touch each others' glasses and say, "cheers". What is this dirty habit! This only shows their lack of education. This is not the sign of an educated person.

Pay Tax to God

When you receive help from someone or when someone enquires about your well-being by asking, "hello, how are you"? you offer your thanks to him. Even when somebody picks up your handkerchief from the ground, you say thanks to him. You pay water tax to the municipality which supplies water to your house. You pay electricity charge to the department of electricity which supplies electricity. You pay house tax to the municipal corporation for their permission to build a house on a piece of land bought by you. But,



Wherever you see, God alone exists. There is no second entity. Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma (God is one without a second). There is nothing like my God and your God. It is a sign of ignorance to observe such differences. Rama, Krishna and Siva are not different from each other. Names and forms are different but the principle of divinity is one and the same. With firm faith in this principle of oneness, wherever you pray to God wholeheartedly, He will manifest before you. Sai has incarnated to make you realise this principle of truth and love.

do you pay any tax to God for all the bounty He has given you or at least thank Him? You pay electricity charge when you use a fan. But, what tax do you pay to God who has given air?



What tax do you pay to the sun which shines resplendently and gives light to the entire world? Similarly, what tax do you pay to God who sends copious rains, filling tanks, streams, canals and rivers on earth? Can any number of pump-sets supply the amount of water which God gives? You pay tax to the government for your ordinary needs. But everything that God has given is free. Air is free, water is free, light is free. He provides everything free. The entire earth is the gift of God. Even for a small piece of land measuring 30x40 sq. m., you have to pay a certain amount of property tax.

You enjoy all the gifts of God but, what tax do you pay Him? Is there anyone, even a highly educated person, who ever thinks about it? For trivial, transient and mundane things, you pay a number of taxes and offer your gratitude. But, do you offer your gratitude to God who has given the five elements which are the very form of God and are essential for life? You do not pay tax for what He has already given. On the contrary, you criticise God for not giving you this or that. Is it not sheer greed on your part to expect more from Him? Greed gives rise to many evil qualities. Greed, ego and wickedness are not the natural qualities of man. The main qualities of man are peace, forbearance, empathy and contentment. Truly speaking, man should lead a life of contentment. He should always be grateful to God. Once a devotee went to Lord Narayana and expressed gratitude to Him, "Oh Lord! You have created the Meru mountain, the mountain of gold, to enrich man. Not only this. You have created vast forests which absorb carbon dioxide and give out life-giving oxygen to man. You have created mountains which stop rain-bearing clouds and cause rainfall".

The Lord of Kailasa has manifested his Divine form with the crescent moon adorning his head, the cool water of the

Ganga flowing between the matted locks, with his radiant eye in the middle of the forehead and the purple neck gleaming like the sheen of a blackberry. He wears serpent bracelets and a snake belt, his entire body is smeared with Vibhuti, his forehead is adorned with a Kumkum dot, his ruddy lips glow with the juice of the betel, diamond-studded gold earrings dangle from his ears and his whole body glows with divine effulgence. (Telugu Poem)

The effulgent form of the Lord imparts beauty to the entire world. Where has Lord Siva kept the crescent moon? He has kept it on his head in such a way that it makes the entire world resplendent with its light and gives coolness to one and all. The Ganga that flows from his matted locks divides itself into many streams and brings happiness, progress and prosperity to the entire land. Ignoring such great bounty of the Lord, man craves for mundane and trivial pleasures and comforts. God has given the gift of heart to man. What type of heart? The heart given by God to man is full of love, kindness, coolness and compassion. But man is polluting and vitiating it. It is a disgrace to humanness itself to make such a sacred heart unsacred and impure.

For bountiful gifts of God, man should pay Him some tax. The ancient Rishis called it Bali. It means offering gratitude to God. But people misinterpret its meaning and think that they have to sacrifice some animal and offer it to God. The real meaning of Bali is not killing an animal and offering it to God. Its meaning is paying tax to God for all His bounty. A word has many meanings. For example, there is the word 'Shikhandi'. You take the meaning of 'Shikhandi' as the one who is neither a male nor a female. But this is not the only meaning.



Shikhandi is also one of the names of Krishna and Narayana because it means the one who wears a crown with a peacock feather. Without enquiring into the inner meaning of such a sacred word, you take a wrong meaning and start believing it to be correct. Likewise, the word Bali does not connote killing of animals. This is the tax that man has to pay to God to express his gratitude to Him. How to express your gratitude to God? It should be offered in the form of a prayer which comes from the depth of your heart, expressing your joy and gratitude. One way of paying tax to God is to speak truth always.

*Hastasya Bhushanam Danam,
Sathyam Kanthasya Bhushanam.*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Charity is the true ornament for the hand. Truth is the true necklace.)

Offer your gratitude to God by speaking truth and performing acts of charity. The same truth has been stated by Potana also in the Bhagavatam: What is the use of human birth if you do not utilise your hands for the worship of the Lord and use your throat to sing His glory full-throatedly? Whatever others may say, you should sing His glory and pray to Him, leaving your ego and pride. Even if others criticise you or make fun of you, you should not pay heed to it. There are some people who have good voice but still they do not sing songs in praise of God. What for is the tongue given to you? Is it merely to talk anything and everything? It is your misfortune that you do not utilise your tongue to sing God's glory. Your tongue is then no better than the tongue of a frog. The tongue has been gifted to you to pray to God. Therefore, sing His glory and thereby pay tax to God. Otherwise, you cannot be free from your debt to God. What is the use of your hands if they are not joined in prayer to God?

Offer your heart to God and become a real Sadhaka. It is not enough if you offer leaves, flowers and fruits which wither away in a short time. God has everything. There is nothing that you have and God does not have. Nobody knows what precious things are there with God. You also do not know how many precious things He has given you. But you offer to Him such petty things as leaves, flowers and fruits. Is this the tax you should pay to Him? In fact, your body is the leaf, your heart is the flower, your mind is the fruit and your tears of joy, not the tears of sorrow, is the water that you should offer to God.



You should join your ten fingers, symbolising the unity of ten senses, and offer your prayer to God. That is the tax that you have to pay to God. Without paying tax to God, you will ever remain in debt.

All are the Embodiments of God

Do not criticise anyone. Criticising others amounts to criticising God.

You commit sin when you criticise others. You can never escape from its consequences, because others are none but God Himself. (Telugu Poem)

Man considers others as different from him. But there are no others. There is only God. All are the embodiments of God. Therefore, do not criticise or abuse anyone. You should be grateful to all because everyone helps you in some way or the other. But man resorts to all sorts of tricks and tries to escape from



expressing his obligation to others. By resorting to such tricks, he destroys his humanness itself. This is the effect of modern education. He should offer his gratitude to God without resorting to such tricks. There is a story of a monkey and a crocodile, which I have told you many times, to illustrate this point.

Once there was a crocodile who lived in a lake adjoining a blackberry tree. A monkey lived on that tree. It used to eat the fruits of that tree and drop some into the lake, which the crocodile used to partake of. The monkey and the crocodile became good friends, as days passed by. One day, the crocodile invited the monkey to visit its place, saying, "My good friend! I am partaking of the fruits dropped by you daily into the lake and feel very happy. I wish to reciprocate the gesture by hosting a dinner for you at my place". The monkey was surprised at the crocodile's request. It wondered, "Where on earth does this crocodile have its house? Where does it live"? The monkey pondered over the matter for some time.

In fact, monkeys are very intelligent. Human race has its origin in the monkeys. Hanuman became the servant of Sri Rama and played a vital role in His Mission. Finally, the monkey agreed to participate in the dinner hosted by the crocodile. However, it asked the crocodile, "How can I come to your house? You live in water. Neither I can get into water nor you can come out of it. How then can I visit your place of living"? The crocodile then suggested, "Oh friend! I have a large body. You sit on my back and I will carry you to my residence like a boat". Just before they reached the other end of the lake, the crocodile revealed its real intention to the monkey, "My wife wishes to eat the heart of a monkey. I have to fulfil her wish. That is the reason why I brought you to this place".

The monkey thought for a while and replied cleverly, "Oh madcap! Why did you not tell me this before I got down from the tree? I will also be happy if your wife is satisfied. You know I always keep jumping from one branch to another on trees. Hence, it is my habit to keep my heart tagged on to a branch, lest it should fall down while jumping. Please take me back to the tree so that I can pick up my heart and come along with you". The crocodile believed the words of the monkey. The crocodile has a lot of physical strength, but it lacks brains like the so-called educated people of present times. It therefore brought back the monkey to its place of residence. On reaching the bank, the monkey immediately jumped from the back of the crocodile and climbed the tree. From that vantage point, it ridiculed the crocodile, "You foolish crocodile! Don't you know that the heart cannot be separated from the body and kept at a particular place? You are an idiot. I don't wish to continue my friendship with you any more. You tried to kill me in return for the hand of friendship extended by me. Is this the gratitude you should show towards me"? So saying, the monkey broke its friendship with the crocodile. A real friend is one who stands by us, both in happy times as well as in difficult times.

You should offer your heart to God. This is the tax you should pay to Him. Even your heart is not yours; it is given by God.

Oh Lord! I offer to You the heart You have given me. What else is there with me to offer at Your Lotus Feet in worship? Please accept this with my humble salutations.

(Telugu Poem)

"Oh Lord! I offer to You what You have given me. I have nothing of my own to offer You. I am nothing. You are everything." You should offer your heart to God with such sacred feelings of

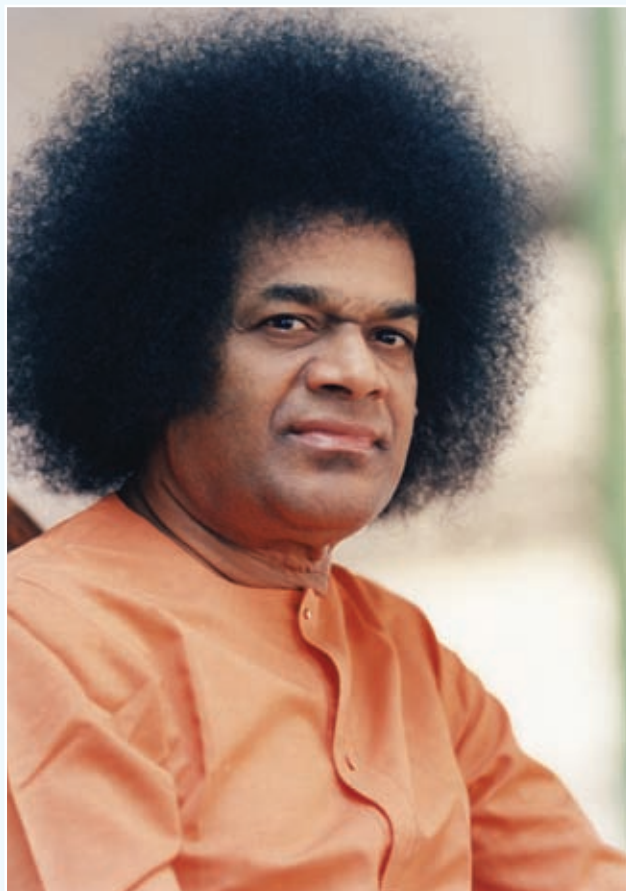


total surrender. In the same way, Lakshmana offered himself in the service of Lord Rama.

I have surrendered my wealth, my family and everything to You. Other than You, I haveno refuge. Please come to my rescue.

(Sanskrit Sloka)

He said to Rama, "I take refuge at Your Lotus Feet. There is nothing that is mine. Everything is Yours". This is how you should



He adds the word devotee like a degree after his name. You all know that people who apply for jobs add degrees like M.B.A., I.A.S., etc., to their names. On seeing these degrees, the employers offer jobs to the applicants.

Once a totally unlettered person Ramaiah applied for a job and put T.D.F.S. as his qualification after his name. The employer was surprised to see this degree and asked

You pay house tax to the municipal corporation for their permission to build a house on a piece of land bought by you. But, do you pay any tax to God for all the bounty He has given you or at least thank Him? You pay electricity charge when you use a fan. But, what tax do you pay to God who has given air? What tax do you pay to the sun which shines resplendently and gives light to the entire world? Similarly, what tax do you pay to God who sends copious rains, filling tanks, streams, canals and rivers on earth? Can any number of pump-sets supply the amount of water which God gives? You pay tax to the government for your ordinary needs. But everything that God has given is free. Air is free, water is free, light is free. He provides everything free.

pay tax to God. Unless you pay this tax, you will remain caught in the endless cycle of birth and death. Everyone has to pay this tax, whether one is a theist, an atheist or a theist-atheist. Man calls himself a devotee of God but he is not prepared to pay this sacred tax.

him what it meant. Then Ramaiah replied, "T.D. means ten daughters, and F.S. means five sons". Does begetting children constitute a degree? Exhibiting degrees like this is totally meaningless. *Srunvantu Viswe Amrutasya Putrah* (Oh the children of immortality! Listen).



This is the degree you should have and experience the divine principle that you are an aspect of God. *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). This is what Lord Krishna declared in the Gita. "You are a part of My Being, not Nature or five elements. You are a direct manifestation of My Divinity", said Krishna. Without trying to earn such divine degrees, you are running after all that is trivial and mundane. Then, what will you achieve?

The body which is made up of five elements is weak and is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may leave one's mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature.
(Telugu Poem)

Death spares none. Nobody knows when, where and how it will come. Therefore, offer yourself to God before death overtakes you. Body is not eternal. *Body is like a water bubble. Mind is like a mad monkey. Do not follow the body. Do not follow the mind. Follow the conscience.* Follow the Atmic principle, i.e., your heart. Offer your heart to God and become a real Sadhaka. It is not enough if you offer leaves, flowers and fruits which wither away in a short time. God has everything. There is nothing that you have and God does not have. Nobody knows what precious things are there with God. You also do not know how many precious things He has given you. But you offer to Him such petty things as leaves, flowers and fruits. Is this the tax you should pay to Him? In fact, your body is the leaf, your heart is the flower, your mind is the fruit and your tears of joy, not the tears of sorrow, is the water that you should offer to God. But you are

not making efforts to understand this eternal truth that these are the precious things that should be offered to God. You offer physical objects to God which you can see with your eyes and experience with your senses. All these objects are bound to perish one day or the other. Everything in this world comes to nothing because all this is temporary and transient. Only one thing is permanent, i.e., the principle of the Atma.

God Alone Exists

Peace does not lie in eating, consuming intoxicating drinks and playing cards. All these vices take man to the demonic path. If peace could be found in eating, one could sit and eat for all the 24 hours a day. Man is not born to merely eat and drink. He should eat to live, not live to eat. He should lead an ideal life, share this eternal knowledge with others and lead them to the sacred path. Convey to others what is true and eternal.

Students! You should put your education to proper use. Share the essence of your education with your fellowmen and lead them on the right path. Education is not merely meant to fill one's belly. Education is for the acquisition of knowledge. What is that knowledge? The power to discriminate between the eternal and the ephemeral is true knowledge. The essence of all knowledge is discrimination. People today are in a state of total restlessness. They do not really know the cause of their unrest and how they should get rid of it. They do not take the proper measures to cure this malady of unrest. Can you cure your stomachache by applying collyrium in your eyes? You suffer from a particular disease and use a medicine which is meant for some other disease. Likewise, you suffer from the malady of unrest and in an effort to cure it, you do things which will only add to the unrest.



Once there was a boy who was the only son of his parents. Hence, his parents loved him dearly. One day, as he was playing with a ball in his room, he went to a corner of the room where he was bitten by a scorpion. Crying bitterly, he ran to his father and told him that he was bitten by a scorpion. The father immediately rushed to a doctor. Giving him an ointment, the doctor said to him, "Apply this ointment where the scorpion has bitten the boy. This will make the place numb and the boy will not feel the pain". Without understanding what the doctor really said, the father in his anxiety came back and asked his son, "Where did the scorpion bite you"? The son pointed to a corner of the room and said, "The scorpion bit me there". The father immediately applied the ointment in that corner. Can the boy be relieved of his pain by this foolish act of his father? He should have applied the ointment on the body part of his son where the scorpion had bitten him. The boy cannot be relieved of his pain if the ointment is applied in the corner of the room. Today all the efforts of man to get rid of his malady of unrest are like this only. First, he should enquire what the cause of his unrest is and then make proper efforts to root it out. Without understanding where actually the problem lies, and what its solution is, he is making efforts in the wrong direction to get rid of the problem.

Man goes to various places of pilgrimage in search of God. He goes from one mountain to another and circumambulates the Himalayan mountains. Where does God not exist? Wherever you see, He is there. You yourself are God. God is present in your heart and not outside. He is with you, in you, around you, above you and below you. If you look for Him outside, how can you attain Him? Turn your

vision inward. Strengthen your faith. One who thinks that God is here and not there is not a Jnani (one of wisdom). Here, there and wherever you see, there is only one principle of the Atma. Wherever you see, God alone exists. There is no second entity. *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). There is nothing like my God and your God. It is a sign of ignorance to observe such differences. Rama, Krishna and Siva are not different from each other. Names and forms are different but the principle of divinity is one and the same. With firm faith in this principle of oneness, wherever you pray to God wholeheartedly, He will manifest before you. Sai has incarnated to make you realise this principle of truth and love. I have come to make you understand that God is present wherever you see. You may question why Sai should come down to show God who is all-pervasive.

There is a lamp, oil and a wick. But, can the lamp light itself? Should there not be someone to light the lamp?

There are flowers. There is a needle and the thread. But, can the garland be made on its own? Should there not be someone to stitch the garland?

There are diamonds and there is gold. But, can the ornaments be made on their own? Should there not be a goldsmith to make the ornaments? (Telugu Poem)

Likewise, God comes in human form to demonstrate His omnipresence.

When there is a driver to run the train, And a person to control the traffic signals, Should there not be a creator behind this world? (Telugu Poem)

Continued on page 313...



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PILGRIMAGE OF CANADA DEVOTEES

MORE THAN 1,100 DEVOTEES including youth and children came from various parts of Canada on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam and experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's divine proximity from 19th to 28th August 2010. During the course of their stay at Prasanthi Nilayam, Sri Sathya Sai Spiritual Education children and youth of Canada presented excellent cultural programmes.

A Life of Sai Ideals

This cultural programme comprising dances of children, depicting cultural heritage of various regions of Canada began at 6.25 p.m. on 24th August 2010 with recitation of Ganesh Prarthana (prayer to Lord Ganesh) by the entire group of 235 Sri Sathya Sai Spiritual Education students who took part in this programme entitled "A Life of Sai Ideals".



Sri Sathya Sai Spiritual Education students of Canada presented an excellent cultural programme entitled "A Life of Sai Ideals" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th August 2010.

What followed this was excellent dances of children in the traditional costumes of the regions of Canada represented by each group of children. The dances not only portrayed the true story of Canada but also showcased the teachings of Bhagavan contained in His famous saying: Life is a Song; Sing it; Life is a Challenge, Meet it; Life is a Goal, Achieve it; Life is a Dream, Realise it; Life is a Game, Play it; Life is Love, Enjoy it. The story of the drama revolves round the life of a physically challenged child who achieves the goal of life in the face of all odds by following the teachings of Bhagavan with firm determination. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the children, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. After a brief session of Bhajans, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.30 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

Devotional Music by Canada Youth

On 25th August 2010, the youth of Canada, both boys and girls, presented a soul-stirring programme of devotional songs and Bhajans in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The programme started at 6.30 p.m. after Bhagavan's Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. What followed this was a sumptuous musical treat which mesmerised the listeners and transported them to a divine plane. The singers sang in all six songs, each one of which was a feast for the soul. The devotional songs were followed by Bhajans which were also led by the youth singers of Canada. Sung with hearts full of deep devotion like the devotional songs, and followed in chorus by the entire





The youth of Canada presented a soul-stirring devotional music programme on 25th August 2010.

gathering in the hall, the Bhajans surcharged the entire milieu with divine vibrations. At the conclusion of this programme, Bhagavan blessed the youth and distributed clothes to them. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 7.35 p.m., which marked the conclusion of this excellent musical presentation of the youth of Canada.

YOUTH CAMP OF WEST BENGAL

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of West Bengal organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam from 30th August to 5th September 2010, in which Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth from West Bengal came to participate. On 31st August 2010, these children and youth presented a beautiful cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Nrityanjali: A Dance Presentation

The first item of the programme entitled "Nrityanjali (offering of dances)" comprised dances of Bal Vikas children based on the

songs written by Rabindranath Tagore, the first Nobel Laureate of India. Commencing their programme at 6.35 p.m. with a patriotic song accompanied by a beautiful dance, the children performed in all seven dances. Excellent formations with nimble footwork of the children in colourful costumes, well-rendered immortal lyrics of Tagore on sublime themes and thrilling music kept the viewers spellbound for nearly 30 minutes.



Bal Vikas children of West Bengal presented a beautiful programme of dances based on the poems of Rabindranath Tagore on 31st August 2010.



Sambhavami Yuge Yuge: A Drama

This was followed by a drama entitled “Sambhavami Yuge Yuge (I incarnate in every era)” which was performed by Sai Youth of West Bengal. Based on the lives and teachings of Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda, the drama portrayed the unique spiritual relationship between a real Master and a true disciple and depicted how Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa chiselled Swami Vivekananda into his able



A scene from the drama “Sambhavami Yuge Yuge” enacted by Sai Youth of West Bengal in Sai Kulwant Hall on 31st August 2010.

instrument to bring about spiritual renaissance of mankind. Sublime theme, excellent script, powerful dialogues and superb acting of the youth made the drama very impressive and absorbing. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the participants of the drama and dance performance, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. After distribution of Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.40 p.m.

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST

A solemn function was held in Poornachandra Auditorium on 1st September 2010 to

celebrate the 38th anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, the main body which has the distinction of executing gigantic service projects like Sri Sathya Sai Water Project, benefiting millions of underprivileged people. A welcome song extended reverential welcome to Bhagavan as He entered the auditorium at 4.40 p.m. On arriving at the specially erected stage, Bhagavan performed the cake cutting ceremony to mark the auspiciousness of the occasion. A delectable programme of devotional songs describing Bhagavan’s Divine glory and expressing the gratitude of the functionaries interspersed with short speeches of senior staff members representing various departments was then presented. After this, Bhagavan blessed all the functionaries, numbering over 1,300 and distributed clothes and mementoes to them. Meanwhile, Bhajans were started, and as the Bhajans continued Bhagavan went into the rows of all the functionaries to shower His blessings on them. The function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.25 p.m.

SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS

The holy festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 2nd September 2010 with great piety and devotion. Nadaswaram musicians heralded the auspicious day by playing sweet notes early in the morning after Omkaram and Suprabhatam in Sai Kulwant Hall which was befittingly decorated for the festive occasion. There were special decorations on the dais, in the centre of which a beautiful idol of Lord Krishna was installed amidst attractive floral decorations.

The grand procession of beautifully bedecked cows led by Nadaswaram troupe and followed by Sathya Gita (Bhagavan’s dear





Institute students dressed as cowherds brought beautifully bedecked cows in Sai Kulwant Hall where Bhagavan caressed and fed them on the holy day of Sri Krishna Janmashtami, 2nd September 2010.

elephant), Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.15 p.m. Besides the cows, rabbits, deer, a peacock and white pigeons formed part of the procession. Students dressed as cowherds lovingly brought these animals to the hall and stationed them near the northern gate while the hall reverberated with Vedic chants. Singing of Bhajans describing the glories of Lord Krishna started in the hall at its usual time at 5.30 p.m. Bhagavan came to the hall at 6.00 p.m., blessed and fed the cows, calves, Sathya Gita and other animals. Showering His love on the animals and the students dressed as cowherds, Bhagavan spent quite some time with them and released a couple of white pigeons, symbolising universal peace.

After Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the Mandir Bhajan singers switched over to special Sri Krishna Janmashtami songs to the accompaniment of scintillating music, surcharging the entire milieu with divine vibrations. Starting their celestial songs with Madhurashtakam at 6.40 p.m., the inspired singers concluded it with a soulful Hindustani

classical piece at 7.10 p.m. Meanwhile, two students dressed as Krishna and Balarama came to Bhagavan with potfuls of chocolates and received His blessings. Bhagavan also materialised Vibhuti and gave it to both. The grand finale to Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations was provided by a special musical troupe of students who played thrilling Bhajans on their musical instruments which included clarinet, saxophone and mridangam. After distribution of Prasadam to the entire congregation in the hall, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 7.15 p.m. which marked the conclusion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

PILGRIMAGE OF STUDENTS OF SRI SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS

More than 1,400 students from 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools, located in various parts of India, came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 3rd to 5th September 2010 and received Bhagavan's love and blessings. Apart from attending daily Bhajan and Darshan sessions in Sai Kulwant Hall, the students presented a cultural programme on 3rd September 2010 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Bhagavan Inaugurates the Programme

A group of these students donning Veda attire offered a traditional welcome to Bhagavan with Poornakumbham amidst Veda chanting and led Him to Sai Kulwant Hall from His abode in a solemn procession which started at 5.20 p.m. Bhagavan arrived at the dais at 5.50 p.m. and inaugurated the programme by lighting the sacred lamp.

The programme began with the presentation of the theme song "Sathyam Vada Dharmam Chara" accompanied by a beautiful dance of a girl student. This was followed by a brief speech by Sri Ranga Rao, State Trust Convener of Andhra Pradesh. Dwelling on the



quality of education being imparted to nearly 50,000 students in 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools in India, Sri Rao stated that the students in Sai Schools not only achieved excellence in their academic performance, they excelled in practising human values and were showing their talent in sports and games also. All the schools, he added, had a common uniform and would have a common song and a common logo. After this announcement of Sri Rao, Bhagavan pressed a button to illuminate the common logo of these schools placed on the dais. The next item of the programme was speeches by four students of Sai Schools of Rishikesh, Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad in four languages – Hindi, Telugu, Sanskrit and English. Deliberating on the theme of the students meet “Sathyam Vada Dharmam Chara”, the students observed that it was their great good fortune to be a Sai student and follow the ennobling teachings of Bhagavan which were being practised in Sai Schools.

Sai Vidya Sarasa Vidya: A Drama

The last item of the programme was a musical dance drama “Sai Vidya Sarasa Vidya (Sai education is true education)”. The drama depicted that man was essentially divine and



A group of students from 99 Sri Sathya Sai Schools presented an excellent cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 3rd September 2010.

education was meant to make him understand this reality by inspiring him to practise values like truth, righteousness, love, compassion and respect for parents and elders. The drama brought forth the message that Sai Vidya was sure to transform the world as it gave the message of love and selfless service. Good songs, thrilling music, excellent costumes and brilliant dances of the students made the drama very lively and impressive. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the students, gave them the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close at 7.45 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan after distribution of Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan.

SIVA PARVATI KALYANAM

A grand function was held to celebrate Siva Parvati Kalyanam (marriage of Siva and Parvati) on 4th September 2010 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated with colourful buntings, festoons of various shapes, and decorative articles made of coconut leaves. A magnificent Pandal made of bamboos and decorated with mango leaves and flowers was set up in the centre of the hall for conducting the ceremonies.

A traditional welcome song by priests in Sanskrit extended reverential welcome to Bhagavan when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.20 p.m. in a grand procession led by Nadaswaram musicians, Veda chanting priests and two palanquins carrying the idols of Siva and Parvati. On arriving at the dais, Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp at 5.30 p.m. to inaugurate the function. Meanwhile, the palanquins with idols of Siva and Parvati were placed facing each other in the Pandal amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests. Next began the ceremonies of the celestial wedding with priests offering garlands and various other





Grand celebrations marked the celestial wedding of Siva and Parvati performed in Sai Kulwant Hall on 4th September 2010.

sacred offerings on the idols amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. After this, two priests read out the qualities and merits of the divine bride and bridegroom. The idols were then brought closer to each other and garlands of the idols were exchanged amidst joyous notes of Nadaswaram music. After this, the idols were brought on the dais and placed close to each other. Finally, Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn by married women) was offered to the idol of Parvati at 6.25 p.m. to complete the wedding ceremony. Arati was then offered to the idols. Thereafter, the priests sang devotional songs and Bhajans in praise of Siva and Parvati. Afterwards, Institute students started Bhajans dedicated to the divine couple, which were followed in chorus by all the devotees in the hall. Meanwhile, a sumptuous feast of Prasadam of various items was offered to the entire congregation in the hall. The joyous function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF NEPAL DEVOTEES

More than 1,800 devotees including youth and children came from various parts of Nepal on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam as part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan and experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's Divine proximity from 30th August to 9th September 2010.

A Bouquet of Devotional Songs in Nepali

On 8th September 2010, Sai Youth and Bal Vikas children of Nepal offered to Bhagavan a bouquet of devotional songs in Nepali along with four instrumental music pieces. The programme began at 7.10 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the outset, the singers, both boys and girls, chanted Vedic Mantras beginning with Ganesh Prarthana (prayer to Lord Ganesh) and followed it up with Narayana Upanishad and Mantra Pushpam. The entire recitation was marked by perfect rhythm, intonation and



The programme of devotional songs presented by Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Nepal on 8th September 2010 was a delightful musical feast.



pronunciation to the delight of listeners. This was followed by nine devotional songs, describing the Divine glory of Bhagavan and praying to Him to bestow His love and compassion on the people of Nepal so as to bring peace and harmony in the country by removing hatred, jealousy, anger and other evil qualities from the heart of the people. The instrumental music that followed after this portrayed the cultural unity of Nepal and sublime feelings of the simple folk of the country. The entire presentation was a delightful musical feast which kept the listeners spellbound for nearly one hour. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the singers, distributed clothes to them and posed for group photos with them. After distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.10 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES FROM INDONESIA

More than 500 devotees including Bal Vikas children and youth came from Indonesia on a pilgrimage to offer their love and reverence to Bhagavan and taste the bliss of living in the sacred and salubrious precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam, the abode of supreme peace. During their stay at Prasanthi Nilayam from 4th to 12th September 2010, these devotees took part in the Bhajan and Darshan programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall and presented an excellent cultural programme on 10th September 2010.

The Search for Paradise: A Musical Dance Drama

The programme, comprising a Balinese cultural dance of Krishna Rasaleela by the students of Sri Sathya Sai School of Bali, a cosmic dance of Siva by Sai Study Group of Indonesia and a drama entitled “The Search for Paradise” by Sai Youth of Jakarta, began at



Balinese cultural dance presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai School of Bali on 10th September 2010 highlighted the devotion of Radha and Gopikas for Lord Krishna.

6.45 p.m. with a devotional song dedicated to the universal Divine Mother, the source of all creation. This was followed by the Rasaleela dance which highlighted the devotion of Gopikas and Radha for Lord Krishna, the best example of total surrender to God.

This was followed by the drama “The Search for Paradise” which depicted through the story of a modern youth how young people got deluded by the glitter of material gains and neglected their parents, yet ultimately they found their paradise at the feet of their



The drama presented by Sai Youth of Indonesia on 10th September 2010 depicted that youth should seek their paradise at the feet of their parents.



parents only. The programme concluded with the divine cosmic dance of Siva, symbolising the release of man's soul from the snares of illusion. The programme was well-knit and the Rasaleela and Siva dance were integrated with the drama so well that the entire presentation highlighted the excellent skill of direction. Superb acting of the cast, thrilling dances of the Bal Vikas children, good choreography, sweet soothing music and melodious songs added to the charm and beauty of the cultural programme, which kept the audience absorbed for full one hour from 6.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for one of the youth who acted in the drama.

ID UL FITR CELEBRATIONS

The joyous celebration of Id Ul Fitr which followed this cultural programme was organised by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The students highlighted the importance of fasting during the month of Ramadan which made man pure and deserving of God's grace. They also dwelt on the unity of all faiths and explained that all religions basically taught the same truth.



The programme of Id Ul Fitr presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning highlighted the unity of all faiths.

Interspersed with well-rendered devotional songs and Qawalis, it was a very illuminating and delightful programme befittingly presented on the eve of Id Ul Fitr. The programme which began at 8.05 p.m. came to a close with an excellent Qawali at 8.50 p.m. Though it was a late hour programme, Bhagavan watched the entire presentation, blessed the students at the end of the programme and posed for group photos with them. After distribution of Prasadam, the programme concluded at 8.55 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

SAI SANNIDHI FUNCTION

Sai Sannidhi (proximity with Sai) is the group of Bhagavan's former students who are working in the various Sai institutions, viz., Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospitals and the campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Prasanthi Nilayam and Whitefield (Bengaluru).

12th September 2010 became by far the most memorable day in the life of these students, numbering 191, and particularly their parents when Bhagavan showered His love and blessings on them in a grand function held in Poornachandra Auditorium. Arrangements were made in such a way that Bhagavan could go to each family and spend time with them. Some interesting video films of Bhagavan's visits were shown on the screen before the arrival of Bhagavan in the auditorium.

On His arrival in the auditorium at 5.30 p.m., Bhagavan performed the cake cutting ceremony while singers of the group extended loving welcome to Him with a beautiful welcome song. After this, Bhagavan went into the rows



of the students and their parents and virtually gave Himself off to each of them, listening to their prayers, giving them Padanamaskar, sprinkling Akshatas (sanctified rice) on them and showering His love and blessings on them in every possible way. After spending nearly an hour and a half and showering His love on all, Bhagavan came to the specially erected stage. Thereafter, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Sri Sai Surendranath, teacher, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School who expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for giving motherly love and care and most congenial working atmosphere to all the former students working in various Sai institutions. Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning was the next speaker who expressed the indebtedness of the former students to Bhagavan for giving them the golden opportunity of working and living in His close proximity. This, he said, was a unique privilege of former students, which millions others longed for.

Before the conclusion of the function, the parents of all the students were given shawls as a mark of honour and students were given mementoes. The families were also served sumptuous breakfast, lunch and dinner on this day and dinner on the previous night. The function came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 7.25 p.m. Overwhelmed by the divine love of Bhagavan, the students and their parents left the auditorium with their hearts full of sweet memories of the golden moments spent by them in close proximity with Bhagavan.

YOUTH CAMP OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh organised a youth camp at Prasanthi



The drama "Vedanjali" presented by Sai Youth of Andhra Pradesh on 14th September 2010 elucidated the significance of the Vedas.

Nilayam, wherein Sai Youth of Andhra Pradesh came to participate and experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's proximity. On 14th September 2010, a group of these youth presented a drama entitled "Vedanjali" (offer of a bouquet of Vedic Mantras) in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The drama elucidated the significance of the Vedas and explained how Bhagavan has been promoting Vedic learning, encouraging Vedic scholars and spreading Vedic knowledge for the sake of establishing Dharma in the world, the main Mission of His Advent on earth in human form. Sublime theme, well-rendered Telugu poems, excellent chanting of Vedic Mantras, powerful dialogues, good choreography and fine dances of the youth enhanced the impact and beauty of the drama. The drama which began at 6.40 p.m. came to a close at 7.15 p.m. Bhagavan watched the entire drama, blessed the youth who participated in it, distributed clothes to them and posed for group photos with them. This was followed by Bhajans which were led by Institute students. Meanwhile, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in the hall. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.50 p.m.



GANESH CHATURTHI FUNCTION

The sacred festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th September 2010 followed by colourful immersion ceremony on 13th September 2010. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the function was beautifully decorated on this occasion. The Ganesh idol which adorns the dais was beautifully decorated and aesthetically illuminated with colourful lights. The Bhajan session on the morning of 11th September 2010 comprised all Ganesh Bhajans, the soulful singing of which surcharged the milieu with sacred vibrations.

As the evening Bhajans were in progress in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan arrived in the hall at 6.45 p.m. after performing the inauguration ceremony of newly-built dormitories at the western end of the Ashram. Taking a full round of the hall, Bhagavan blessed the huge concourse of devotees in the hall on this auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi. After this, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees. At 7.00 p.m., Arati was offered to Bhagavan which marked the conclusion of the day's programme.

Colourful Immersion Ceremony of Ganesh Idols

Immersion of the Ganesh idols worshipped in various Ashram departments and institutions during the last three days was done on 13th September 2010. A colourful ceremony was organised in this regard in Sai Kulwant Hall. Beautifully decorated Ganesh idols were lined up along the passage of Bhagavan well before the arrival of Bhagavan in the hall. Bhagavan came to the hall at 6.35 p.m. in a grand procession led by a Nadaswaram troupe

BHAGAVANI NAUGURATES NEW DORMITORIES



On the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi, Bhagavan inaugurated the new set of multi-storeyed dormitories "Sai Bhakta Nivas" built at the western end of the Ashram for the comfortable stay of devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan arrived at the site at 6.20 p.m., performed the inauguration ceremony by lighting the sacred lamp, took a round of one of the newly-constructed blocks, blessed the workers and staff engaged in the construction work and left at 6.40 p.m. after receiving Arati. There are five such blocks at various stages of construction which are likely to provide additional accommodation to about 5,000 devotees.

and two Veda chanting groups of students. Bhagavan took a slow round of the hall blessing the idols and participating groups who brought the idols. Mounted on beautiful vehicles of various designs and shapes and aesthetically decorated with various decorative materials, the idols over 25 in number presented a grand spectacle in the hall. A few of these were very beautifully illuminated with colourful lights. The beauty and variety of the vehicles carrying the idols was simply spectacular. There was





Before the idols were taken out for immersion, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam performed a thrilling dance, singing the glories of Lord Ganesh.

a huge Nandi, a replica of Shirdi Sai Temple, a grand Adishesha (serpent), a big sunflower, a Ganesh circumambulating Siva Linga and numerous other beautiful shapes and designs. After Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School came into the performing area and presented a thrilling dance, singing the glories of Lord Ganesh "Ganapati Bappa Moriya...". The procession of retreat followed this. The groups of students and staff brought the idols one by one before Bhagavan, offered their salutations to Him and took the idols out of the hall for immersion. This colourful and joyous function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.55 p.m.

YOUTH CAMP OF MADHYA PRADESH AND CHHATTISGARH

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam and presented a cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 15th September 2010. The programme comprising a musical ballet entitled "Mahishasura Mardini"

(annihilator of Mahishasura) by folk artistes of Chhattisgarh and a prayer song by Bal Vikas children of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh began at 6.50 p.m. in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The musical ballet depicted the fierce form of goddess Durga who killed the demon Mahishasura, symbolising the establishment of righteousness and destruction of unrighteousness on earth. The folk artistes portrayed



Folk artistes of Chhattisgarh presented an excellent musical ballet "Mahishasura Mardini" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 15th September 2010.

this mythological story in a most lively and attractive manner and earned the appreciation of one and all. This was followed by a song and dance by Bal Vikas children who came in various fancy costumes and presented a beautiful prayer song. After this, there was a Bhajan session, wherein the Bhajans were led by Sai Youth, both boys and girls, of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the participants and posed for group photos with them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.40 p.m.



MANASA BHAJARE GURU CHARANAM

This historic Discourse, in which Bhagavan proclaims His Divine Mission, is the first public Discourse given by Him on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami (Dasara) in the year 1953. The contemporaries of the Avatar are most fortunate as they are witnessing how this Divine Mission has been unfolding before their eyes in the last seven decades or so.

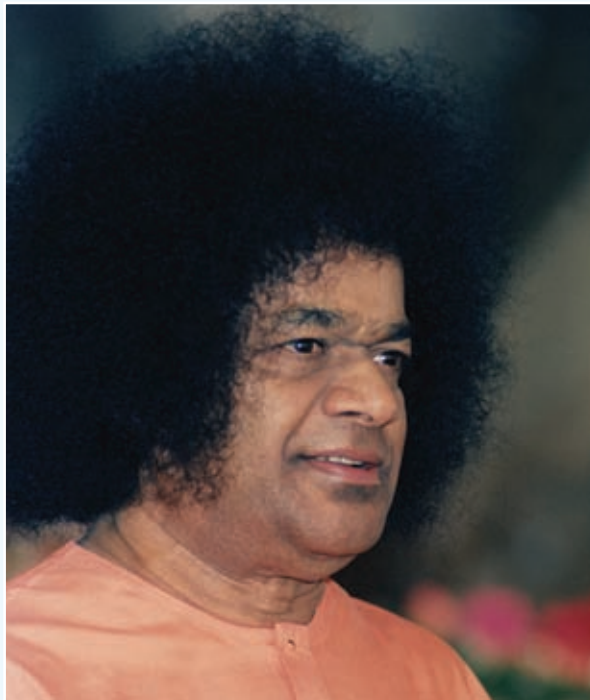
IMPLICIT FAITH IS THE SECRET OF SPIRITUAL SUCCESS

WHEN I WAS AT URAVAKONDA studying in high school, you know I came away one day, threw away My books and declared: I have My work waiting for Me. The Telugu Pandit (scholar) described the incident of that evening to you all in his speech. Well, that day when I came out publicly as Sai Baba, the first song

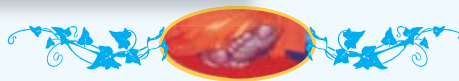
I taught the gathering in the garden to which I went from Seshama Raju's house was:

*Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam
Dustara Bhava Sagara Taranam.*

I called upon all those suffering in the endless round of birth and death to worship the feet of the Guru, the Guru who was announcing Himself and who had come again for taking upon Himself the burden of those who sought refuge in Him. That was the very first Message



God draws the individual towards Himself; it is the nature of both to have this affinity, for they are the same. They are like the magnet and the iron. But if the iron is rusty and covered with layers of dirt, the magnet is unable to attract. Remove the impediment; that is all you have to do. Shine forth in your real nature and the Lord will draw you into His bosom. Trials and tribulations are the means by which this cleansing is done.



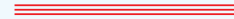
of Mine to humanity, “Manasa Bhajare”. “Worship in the mind!” I do not need your flower garlands and fruits, things that you get for an anna (1/16th of a rupee) or two; they are not genuinely yours. Give Me something that is yours, something which is clean and fragrant with the aroma of virtue and innocence, and washed in the tears of repentance! Garlands and fruits you bring as items of show are an exhibition of your devotion. Poorer devotees who cannot afford to bring them feel humiliated; they feel sorry that they are helpless, they cannot demonstrate their devotion in the grand way in which you are doing it. Install the Lord in your heart and offer Him the fruits of your actions and the flowers of your inner thoughts and feelings. That is the worship I like most, the devotion I appreciate most.

Re-education of Man in all Eras

In shops, things are kept in separate packets and each shop specialises in some particular article or sets of articles. But in an exhibition, hundreds of shops join to make all varieties of things available, and there is a great deal of window-dressing, arrangement and display. I have been all these days generally giving individual advice, giving answers to individual questions like the packets available in shops. This ‘speech’ today is a new experience for you. I am addressing a gathering today. Even though it may be new to you, for Me it is not new. I have given advice to large gatherings before, though not in this Appearance. Whenever Nirakara (formless) becomes Sakara (one with form), He has to fulfil the Mission, and He does so in various ways. But the one purpose, the re-education of man persists, whatever the Yuga (the era).

The first sixteen years of this Life have been, as I have often told you, the period when Bala Leela (divine child sport)

You proceed from ‘death’ to ‘life’ and from ‘illness’ to ‘health’ by the experience of the buffetings of the world. The world is a very essential part of the curriculum of man; through the agony of search is born the infant, wisdom. The pains are worthwhile; they indicate the birth of new life. From Asanthi (restlessness), you get Prasanthi (absolute peace); from Prasanthi, you get Prakanthi (bright spiritual illumination); and from Prakanthi, Paramajyothi (supreme divine radiance). It is like the alternating of night and day, this recurrence of joy and grief.



predominated, and the next sixteen are being spent mostly in Mahimas (miracles) in order to give Santosha (joy) to this generation. Joy and contentment are short-lived sensations; you have to catch that mood and make it a permanent possession: Ananda (bliss). After the thirty-second year, you will see Me active more and more in the task of Upadesha (spiritual instruction) – teaching erring humanity and directing the world along the path of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema (truth, righteousness, peace and love). Not that I am determined to exclude Leela and Mahima from My activity after that. I only mean that re-establishing Dharma, correcting the crookedness of human mind and guiding humanity back to Sanathana Dharma (eternal universal religion) will be My task thereafter.

Do not be led away by doubt and vain argument; do not question how and whether I can do all this. The cowherds of Brindavan also doubted whether the little boy who grew in their midst could lift Govardhanagiri



(Govardhana mountain) and hold it aloft! The thing needed is faith, and yet more faith.

Secret of Spiritual Success

Once Krishna and Arjuna were going together along an open road. Seeing a bird in the sky, Krishna asked Arjuna, "Is that a dove"? He replied, "Yes, it is a dove". He asked Arjuna, "Is it an eagle"? Arjuna replied promptly, "Yes, it is an eagle". "No, Arjuna, it looks like a crow to Me. Is it not a crow?" asked Krishna. Arjuna replied, "I am sorry, it is a crow beyond doubt". Krishna laughed and chided him for his agreeing to whatever suggestion was given. But Arjuna said, "For me, Your words are far more weighty than the evidence of my eyes; You can make it a crow, a dove or an eagle and when You say it is a crow, it must be one". Implicit faith is the secret of spiritual success.

The Lord loves, not the Bhakta (devotee) but his Bhakti, remember. The Lord's grace is like rain, pure water, falling equally everywhere; but its taste gets changed according to the soil through which it flows. So also the Lord's words are sweet to some, bitter to others. The Lord's ways are mysterious; He blessed Vidura with the words, "Be destroyed" and Dussasana with the words, "Live for a thousand years". He meant that Vidura's 'I' will be destroyed and that the wicked Dussasana



The first sixteen years of this Life have been, as I have often told you, the period when Bala Leela (divine child sport) predominated, and the next sixteen are being spent mostly in Mahimas (miracles) in order to give Santosha (joy) to this generation. Joy and contentment are short-lived sensations; you have to catch that mood and make it a permanent possession: Ananda (bliss). After the thirty-second year, you will see Me active more and more in the task of Upadesha (spiritual instruction) – teaching erring humanity and directing the world along the path of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema (truth, righteousness, peace and love).

will have to suffer the ills and tribulations of this world for ten centuries. You do not know the real reasons behind the actions of the Lord. You cannot understand the motives of other men who are almost like you in everything,



actuated by the same motives and having the same likes and dislikes! But yet, how easily you discover the motives of One who is far, far above the level of man! How glibly you talk and judge something that is as strange to you as atmosphere to a fish!

Pains Indicate Birth of New Life

There are four types of persons: the 'dead', who deny the Lord and declare that they alone exist, independent, free, self-regulating and self-directed; the 'sick,' who call upon the Lord when some calamity befalls them or when they feel temporarily deserted by the usual sources of succour; the 'dull', who know that God is the eternal companion and watchman, but who remember it only off and on when the idea is potent and powerful; and lastly, the 'healthy,' who have steady faith in the Lord and who live in His comforting creative presence always.

You proceed from 'death' to 'life' and from 'illness' to 'health' by the experience of the buffetings of the world. The world is a very essential part of the curriculum of man; through the agony of search is born the infant, wisdom. The pains are worthwhile; they indicate the birth of new life. From Asanthi (restlessness), you get Prasanthi (absolute peace); from Prasanthi, you get Prakanthi (bright spiritual illumination); and from Prakanthi, Paramajyothi (supreme divine radiance). It is like the alternating of night and day, this recurrence of joy and grief. Night and day are twin sisters; both are necessary to increase the fertility of the soil, to activate and refresh life. They are like summer and winter. There are some who ask Me, "Baba! Make this summer less hot"! But in the heat of summer, the earth takes in the needed energy from the sun, so that when the rains come, it may yield a plentiful harvest.

I do not need your flower garlands and fruits, things that you get for an anna (1/16th of a rupee) or two; they are not genuinely yours. Give Me something that is yours, something which is clean and fragrant with the aroma of virtue and innocence, and washed in the tears of repentance! Garlands and fruits you bring as items of show are an exhibition of your devotion. Poorer devotees who cannot afford to bring them feel humiliated; they feel sorry that they are helpless, they cannot demonstrate their devotion in the grand way in which you are doing it. Install the Lord in your heart and offer Him the fruits of your actions and the flowers of your inner thoughts and feelings. That is the worship I like most, the devotion I appreciate most.



Shine Forth in your Real Nature

'Cold' and 'hot' are both in the plan of God; you have only to know this and treat both as valuable. Thorny plants and thornless plants are both there in Nature. The wise man knows the value of both; he plants the thornless one and surrounds it with the thorny ones, so that what he fosters is left unharmed. Activity can save as well as kill. It is like the cat which bites; it bites the kitten in order to carry it in its mouth to a place of safety; it bites the rat in order to kill and eat. Become the kitten; and work will rescue you like a loving mother. Become a rat, and you are lost.

God draws the individual towards Himself; it is the nature of both to have this affinity, for they are the same. They are like the magnet and the iron. But if the iron is rusty and covered with layers of dirt, the magnet



is unable to attract. Remove the impediment; that is all you have to do. Shine forth in your real nature and the Lord will draw you into His bosom. Trials and tribulations are the means by which this cleansing is done. That is why Kunti prayed to Krishna, "Give us always grief, so that we may never forget Thee". They are like the dietary and other restrictions that the doctor prescribes to supplement the effect of the drug of Namasmarana (chanting of Divine Name).

Do not Give Up Sadhana

Sai is Sarvajanapriya (beloved to all people) and so any name which gives you joy, you can take up. Tastes differ according to temperament and the character one has earned by generations of activity as a living being in this world. The proprietor of a coffee house goes to the nearby druggist for a pill to ward off his headache, and the druggist when he gets a headache goes to the coffee house for a cup of coffee which he thinks will cure him. Men are like that. Lokobhinna Ruchi (tastes of people differ). The Jnani (wise) says, "Sarvam Brahmamayam (in God is all)" another, a yogi, says, all is energy; a third, who is a Bhakta, says, all is the play of Bhagavan (the Lord). Each observes according to his taste and according to his progress in Sadhana

...Continued from page 297

There should be a driver to run the train. There should be someone to control the automatic traffic signals. Likewise, there should be someone to create this world. There should be someone to show you that God is everywhere. God incarnates for this very purpose. God comes down not only to tell this truth but also to shower His love on man. However, the amount of love you receive depends on the size of your container, i.e., the

(spiritual practice). Do not deride or ridicule them, for they are all pilgrims trudging along the same road.

Sadhana is most required to control the mind and the desires after which it runs. If you find that you are not able to succeed, do not give up the Sadhana but do it more vigorously, for it is the subject in which you did not get pass marks that requires special study, is it not? Sadhana means inner cleanliness as well as external cleanliness. You do not feel refreshed if you wear unwashed clothes after your bath, do you? Nor do you feel refreshed if you wear washed clothes, but skip the bath. Both are needed, the Bahya and the Bhava (the external as well as the internal).

Children believe your words when you say that the policeman will catch them or the ghost will beat them. They are full of fear and faith. But having grown old and stuffed your heads with all kinds of doctrines and dogmas and theories and arguments, you have now to use your Viveka (discrimination) and discover God the hard way. This I will tell you, there is no escaping it; all creatures have to reach God some day or the other, by the long route or by the short route.

– From Bhagavan's first public Discourse at Prasanthi Nilayam on Vijaya Dasami day in 1953.

heart. Therefore, make your container big by Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation) of the Divine. You can collect as much ambrosia as you enlarge the size of your container.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "Bhava Bhaya Harana...")

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 1st July 1996.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

U. S. A.



SATHYA SAI BABA CENTRE OF Tampa Bay, Florida organised dental camps at the Pinellas County Health Department in St. Petersburg, Florida on 1st and 8th May 2010. Five dentists, two oral surgeons, six dental hygienists and three dental assistants provided loving dental care to over 125 people. Nine physicians, one nurse practitioner, two physician assistants and eight nurses helped provide the medical evaluation and screening. Twenty-five non-medical volunteers helped on each day with the efficient running of the camp. Services provided included dental cleaning, extractions, post-extraction follow-up care and fillings. Breakfast and lunch were provided for all the patients and volunteers and the patients were given a gift bag, containing a toothbrush, a toothpaste, a dental floss, a bath towel, a pair of socks, a water pitcher and a soap cake. The head of social services for the city of St. Petersburg, the director of the Coalition for the Homeless for Pinellas County and the medical director of the County Health Department were highly appreciative of the dental services provided.

On 2nd May 2010, Easwaramma Day was celebrated by Sai Centres in Southern California at the Ebell Theatre in Santa Ana, California. Over 500 people attended this programme which began with Ganesh invocation, Sai Gayatri chanting and short prayers representing various faiths such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Zoroastrianism and Judaism. Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) children then made a video presentation,

“Easwaramma – the Chosen Mother” which focused on the three selfless desires of Easwaramma (free education, free healthcare, and free drinking water). The Lotus Group children (3 to 6 years old) captivated the hearts of all with an adorable presentation, “Twinkle, Twinkle Parthi Star”. The SSE children from various Sai Centres then offered plays and presentations conveying three main themes of Swami’s teachings: (1) Devotion to God, (2) Unity of All Faiths, and (3) the Five Human Values: truth, right conduct, peace, love and non-violence. The overflowing crowd was inspired and filled with love by the children’s presentations making for a memorable Easwaramma Day celebration in Southern California.

THAILAND

On 11th July 2010, about 35 Sathya Sai volunteers including Sathya Sai youth and children visited the Home for Handicapped Animals in Pakred, Bangkok, where diseased and ailing domestic animals are treated and



About 35 Sathya Sai youth and children visited the Home for Handicapped Animals in Pakred, Bangkok on 11th July 2010 and provided loving care to the animals.



cared. About 200 dogs and cats were housed at the facility in closed and open cages and attended by veterinary doctors and staff. Some of the animals had broken legs due to road accidents or falls from a height; some had skin or other infections. Sathya Sai volunteers washed the animals, provided loving care to them, served food to the dogs and made a donation to the foundation. They also looked after some newborn puppies that were ready for adoption. Sathya Sai volunteers noted that human love and care could soothe animals and that it was our duty to be kind to them and share our love with them as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

On 8th May 2010, Easwamma Day celebrations took place in Bangkok attended by about 160 people including approximately 70 children. The programme began with Veda chanting by SSE children followed by songs and dances on Lord Ganesh. The SSE children then made presentations on Bhagavan's life as well as how Bhagavan's teachings had transformed their own lives. Two skits were enacted by the children on the themes, "Unity" and "God is in Us". The programme ended with Arati followed by Prasadam distribution.

GREECE

On 16th May 2010, about 20 Sai volunteers organised a festive function for 56 patients at a hospital for chronic diseases in Aghia Varvara near Athens. Preparation for this function included a questionnaire for the patients to identify their needs and making a gift list on the basis of patients' responses. Gift items were purchased and wrapped with extra love and care by Sathya Sai volunteers, including Sathya Sai youth and SSE children. Each gift set also included a card with messages from Bhagavan's Discourses. On the day of the



Sai volunteers of Greece organised a function in a hospital for chronic diseases in Aghia Varvara near Athens, gave gift packets to 56 patients and shared love with them on 16th May 2010.

function, the rooms of the patients as well as the reception hall of the hospital were decorated with flowers. Fresh fruit juice and homemade delicacies were offered to the patients. Sathya Sai volunteers sang songs accompanied by live music and the patients danced and sang in unison. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed the gifts. Most of all, patients treasured the cards accompanying the gifts and many wanted Bhagavan's messages on the cards to be read out loud and explained to all.

SERBIA

Between February and June 2010, educare seminars were organised for the public in Belgrade. The presentation materials were based upon Bhagavan's teachings. The biggest challenge was to find ways to present spirituality in a way that inspired people. As a team, Sathya Sai volunteers worked hard with discipline, love and harmony and presented Bhagavan's teachings with love. Six meetings were conducted on "Education and Educare", which included basic approaches of modern education, principles of educare and human





Seminars on “Education and Educare” were organised in Belgrade between February and June 2010, which discussed basic approaches of modern education, principles of educare and five human values of truth, right conduct, peace, love and non-violence.

values (truth, right conduct, peace, love and non-violence.) The presentations were organised in accordance with training received in Europe and in Dharmakshetra, India.

Spiritual songs, poems and prayers for children based on Serbian cultural heritage were presented in the classes. Take-home literature for learning and practice was handed out in every class. Presentations were made on the work of the Sathya Sai Organisation in Serbia and educare around the world with examples of human values from films and literature, light meditation, visualisation, prayers, right action for schools and families and songs on human values. Sathya Sai volunteers learnt through these seminars that they could look at every adversity with optimism and peace and thanked Bhagavan for this learning opportunity.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Sixth Sathya Sai Children’s Camp named “Solnyshko (sun)” was held from 6th to 11th June 2010 in the idyllic setting of the

Karakystak valley under the theme “Ceiling on Desires”. There were 51 participants which included 17 children, many of whom helped in organising the event. Plays, using stories from various countries, were enacted to clearly bring out in an entertaining and artistic way the importance of placing a ceiling on desires in one’s use of energy, time, food and money. The themes were underscored with spectacular dance performances. Sai Spiritual Education classes were also conducted, in which teachers, children and their parents were taught how to



The sixth Sathya Sai Children’s Camp on the theme of “Ceiling on Desires” was held in Karakystak valley from 6th to 11th June 2010, in which there were 51 participants including 17 children.

consume with moderation all the precious God-given resources such as energy, money, food and time. Camp activities on the theme, “In Harmony with Nature” included swimming and climbing the spectacular Sinyuha Mountain. A Sathya Sai Olympics was also organised to create a common spirit of love, friendship, mutual understanding, joy and happiness.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh organised



a symposium on “Integrating Values in Man – the Sai Way” at Sri Sathya Sai Nigamagamam, Hyderabad on 18th September 2010, highlighting the importance of integrating values in man for the welfare of society and peace and harmony in the world. The symposium was inaugurated by Sri K. Rosaiah, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and was attended by about 1,200 people and a host of dignitaries which included Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Dr. J. Geeta Reddy, Minister for Information and Public Relations and Tourism.



The dignitaries who participated in the symposium on “Integrating Values in Man – the Sai Way” included Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor, Sri K. Rosaiah, Chief Minister and Dr. J. Geeta Reddy, Minister for Information and Public Relations and Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Delivering his inaugural address, Sri Rosaiah observed that India had been known in the world since ancient times for her rich cultural and spiritual heritage which was fast declining in the modern society because of its over-emphasis on western education and western ways of life in which people were losing their traditional values. The distinguished speaker advocated the Gurukul system of education for students and said that truth, right action, peace, love and non-violence should become a part of everyday living of man as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In his keynote address, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan stated that the people of Andhra Pradesh were fortunate that Kali Yuga Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba had taken birth in this land. He exhorted them to make Andhra Pradesh 100% value-oriented State in the country. Emphasising the importance of inculcating human values in children, the eminent speaker called upon the parents to spend time with their children and teach them

the values of truth, honesty, peace, love and non-violence to make them good citizens. Releasing a souvenir on the teachings and mission of Bhagavan on this occasion, Dr. Geeta Reddy referred to the service projects of Bhagavan and observed that people should follow the path of selfless service exemplified by Bhagavan and execute service projects for the welfare of society in the way Bhagavan is doing for mankind. Sri Ranga Rao, State Trust Convener and Dr. Anjanaiah, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Andhra Pradesh also addressed the gathering and spoke about the service projects and human values programme of Bhagavan. A video film on Bhagavan’s projects on safe drinking water, hospitals and educational institutions was also screened which gave a glimpse of Bhagavan’s Mission for the welfare of the masses. Earlier, Sri H. Srinivasulu, District President of the Sai Organisation extended warm welcome to all, and had a special word of welcome for the dignitaries.





Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka organised a special programme of Akhanda Bhajan for 85 hours at Brindavan, Whitefield as part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

Karnataka: As part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Baba, a special programme of Akhanda Bhajan for 85 hours was organised at Brindavan, Whitefield (Bengaluru) from 5.00 a.m. on Thursday, 12th August 2010 to 6.00 p.m. on Sunday, 15th August 2010. Thousands of devotees from all the districts of Karnataka, present and former students of Sri Sathya Sai University, staff members working at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, staff and students from Sri Sathya Sai Schools, etc., attended the programme held in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. Prasadam from morning breakfast to night dinner was arranged for all the participants and devotees who visited. Besides Narayana Seva, clothes were distributed to about 500 children from villages under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme. Sri Sankara TV, a Bhakti Channel, arranged live telecast of the entire 85 hours Akhanda Bhajan which was viewed by thousands of devotees in different parts of the country and many other countries.

Tamil Nadu: A symposium on “Sri Sathya Sai Total Healthcare – a Working Model” was

conducted at Sri Ramachandra Medical University Auditorium, Porur, Chennai on 17th July 2010. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Sri S. Gandhiselvan inaugurated the programme. Appreciating the activities undertaken by Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals, he said that Sri Sathya Sai Healthcare, through the two Super Speciality Hospitals, was unique in providing best medical care free of cost without discrimination of caste, religion, rich or poor. Dr. Krishna Raman, State Medical Coordinator, welcomed the dignitaries and

guests. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. S. Rangaswamy felicitated the gathering. Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Organisations highlighted the work being done by the Sai Organisations in the field of healthcare. Dr. Safaya, Director, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences spoke about the functioning of Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals in providing tertiary



A symposium on “Sri Sathya Sai Total Healthcare – a Working Model” was conducted in Chennai on 17th July 2010, in which 509 doctors, 111 paramedics and others associated with medical profession took part.



medical care with world class facilities free of cost and also about the General Hospitals. He also highlighted the medical assistance provided to villages in and around Puttaparthi through a fully-equipped mobile van. Eminent experts from the medical profession also spoke on this occasion. There was a very active interactive session at the end. The symposium was attended by 509 doctors, 111 paramedics and others associated with medical profession including participants from Sri Ramachandra University and medical consultants from Chennai. The press and electronic media covered the programme.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Roorkee organised a grand exhibition “Journey with Sai” covering the mission, message, visits and teachings



The exhibition was aesthetically arranged with a mix of pictures and messages in a very well-organised manner, thereby ensuring that volunteers could explain the exhibits to all visitors and properly guide them. The exhibition was open for visitors between 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. during three days from 29th to 31st August 2010. On 1st September 2010, the exhibition continued till 12 o’ clock at night and concluded with melodious Bhajans and Arati followed by distribution of Prasadam.

The exhibition was widely covered by local newspapers and TV channels. Some of the prominent newspapers which covered the exhibition were Amar Ujala, Dainik Jagaran, Hindustan, besides TV channels. New subscriptions of Sanathana Sarathi were registered during the course of the exhibition.



Sanathana Sarathi golden jubilee exhibition “Journey with Sai” was held at Roorkee, Uttarakhand from 29th August to 1st September 2010.

of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Nagar Palika complex, Roorkee from 29th August to 1st September 2010. The Chief Guest, Prof. S.C. Saxena, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee inaugurated the exhibition on 29th August 2010 in the presence of the Guest of Honour, Sri Pradeep Batra, Chairman, Municipal Council, Roorkee and a large number of dignitaries.

This has substantially broadened the base of the Sai Organisation in Roorkee. Video films based on the life and teachings of Bhagavan were also screened in the exhibition. The exhibition was a grand success and was very well received in Roorkee mainly due to the efforts of all members of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Roorkee.



On Adhering to Truth

KING ASHWAPATI GAVE HIS consent to solemnise the marriage of his only daughter Savitri with Satyavan. Some time after this, Sage Narada came to his court. During the course of his conversation with the sage, the subject of Savitri's marriage also came up. On coming to know of this, Narada said to the king, "Ashwapati! You have done a great blunder because the life-span of Satyavan henceforth is only one year. How can you be happy in life if your only daughter does not remain Sumangali (a woman whose husband is alive)? I have said what I wanted to say. Now it is up to you to do whatever you want". So saying, Narada left. Ashwapati was drowned in worry. He went to Savitri and told her what Narada had said. Then Savitri said, "Dear father! One should be truthful to one's words. Truth is the form of God. If we do not hold on to truth, it amounts to going away from God. What can we achieve if we become distant from God? When we follow truth and have faith in it, truth itself will give us all that is good. Do not worry. Stick to your words and fulfil your promise. Who can tell



By her power of truth, Savitri could prevail upon Yama, the god of death, to bring her husband back to life.

what destiny has in store for me? I will adhere to truth and marry only Satyavan".

It was her faith that ultimately saved her. Satyavan died after one year as predicted by Narada. But due to her strict adherence to truth, Savitri could argue with Yama, the god of death, and prevail upon him to bring her husband back to life. It was her power of truth, devotion and reasoning that saved the life of her husband.

**International Conference on
Cardiovascular Diseases – The Sri Sathya Sai Model, 25th and 26th October 2010
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram**

With the blessings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and as part of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, is hosting the "International Conference on Cardiovascular Diseases –The Sri Sathya Sai Model".

The conference will be attended by eminent cardiologists and cardio-thoracic surgeons from around the world in an endeavour to share and help synthesise various humanitarian approaches towards administering efficient cardiac care. The highlight of the event will be to showcase the cardiac care model of Sri Sathya Sai Institutes of Higher Medical Sciences at Puttaparthi and Whitefield, Bengaluru.

For more information please log on to our website: <http://psg.sssihms.org.in>

– Director



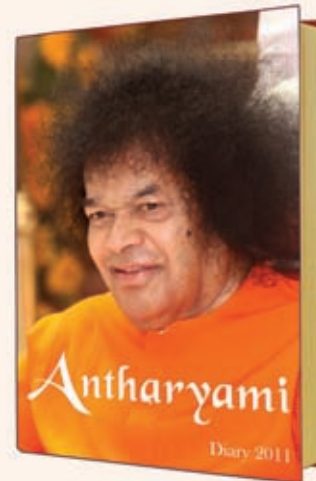
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– *Baba*

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