



# Sanathana Sarathi



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# Sanathana Sarathi

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Telephone : 287375

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Editor

**G.L. ANAND**



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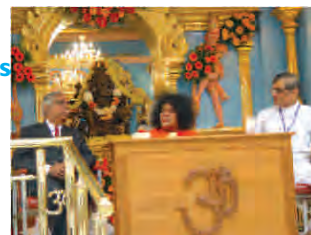
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"Love is the most important part of education. Bereft of love, education is artificial. Therefore, develop love in the first instance. Understand that the indweller is the same though bodies are different. You can experience Ananda (bliss) when you understand this fundamental principle."



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### Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 6th Oct. - 12th Oct. .... Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna
- 12th November ..... Global Akhanda Bhajan (12th Nov. 6 p.m. to 13th Nov. 6 p.m.)
- 19th November ..... Ladies Day
- 20th, 21st and 24th Nov. .... 8th World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
- 22nd November..... 24th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
- 23rd November..... 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al-Nahyan, Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research with Bhagavan during his visit to Prasanthi Nilayam on 27th August 2005.



# TRUE EDUCATION DEVELOPS HUMILITY AND DISCRIMINATION

*In childhood, one develops absorbing interest in play and enjoys the company of one's playmates. In youth and middle age, one is engrossed in cultivating worldly relations and earning money. In old age, one repents for not having this and that; one still craves for earning money without contemplating on God even at that ripe age. In this way, man wastes his precious human birth.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love!*

**I**N THIS WORLD, THERE ARE millions of educated people. Right from a child to an old man, everyone is interested in reading books and acquiring

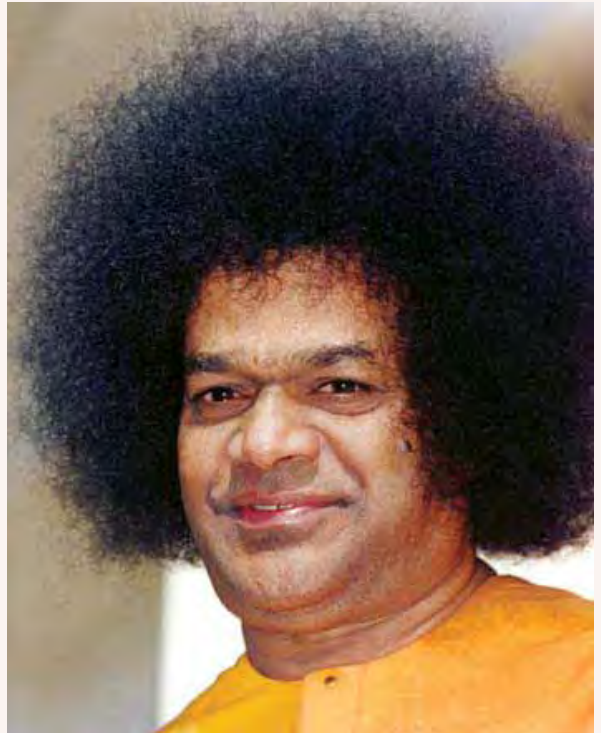
you are faced with problems in life. At the most, it helps you to eke out a livelihood.

**Serve your Parents and Society**

Right from a pauper to a millionaire, everybody wants his children to be well



***First and foremost, understand the fundamental principle of life. Beings are many, but the divine principle in them is one and the same. Hence, recognise the principle of divinity that is present in all in the form of the Atma. The Atma is the Adhara (support) and the body is the Adheya (that which is supported). Recognise the Atma as the fundamental basis of your life and everything else will be taken care of.***



knowledge. But what is the use of acquiring bookish knowledge? It cannot come to your rescue when

educated. Parents are prepared to spend any amount of money to provide education to their children



even if they have to resort to borrowing. In spite of the great hardship borne by the parents in educating them, the children do not have any gratitude towards their parents. They do not introspect: Who is responsible for all my development? Who has made me what I am today? Under these circumstances, we should enquire into the real purpose of education. People think that their education would ensure for them a highly respectable position in society. But the fact is, they lack wisdom in spite of their high academic achievements. We may study a number of books and master various branches of knowledge, but all this does not provide peace and happiness to us. All the knowledge that we acquire from books can take care of only our worldly needs.

Modern parents want their children to pursue only job-oriented education. But, what is the use of that education which does not bring about transformation in children? Neither are the children themselves benefited by this education nor are they able to render any help to their parents. Acquisition of education merely inflates their ego. Humility is the hallmark of true education. If a man lacks Viveka (discrimination) and Vinaya (humility), all his education is of no value. You should understand that your education is meant for the welfare and progress of society. But, in what way is society benefited by the educated people today? Actually, they are learning many things from society and deriving so many benefits from it. However, these so-called educated people lack even that much power of discrimination which is found in

*Everyone can have the vision of the Atma. All are endowed with such power. Enquire within yourself what you have achieved by reading a number of voluminous books. You have become hard-hearted. If this is the result of your education, why should you study at all? First of all, develop love. When you have love in you, everyone will become your friend. If your heart is not suffused with love, your life will become artificial. Life is meaningless without love.*

uneducated people. Then why should they become egoistic? There is hardly any humility in students today. They show no respect towards their elders nor do they render any service to society. What is the use of their education if they do not respect elders and serve society? In fact, they lead an artificial life. Their walking, talking, reading, writing, everything becomes artificial. If this is the result of education, then why should one go to college at all?

### **Acquire the Knowledge of the Self**

Every student must enquire within himself: "What for am I going to college? What am I supposed to do?" Only when he conducts self-enquiry can he understand the true meaning of education. Mere bookish knowledge is not true education. It is



mere transfer of information from Pustaka (book) to Mastaka (head) and from Mastaka to Pustaka without any real learning. They are wasting their time in the pursuit of bookish knowledge instead of acquiring practical knowledge. No doubt there is a lot of information in Pustaka, but what purpose does it serve if the Mastaka is filled with mud? You cannot derive any worthwhile results from such an education. The same was explained by the Chief Guest (Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah who spoke earlier) in his address. "Though all people learn and study, what is the ultimate result out of this?" he questioned. People spend thousands of rupees for acquiring education. What is the role the educated people play in society today? Do they contribute for peace in society? Do they try to bring about transformation in people in the community? No. In fact, they are unable to inculcate discipline even in their own children. Most children pretend to be well behaved and humble in the presence of their parents, but they behave like rowdies once they step out of their houses.

Students should strive to earn a good name in society. Today's education is limited to gathering information about the outer world. It does not prepare the students to turn inward and listen to their inner voice. One should acquire Atma Prabodha (Atmic knowledge). That is true education. Without awareness of the Self, all our knowledge is useless. Why should one acquire such knowledge? People today are interested only in exhibiting their power and position; they do not make any effort to cleanse their mind and heart. This is

the result of modern education. People today have learnt to speak sweet words, but they do not translate their words into action.

### **Put your Knowledge into Practice**

*Embodiments of Love!*

Mere reading of Granthas (books) is not important. You should assimilate their Gandha (essence). That is true education. People read a number of books, but what is the use? They merely quote from them what others have said. Is this what you are supposed to learn? You should listen to the voice of your heart. True knowledge is latent in everyone. Acquire this inner knowledge and share it with others. But hardly anybody thinks on these lines today.

*Embodiments of Love!*

Put into practice at least one or two principles that you have learnt. Set an example to others by your ideal conduct. There are many learned men. But, do they practise what they have learnt? They appear to be 'chief' (men of eminence), but in their conduct they are 'cheap'. *The end of education is character.* We should consider character as our very life-breath. Education without character is useless like half-cooked rice. We should first practise at least one or two principles ourselves; only then should we venture to preach to others.

Every human being is endowed with Manas (mind), Buddhi (intellect) and Atma (Self). What is the nature of the Atma? It is all-pervasive. True education is that which gives the knowledge of the Self. It originates from the heart. The reference in this context is to the spiritual heart and not the physical heart. The physical heart



can become a cause of your anxiety and worry. On the other hand, spiritual heart is the source of true knowledge. Those who attain true knowledge and set ideals to society by translating their knowledge into action are truly noble souls. If you do not put your knowledge into practice, then all your education becomes useless. It is what you practise that matters, not what you speak. It gives Me immense happiness when you put your knowledge into practice.

Happiness is union with God. You are not ordinary mortals. All are essentially divine. In order to realise your divinity, practice is most important. You can experience bliss only when you put your knowledge into practice. Bliss is the very nature of man. You are giving up all that which is natural to you and leading an artificial life. Wherever you see, in colleges and schools, students lack practical knowledge. They give importance only to bookish knowledge. True knowledge is that which originates from the heart. Heart is very important for human existence. When a child is born, the first thing that people observe is the heart beat. You should rely more on your spiritual heart than on the physical heart. Conscience is another name for the spiritual heart. Keep your heart pure. That should be your main endeavour. Whatever is done with love and purity of heart will give you total bliss. In fact, bliss is latent in everyone; but man is unaware of it. You should make every effort to realise your innate bliss. True bliss is eternal, non-dual and beyond the pair of opposites. It transcends duality. Where there is duality, there cannot be bliss. First of all, one should understand the principle of unity. Unity leads to purity and purity

leads to divinity. A true human being is one who strives for unity, purity, divinity. Otherwise, he is no better than birds and beasts. First and foremost, develop unity. Consider all as your brothers and sisters and live in harmony with all. In public meetings, we hear many speakers addressing the people as brothers and sisters. But, do they really mean what they say? Do you find unity among brothers and sisters today? No. True happiness lies in unity. Human life can be compared to a tree. Our relations are like branches and sub-branches. Contemplation of God is like the flower from which you will get the fruit of bliss. What is the use of life without bliss?

*Students! Embodiments of Love!*

You can certainly acquire secular knowledge. But you should not rest content with that. You should turn inward and acquire spiritual knowledge as well. Only then can you attain peace.

Love is the most important part of education. Bereft of love, education is artificial. Therefore, develop love in the first instance. Understand that the indweller is the same though bodies are different. You can experience Ananda (bliss) when you understand this fundamental principle. So many of you have assembled here in this Hall. Everyone's attention is focused on Swami. This is the contemplation of God. Let your mind be focused on God always.

When all the tanks and lakes become dry due to lack of water, you can imagine your joy when there is a continuous downpour.

You can well imagine the joy of a person who is offered delicious food after he has been starving for ten





days. Serve those who are in desperate need of your help. Give them happiness. You can attain divinity only through service. Human life is most precious. But man is behaving like animals and thus wasting his life.

*Students!*

You are students pursuing the objective of acquiring Vidya (education). You should endeavour to acquire true Vidya. There is no point in merely reading books without understanding the true meaning of Vidya. First and foremost, understand the fundamental principle of life. Beings are many, but the divine principle in them is one and the same. Hence, recognise the principle of divinity that is present in all in the form of the Atma. The Atma is the Adhara (support) and the body is the Adheya (that which is supported). Recognise the Atma as the fundamental basis of your life and everything else will be taken care of. Everyone can have the vision of the Atma. All are endowed with such power.

Enquire within yourself what you have achieved by reading a number of voluminous books. You have become hard-hearted. If this is the result of your education, why should you study at all? First of all, develop love. When you have love in you, everyone will become your friend. If your heart is not suffused with love,



***True education is that which gives the knowledge of the Self. It originates from the heart. The reference in this context is to the spiritual heart and not the physical heart. The physical heart can become a cause of your anxiety and worry. On the other hand, spiritual heart is the source of true knowledge. Those who attain true knowledge and set ideals to society by translating their knowledge into action are truly noble souls. If you do not put your knowledge into practice, then all your education becomes useless.***



your life will become artificial. Life is meaningless without love. Love your neighbour. If everyone shares his love with his neighbour, there will be no room for hatred at all. Share your love with everyone and live like brothers and sisters. Today we find conflicts and



differences even among brothers and sisters because they lack proper understanding. If people have love, they can understand each other better.

### Where there is Unity, there is Bliss

People do not understand the true meaning of love. Their love is tainted with physical and worldly feelings. When you understand the principle of love and develop love-to-love relationship, all will become one. The Vedas say, "*Sahasra Seersha Purusha Sahasraksha Sahasra Paad...*" It means that all heads, all eyes, all feet are His. Once you understand the principle of oneness that is present in all, you can live with the true spirit of brotherhood.

Our hand has five fingers and each of them has a specific duty assigned to it. All the fingers work in unison and harmony while performing a task. Once there was a quarrel among the five fingers of the hand as to which of them was the greatest among all. The thumb claimed, "It is not possible to undertake any work without me. Hence, I am the greatest." Then the index finger smiled and said, "Look here, oh thumb! How can you perform any task without my support? Moreover, I am used as a pointer to identify individuals. Hence, I am greater than you." The middle finger intervened and said, "There is no point in what you say. I am the tallest among all of you. Two of you on one side and two on the other are serving me as my ADCs. Hence, I am the greatest." Then the ring finger said, "I feel like laughing at your ignorance. Don't you know that people adorn me with gold rings studded with precious stones like

diamond, emerald, topaz, etc.? Hence, I am your king." In the end, the little finger said, "I always lead from the front when it comes to teaching a lesson to someone. Hence, I am your leader and you have to follow me." As the fingers were arguing among themselves in this manner, the heart intervened and said, "Oh ignorant ones! Each one of you is as important as the other. You cannot perform any task if there is no unity and harmony among you. In fact, you represent the five human values which are like five life-breaths of man." Hearing these words of wisdom, the five fingers realised their mistake and bent their heads in shame. A deep enquiry reveals that the heart is most important. Hence, one should follow the advice of the heart in all one's endeavours. Understand that all are one and each one is equally important. Do not become egoistic, thinking that you alone are very important. Do not waste your precious time in vain argumentation. Be friendly with all and face the challenges of life with unity and harmony.

### Students!

You have to lead your lives in an ideal manner. In fact, all ideals are latent in you. They cannot be learnt from books. The principle of 'I' is common in all. If someone asks, "Who is Sai Baba?" I respond saying, 'I'. If someone asks who is the Vice Chancellor? He will say, 'I'. The letter 'I' represents the principle of the Atma. The Vedas declare, *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). True spirituality lies in knowing the Self. But you are unable to know the Self as you identify yourself with the body. Identification with the body gives rise



to ego. One with ego cannot know the reality. Your welfare and also of others will be ensured when you have a firm conviction that all are one. Develop the spirit of unity. You cannot expect divinity to manifest in you unless you cultivate unity. The Vedas teach the lesson of unity:

*Let us all move together, let us all grow together,*

*Let us all stay united and share our knowledge,*

*Let us live together with friendship and harmony.*

(Telugu Song)

Some students do not share even their books with others. How can they attain happiness if they are so self-centred and narrow-minded? You should all stand united. Where there is unity, there is bliss.

*Embodiments of Love!*

There is only one thing that you have to learn. Develop love. The same principle of love is present in you, in Me and in everyone. I see only love in others. Hence, all are one for Me. You too should develop such feelings of love and equality. *All are one, be alike to everyone.* This is what you have to learn today.

Along with the acquisition of secular knowledge, you should also make efforts to understand the principle of oneness. Only then can you achieve unity and harmony. Take, for instance, this rose flower. It consists of a number of petals. Our heart can be compared to a rose flower. The petals of a rose flower may fade and fall by the next day, but the flower of heart remains ever fresh with its petals of virtues. It symbolises the principle of oneness.

People worship the Navagrahas (nine planets). You might have observed that there is perfect unity and harmony among the nine planets. (Bhagavan with a wave of His hand materialised a gold ring studded with nine types of gems.) Here you see a Navaratna ring. Whoever wears this ring will be protected by the Navagrahas wherever he goes; he will be successful in all his endeavours. (Bhagavan put the ring on the finger of Justice Venkatachaliah, the Chief Guest of the International Conference on Education amidst a loud applause of devotees.)

Develop unity. Be courageous and develop the necessary strength to face the vicissitudes of life. I don't want to take much of your time. Whatever you have learnt here, let it be imprinted on your heart. Only then can you attain peace and your education will become meaningful.

*Embodiments of Love!*

I shower My love and blessings on all of you (*loud prolonged applause*). Be always united and spend your time in bliss. Make your parents happy. Your body is given to you by your parents. Hence, first of all, express your gratitude to them for this gift. Only then can you find fulfilment in life.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho ...*")

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 17th August 2005 on the occasion of the International Conference on Education for the 21st Century: Education to Educare.**

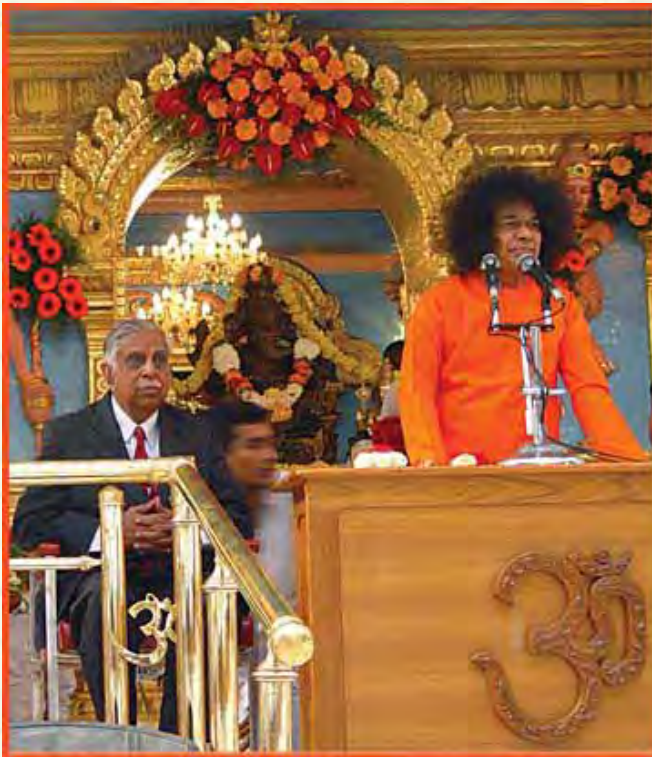


# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: Education to Educare

**A**N INTERNATIONAL Conference was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on 17th and 18th August 2005 at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of its Revered Chancellor,

The participants in the Conference included Vice Chancellors of Indian universities, Directors of Institutes of Education in India and overseas countries, eminent administrators and educationists. The Chief Guest of the Conference was

Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India. Both the Inaugural as well as Valedictory Sessions of the Conference were held in Sai Kulwant Hall, which was aesthetically decorated for this important occasion. The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba graced the occasion by His Divine Presence both in the Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions, and also gave an illuminating Discourse in the Inaugural Session, providing valuable insights and giving new direction to our present system of education.



## Inaugural Session

The proceedings of the Inaugural Session commenced on the morning of 17th August 2005 soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall at 8.00 a.m. Extending a hearty welcome to all the participants and

*Bhagavan giving His Divine Discourse on the occasion of the International Conference on Education for the 21st Century. Also seen is Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, the Chief Guest of the Conference.*

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The theme of the Conference was “Education for the 21st Century: Education to Educare”.

specially to the Chief Guest, Justice Venkatachaliah, the Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak



observed that education system of a country should play a pro-active role for society's development and nation's growth. Commenting on the present system of education, Sri Gokak said that change in this system was the need of the hour and insight for this change had been provided by Bhagavan by propounding the concept of educare which helped a student to realise his inner divine potential. Sri Gokak then introduced the Chief Guest and other speakers.

The Chief Guest, Justice Venkatachaliah then addressed the august gathering. Referring to the horrors of armed conflicts in the 20th century in which millions of people lost their lives, majority of them being civilians, Justice Venkatachaliah cautioned against the dehumanising effects of science and technology in spite of their immense benefits to mankind. The learned speaker observed that there were at present 400 million children below the age of 14 years in India, and the future of the nation depended on their proper education on the lines shown by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

After this, Bhagavan gave His Divine Discourse (full text given elsewhere) explaining the objectives of education and providing useful guidelines for the conduct of the proceedings of the Conference. After the conclusion of His Discourse, Bhagavan distributed mementoes to the participants. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the Institute students. The Inaugural Session of the Conference came to a close at 10.20 a.m. with offer of Mangalarati to Bhagavan.

## Proceedings of the Conference

After the Inaugural Session, the venue of the Conference shifted to the Administrative Building of the Institute where the proceedings of the Conference were conducted. The first session of the Conference commenced with the Keynote Address of the Chief Guest, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah. The theme of the second session chaired by Sri M.K. Kaw, former Education Secretary, Government of India was "Education for the 21st Century". The presentations in this session included "System of Education for 21st Century in the Context of Scientific and Technological Change" by Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute, "System of Education for the 21st Century – Role of Computer and Technological Aids in Teaching / Learning" by Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad, Vice Chancellor, University of Mysore, "System of Education and the Management of Change" by Dr. Yoginder Verma, Director, UGC Academic Staff College, Shimla and Prof. S. Chakravarty, Director, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Lucknow. The theme of the third session was "Inculcation of Human Values – The Sai Experience". It was chaired by Sri Venu Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director, TVS Motor Company. The presentations in this session included "Sai Students in the Corporate World" by Sri Samir Bhatia and a video show on Grama Seva. Institute students also made their presentations in this session.

Many important presentations of far reaching importance were discussed by the participants in fourth and fifth



sessions held on the morning of 18th August 2005 in the Administrative Building of the Institute. The theme of fourth session chaired by Prof. J.S. Rajput, former Director, NCERT, New Delhi was “End of Education is Character”. The presentations in this session included “Education and Character Building: The African Experience” by Sri Victor Krishna Kanu, Zambia, “Experience in Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Thailand and other Countries” by Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, Thailand and “The Constitution of India and the Education System in Relation to Character Building” by Prof. V. R. Mehta, former Vice Chancellor, Delhi University. The theme of the fifth session was “Experience Sharing”, and it was chaired by Prof. V.S. Prasad, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The presentations that were made in this session included “Education and Character Building” by Prof. G.S. Randhawa, former Vice Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Chandigarh, “Value of Education vis-à-vis Value Education” by Swami Atmapriyananda, Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Belur Math, Kolkata, “Health Practices: Their Role in University Work Ethics and Inculcation of Human Values” by Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras, and “Experience of Inculcation of Human Values among Women” by Prof. P. Geervani, former Vice Chancellor, Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Tirupathi. The proceedings concluded with Valedictory Address by Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Government of India.

### Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the Conference was held on the afternoon of 18th August 2005 in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The session began after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan who came to the Hall at 3.25 p.m. After the introductory remarks of Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute introduced the speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the Conference.

The first speaker was Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute. Quoting from an open letter addressed to the teachers of the world by a survivor of a concentration camp of Nazi Germany who witnessed inhuman acts of torture inflicted by so-called educated doctors, nurses and engineers, Sri Mahalingam remarked that there was an appalling lack of vision in the present system of education. He emphasised that education should not only develop the intellectual acumen of the students, it should primarily make them more humane. Quoting from the vision document given by the Revered Chancellor of the Institute for the university education, Sri Mahalingam observed that Bhagavan had set a lofty goal for education which was to inculcate in students the virtues of self-awareness, self-confidence and self-sacrifice so that they could attain the goal of self-realisation.

After this, Sri Jagdish Chandra, a student of M.Phil programme at the Institute, addressed the gathering.



The speaker narrated several anecdotes to highlight how Bhagavan inculcated human values in students in His simple and inimitable style by demonstrating to them His own example of self-sacrifice and selflessness. It was a rare opportunity for man to redeem his life by following the teachings of the Avatar who had incarnated on earth to grant the priceless gift of the vision of the Self to the entire mankind, said Sri Jagdish Chandra.

After these two powerful speeches of the students, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute gave a brief but insightful talk. Sri Giri spoke about the uniqueness of the system of education of Bhagavan which not only integrated values with academic studies but oriented the students towards social welfare also. The learned speaker added that remarkable achievements of Bhagavan's system of education had to be replicated to benefit the entire world. In this regard, he referred to the Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Thailand and the Sathya Sai School in Zambia, the success stories of which proved beyond doubt that this indeed was possible.

Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Government of India spoke next. She said that Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning provided a learning experience to educationists how to cope with the serious problem of indiscipline in educational institutions. Expressing her happiness at the conduct of the students of Bhagavan's institutions, Smt. Bansal opined that she had no doubt in her mind that the students here were being

moulded by Bhagavan as the future leaders of the country. In conclusion, the learned speaker prayed to Bhagavan for His continued guidance and blessings.

The concluding remarks of Sri Gokak, the Institute's Vice Chancellor, brought the curtain down on a truly enlightening Conference which not only discussed the problems of modern education threadbare but also provided guidelines for reforming the present education system in the light of the rich experiences gained by the participants while studying the education system devised by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in His educational institutions. After the conclusion of the proceedings of the Valedictory Session of the Conference, there were Bhajans led by the Institute students for about half an hour, which were followed by all in the Hall with great devotional fervour. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.45 p.m.

### **A Drama by the Institute Students on Unity of Faiths**

A drama was presented by the senior students of the Institute on the theme of unity of faiths on the afternoon of 17th August 2005. The drama brought out in a lucid manner the underlying unity and common teachings of the major religions of the world and portrayed how each religion of the world was designed by God for the redemption of man according to specific time and circumstances. Loftiness of the theme was highlighted through the powerful acting of the students to create a positive impact on

the audience who expressed their appreciation of the drama by their loud applause time and again during





the course of the presentation. In conclusion, the drama depicted that this unity was not a mere imaginary idea; it was a profound reality as could be witnessed at Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students at the end of the drama. He also gave them the opportunity of group photo with Him. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.10 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

A scene from the drama on unity of faiths enacted by the Institute students in Sai Kulwant Hall on 17th August 2005.

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5160	Tabletop	7.25x8.25	7	20	100	170	445	11
5154	Wall	11x17	4	17	85	150	345	8.5
5155	Wall	11x17	7	26	130	200	440	11
5156	Wall/CO	11x17	7	27	135	205	515	12.5
5157	Wall/BT	11x22	7	33	165	235	545	13
5158	Wall	9.75x19.25	7	25	125	195	425	10.5
Set	Full set	7 varieties One each		176	-	250	610	15

- Note:**
1. Wall – Wall calendar; BT – Book type; C. O. – Center Opening.
  2. All calendars have wire-o-wire binding.
  3. **Overseas rates** given above are for **airmail** only.
  4. The above rates are for **one destination / address only**.
  5. For **viewing calendars**, please visit our website [www.ssbpt.org](http://www.ssbpt.org)
  6. For bulk orders please email to us at [enquiry@ssbpt.org](mailto:enquiry@ssbpt.org)
  7. Payments to be made in favour of The Convener, SSSBPT, Prasanthi Nilayam by cheque / Bank draft with complete address to which the calendars are to be sent.
- \* **Tabletop** is made of **220 gsm foreign art card**.



# BRAHMAN IS THE ONLY CHANGELESS ETERNAL PRINCIPLE

*Peace has become extinct,  
Truth has become scarce,  
Mind is the cause for both,  
Listen, oh valiant sons of Bharat!*

**(Telugu Poem)**

*Embodiments of Love!*

**T**HE WORD BHARATIYA DOES not merely connote a person born in the land of Bharat. One who considers the culture and land of Bharat as his parents is a true Bharatiya.

## **Atmic Principle is the Fundamental Principle**

Many noble souls took birth in Bharat, followed its great culture and set examples to others. Adi Sankaracharya was one such great luminary who spread the culture of Bharat throughout the length and breadth of the country and earned eternal fame. He taught the philosophy of Advaita (non-dualism). Advaita philosophy of Adi Sankaracharya advocates the oneness of Jiva (individual soul) and Brahman (cosmic soul). Three centuries after him came Ramanujacharya who advocated the Visishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism) system of philosophy which emphasised Bhakti (devotion) and Prapatti (surrender) to God. Two centuries after Ramanujacharya, Madhwacharya propagated the Dvaita (dualism) system of philosophy and showed the devotional path to the people who were vacillating between one system

of philosophy and the other. Madhwacharya explained that there were, in fact, three concepts, namely, Dehatma Bhava (body consciousness), Jivatma Bhava (individual consciousness) and Paramatma Bhava (cosmic consciousness).

*The world appears to have innumerable names and forms. One should not get enmeshed in these names and forms. It is only when we transcend the names and forms and know the underlying source that it is possible for us to recognise the truth. And that truth is Tattwamasi (That Thou Art). That is Prajnanam Brahma (constant integrated awareness is Brahman). That awareness is Ayam Atma Brahma (this Self is Brahman).*

Nobody should extol a particular school of thought to deride others. The question of adhering to a particular school of philosophy depends upon the mental framework of an individual. The



fundamental principle underlying all the three schools of philosophy is one and the same, that is, Atma Tattwa (Atmic principle). One has to recognise this truth.

*Jewels are many but gold is one.*

*Cows are many but milk is one.*

*Beings are many but breath is one.*

*Castes are many but humanity is one.*


(Telugu Poem)

Not realising the fundamental unity underlying the three schools of philosophy, people adhering to the different schools of


various ornaments were made was gold, thus emphasising the fundamental principle of unity. The same principle was explained in a different way by Ramanujacharya who observed that though gold formed the basis for the ornament, it should be termed as gold chain since it had assumed the form of a chain. Adi Sankara, while advocating the Advaita philosophy, quoted the Vedic dictum *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). Ramanujacharya, however, said that there could be no Pratibimba (image) without a Bimba (object).



philosophy derided one another which gave scope for a number of misconceptions in the world about Bharat. In order to explain the truth *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings), Adi Sankara gave the example of ornaments. He explained that the metal with which



***Sarvam Brahmamayam Jagat (the entire universe is permeated by Brahman). We can understand this truth by a simple example. This is a white cloth and this is an ochre robe. Though the colours are different, the cloth is one. It may be of different colours and put to different uses, but the cloth is one and the same. This illustrates the fundamental principle of unity. The cloth is the source. One has to recognise the oneness of the source. Once you recognise the source, all differences vanish in no time.***



He thus explained the oneness of the object and the image, which he termed as Visishtadvaita. Another example given in this context was that of sugarcane juice. Juice is extracted from different varieties of sugarcane and a number



of sweetmeats are made out of it. Though the juice is one, it assumes different forms. While Adi Sankara emphasised the oneness of the juice and the sugarcane, Ramanujacharya dwelt upon the different forms the juice assumed. Thus, ever since the times of the three great Acharyas (preceptors) till today, there are a number of arguments and counter arguments between the three schools of philosophy. Sugar made out of the sugarcane juice is the main ingredient for making various sweets. Though there are different varieties of sweets, sweetness is common in all of them. Similarly, Brahman is the source and sustenance for the entire universe. Wherever you see, you will find the manifestation of Brahman in ever so many forms. The forms are subject to change, and are illusory in nature. Brahman alone is the eternal, changeless principle.

### Recognise the oneness of the Source of the Universe

The Upanishads declare that the entire universe is permeated by the same Atmic principle. This truth is contained in the Upanishadic dicta: *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings), *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings) and *Isavasyam Idam Sarvam* (the entire universe is permeated by God). Everything is Brahman. Since every object in this universe is the manifestation of Brahman, nothing can be disregarded or ignored. This principle of Brahman is “divine”. It is the “deep wine” of ignorance which deludes cynical and perverted people. Disregarding such perversions, we have to realise

that the fundamental principle of divinity is one only. This oneness in the culture of Bharat has been propagated since ancient times. In keeping with this great tradition, consider everyone, whether an ant or an animal or a human being, as verily Brahman. Some people may have a doubt in this context whether an animal can be equated with a human being. The behavioural pattern of animals is different from that of human beings. Considering this aspect, one may conclude that they are different. But the underlying Jiva Tattwa (principle of the Self) is one and the same in both. On the basis of this Jiva Tattwa, you cannot differentiate at all between living beings. That is what the Vedas declare: *Sarvam Brahmamaya Jagat* (the entire universe is permeated by Brahman). We can understand this truth by a simple example. This is a white cloth and this is an ochre robe. Though the colours are different, the cloth is one. It may be of different colours and put to different uses, but the cloth is one and the same. This illustrates the fundamental principle of unity. The cloth is the source. One has to recognise the oneness of the source. Once you recognise the source, all differences vanish in no time. Unfortunately, today we are giving importance to the names and forms, forgetting the basis and source for all names and forms. As a result, we are facing innumerable difficulties and sorrows.

Adi Sankara explained the difficulties and sorrows of man in this objective world and emphasised the need to seek refuge in the Divine Name in his famous Bhaja Govindam song thus:

*Bhaja Govindam, Bhaja Govindam,  
Govindam Bhaja Moodha Mathe,*



*Samprapthe Sannihithe Kale,  
Nahi Nahi Rakshati Dukrun Karane.*

(Oh foolish man, chant the name of Govinda; the rules of grammar will not come to your rescue when the end approaches.)

*Punarapi Jananam Punarapi Maranam,  
Punarapi Janani Jathare Sayanam,  
Iha Samsare Bahu Dustare,  
Kripayapare Pahi Murare.*

(Oh Lord! I am caught up in this cycle of birth and death; time and again, I am experiencing the agony of staying in the mother's womb. It is very difficult to cross this ocean of worldly life. Please take me across this ocean and grant me liberation.)

One has to analyse, in this context, as to what it is that is subject to birth and death again and again. The Deha (body) undergoes this cycle of birth and death, but the Atma is eternal. As long as the Atma remains in the body as the indweller, there will be consciousness in the body. The moment the Atma leaves the body, it becomes Jada (inert). This phenomenon is called death. Unable to realise this truth, man subjects himself to sorrow. Birth and death are only for the outer form, not for the Atma. Here is a short story in this context. Once there was a son of a Vedantic philosopher. He was learning the Vedas. By the time he completed his Vedic learning, his mother completed forty years of life. She left her mortal body in her 40th year. The son was deeply immersed in sorrow. Then, his Guru called him and tried to counsel him explaining, "Whom do you consider as your mother? Do you consider the body as your mother? No, this is not

your mother. You are wailing over a dead body which your mother has left. In fact, the body is right before you. Why should you weep? The Chaitanya Shakti (power of consciousness) has left the body. The Chaitanya Shakti is your father and mother, not the forms. So, do not have attachment to those forms."

No doubt, relationship does exist with the physical form for some time; but some time or the other, the body ceases to exist. When you realise this truth, you will understand the futility of the relationship with the physical body. The objects may be different, but the source and sustenance for the objects is only one. The same source assumes different names and forms. One should not go by the names and forms, which are subject to change. This simple truth based on the Mooladhara Tattwa (fundamental principle) has been explained by different people in different ways as high-sounding philosophy. This has given scope to some misconceptions. In fact, the underlying principle behind the Advaita philosophy of Adi Sankara and Visishtadvaita philosophy of Ramanujacharya is one and the same.

### **Develop the Awareness "I am I"**

#### *Embodiments of Love! Students!*

The profundity and depth of Vedanta is limitless and immeasurable. But this philosophy is being neglected today. We should therefore try to understand this philosophy and know its inner meaning. After deep study of Vedantic scriptures, Adi Sankara explained the Vedantic truth in simple and beautiful poetry for the benefit of mankind. He wrote a

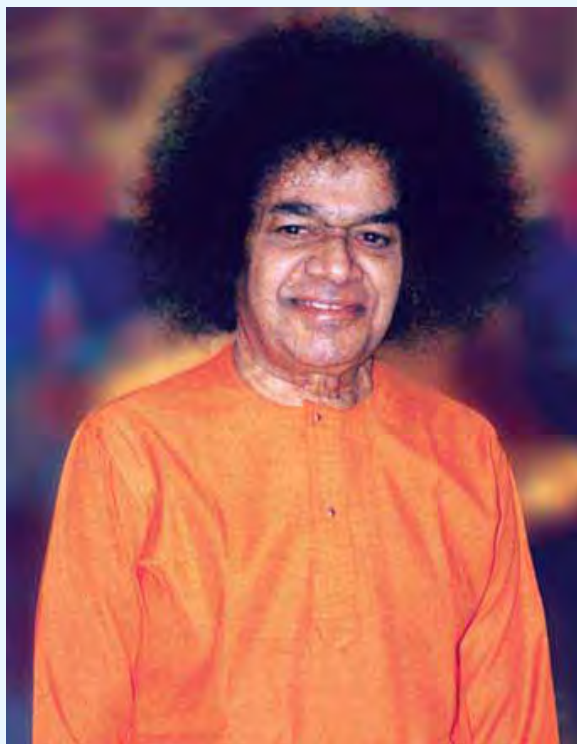


scholarly Bhashya (commentary) on the Bhagavadgita also. In his commentary on the Gita, he explained that there was Advaita in Dvaita and Dvaita in Advaita. Giving the essence of Vedanta, Adi Sankaracharya declared: *Brahma Sathyam Jagan-mithya* (Brahman alone is real, the world is unreal). The world appears to have innumerable names and forms. One should not get enmeshed in these names and forms. It is

awareness "I am That" and "That I am". When you are able to realise this truth, you will find that the principle of "I" underlies everything in the universe as the principle of unity. We have to recognise that "I" principle which is universal. It is a futile exercise to get into arguments and counter arguments over this matter and waste one's time. The only aspect you have to realise is "I am Brahman". When somebody questions



***Sugar made out of the sugarcane juice is the main ingredient for making various sweets. Though there are different varieties of sweets, sweetness is common in all of them. Similarly, Brahman is the source and sustenance for the entire universe. Wherever you see, you will find the manifestation of Brahman in ever so many forms. The forms are subject to change, and are illusory in nature. Brahman alone is the eternal, changeless principle.***



only when we transcend the names and forms and know the underlying source that it is possible for us to recognise the truth. And that truth is *Tattwamasi* (That Thou Art). That is *Prajnanam Brahma* (constant integrated awareness is Brahman). That awareness is *Ayam Atma Brahma* (this Self is Brahman). When you analyse the Mahavakya (profound statement) *Tattwamasi*, it will lead you to the

who you are, do not reply by mentioning your name. The proper answer would be "I am I". This "I" represents and explains everything. The name represents the name given to the body. You are not the body. Hence, say "I am I". Similarly, when you enquire from somebody who he is, his reply should be "I am I." Thus, all are "I am I." Everyone should strive to attain that state of unity. It is only when you think "I am



not I" that there will be many questions. Unfortunately, modern students have little faith in these profound Vedantic truths. So, they pay scant attention to them. There may be arguments for and against certain Vedic concepts. Do not enter into arguments. Always have the awareness "I am I". This "I" principle is beyond names and forms. It represents Brahma Tattwa (Divine principle), which is one without a second.

*Dear Students!*

You have to finally make a firm resolve to realise "I am I." You should not identify yourself with the body and say, "I am a child", "I am a young man", "I am an old man", etc. These differences relate to the age factor. What is the next stage after old age? Nobody knows. But "I" principle exists in the child, youth and old man. This is the fundamental and changeless principle. Therefore, when somebody enquires who you are, your reply should be, "I am I." If he is unable to understand this principle, do not bother; you hold on to your principle. It is only when you develop such firm conviction that you will be able to understand your true identity.

On 20th October 1940, I made a declaration revealing My true identity for the first time:

*Know that I am Sai in reality,  
Cast off your worldly relationships,  
Give up your efforts to restrain Me,*

*The worldly attachments can no longer  
bind Me,  
None, however great he may be, can  
hold Me. (Telugu Poem)*

Since I made this declaration on the 20th of October, people celebrate this day in a big way. We should not give too much importance to dates and try to celebrate them as Birthday, Avatar Declaration Day, etc. Here is a small story. Once Rukmini, the consort of Lord Krishna, invited Him to her palace saying, "Swami! Today is my birthday. Please come for dinner." Sathyabhama, another consort of Krishna who was present on that occasion, became angry. She argued with Rukmini, "If today is your Puttina Roju (birthday), this is also my Mettina Roju (the day on which I entered the in-laws' house). Therefore, He should visit only my house on this day." Lord Krishna was beyond birthdays and marriage days. However, He was prepared to visit both the houses. He did not differentiate between them. Thus, one has to recognise the principle of unity by transcending all dualities.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Bhaja Govindam Bhaja Govindam, Govindam Bhaja Moodha Mathe...*")

**– From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 20th October 2004.**

Matchsticks that have fallen into water cannot yield fire when struck, however vigorously you try. So, too, hearts soaked in worldly desires and designs may pour out parrot-exhortations but they can have at best only listeners, not practitioners who may receive the advice but would not accept it or act accordingly.

*– Baba*

# RECONNECT: SBMAF ALUMNI MEET

**A**N ALUMNI MEET OF THE School of Business Management and Finance (SBMAF) of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning was held at Prasanthi Nilayam. Spread over two days, i.e., 20th and 21st August 2005, this was one of those grand programmes which are being organised by the Institute as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan. Appropriately titled “Reconnect”, the programme provided an opportunity to the alumni to reaffirm and reinforce their commitment to ethics, morality and values in their professional and personal life which they had imbibed as students of the Institute. Significantly, on 21st August 2005 fell the 20th Anniversary of SBMAF.

Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of celebrations, was beautifully decorated with fresh flowers on this occasion. The programme on 20th August commenced at 3.45 p.m. after Bhagavan’s Divine Darshan amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the Institute students. After the introductory speeches of the Vice Chancellor, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak and two alumni of the Institute, Sri N. Sudhindran and Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, Bhagavan distributed 80 carpentry, electrical and plumbing tool kits along with clothes and gifts to selected 80 needy youth to provide them the means of employment. The youth came to the dais and offered their salutations to Bhagavan before receiving the kits, clothes and gifts. Bhagavan also blessed the souvenir entitled “Fragrance” brought out by the alumni of the SBMAF on this occasion.

## Panel Discussion

This was followed by a brilliant panel discussion organised by the

alumni of the SBMAF on the theme: “Man Management – The Key to Managerial Success”. The panelists who participated in this programme were: Sri T.N. Giridhar, Director, SSG Capital Ltd., London, Sri Sai Narain, Vice President and Country Marketing Director, Citi Bank, Taipei, Taiwan, Sri A. Raghavendra, Head – Supply Chain Management (South), Corporate Banking, HDFC Bank, Chennai, Sri Karthik Sheno, CEO, ICAM Solutions Private Limited, Bangalore, Sri Vijaya Krishnan, Proprietor - Managing Partner, Kavi Infotech, Trichy and Sri Aneesh Mohan, Consultant, Polaris, Chennai. The moderator of the panel discussion was Sri V. Krishnamoorthy, Channel Manager, Sify India – Satyam Group, Chennai. In his opening remarks, Sri Krishnamoorthy said that the alumni of the Institute had secured such high positions as Directors, Vice Presidents and Presidents of the reputed companies in the world since they received value-oriented management education under the direction of their Divine Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who envisioned the product of this Institute not only as best managers but also as best men in the world.

The panelists were happy to affirm that lessons of morality, ethics, discipline and spirituality learnt by them during their stay in the Institute proved to be the milestones of their personal as well as their company’s advancement, contrary to the false belief in some corporate circles that spirituality and money making could not go hand in hand.

Describing their personal experiences of Bhagavan’s divine support at crucial moments of their corporate life, some





*Panel Discussion organised by the alumni of the SBMAF on the theme: "Man Management – The Key to Managerial Success" in progress in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

of the panelists described how they were miraculously saved in many critical and stressful situations. One of them aptly observed that for Sai students, STRESS stood for 'Sai to the Rescue in Every Sticky Situation.' Narrating their stories of success as team leaders, the panelists described how the Integral System of Education of the Institute, particularly their participation in games and sports and social welfare activities like Grama Seva cultivated in them positive social attitude which contributed towards their success as team leaders. They emphasised that in corporate life as in any other walk of life, attitude determined the altitude. Describing how the alumni of the Institute were slowly bringing about a change in the attitudes in the corporate world, they narrated how their strict adherence to values and ethics had a sobering effect on others working in their company as also on the managers of other companies with whom they interacted.

They recalled to memory many blissful episodes of the teachings of Bhagavan who had taught them to

first manage themselves before managing others. Value-orientation received by them in the Institute had definitely helped them to become better and successful managers, they asserted. In the end, all of them expressed their deep gratitude to Bhagavan whose invaluable teachings had helped them in their personal as well as professional life. This very lively and illuminating panel discussion came to a close at 5.00 p.m.

Bhagavan sat through the entire programme of over one hour and blessed the panelists at the end of the programme. Special blessings were however in store for the panelists when Bhagavan later called them to the Bhajan Hall and spoke to them. The evening programme came to a close with soulful Bhajans sung by the alumni Bhajan singers. It was a treat for the ears and feast for the soul.

### Talks by the Alumni

The next part of the programme of the Alumni Meet was held on the morning of 21st August 2005. It commenced at 8.05 a.m. after the morning Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. It included talks by two of the alumni and a music programme entitled "Yadein".

Introducing the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to share their views with the audience, Sri Subash Subramanian, a research scholar of the

Institute referred to Bhagavan's declaration at the inauguration of SBMAF and remarked that Bhagavan





wanted to bring about a total transformation in the outlook of the managers. This, he said, had now become a reality as exemplified by over 700 alumni from 19 batches of the SBMAF, nearly 500 of whom were present here to testify this fact. Expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for His guidance and inspiration to the alumni, Sri Subramanian observed that they could not get a better management Guru than Bhagavan.

After the opening remarks of Sri Subramanian, Sri Amar Vivek, an alumni of the first batch of SBMAF, now a practicing lawyer in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and also in the Supreme Court of India addressed the gathering. Narrating how Bhagavan had personally guided him to set up rural service projects, Sri Vivek recalled to memory Bhagavan's words: "If you love Me, love My work" and "If you have My name and My hand, you will have no problem." Exhorting his fellow travellers to follow the path of spirituality and goodness shown by Bhagavan, Sri Vivek said that all the values were contained in this one advice of Bhagavan: Do Good, Be Good, See Good. The second speaker was Sri Ashok Sundaresan, a Chartered Accountant from Tamil Nadu. Sri Sundaresan said that the students of Bhagavan had the rare privilege of His Divine proximity, and therefore they had a great responsibility also to further His Divine Mission of transforming mankind. "To pay gratitude to our Divine Master, it was our

responsibility to align our life and all our actions to Him and seek only His recognition", counselled Sri Sundaresan.

### "Yadein": Nostalgic Memories

All through their two-day stay at Prasanthi Nilayam, the alumni were nostalgic about their sweet memories of the days passed in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan as students of the Institute. But its culmination came in the programme entitled "Yadein" (memories) which they presented soon after the talks of



*The alumni of the SBMAF presenting a music programme entitled "Yadein" in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

the two of the alumni on the morning of 21st August 2005. They poured out their heart in the group songs interspersed with the narration of past incidents recalling to memory the unlimited love and care they received from their Alma Mater during their stay in Bhagavan's Divine proximity as His students. They virtually relived their past days in these songs and incidents. Sung with purity of heart and full of sweet feelings, the songs overwhelmed not only the listeners but Bhagavan as well, who



sat through the entire programme and blessed all of them at the end of the programme. This excellently compered and flawlessly presented programme filled each heart with feelings of love, gratitude and sweetness. It concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.45 a.m.

There was virtually a downpour of Bhagavan's love and grace on the alumni on the morning of 22nd August 2005. First, Bhagavan called the seven members of the panel discussion for a personal interview. Thereafter, Bhagavan went into the Bhajan Hall and spent nearly one hour with the alumni seated there, showering His bountiful grace on them. Thus, all of them went back to their respective places fully drenched in the Divine Love of Bhagavan.

### **Karishye Vachanam Tava: A Drama**

A drama entitled "Karishya Vachanam Tava" (I shall carry out Your command) depicting some very critical situations and ethical dilemmas faced by the managers of today's corporate world was presented by the management students of the Institute on the afternoon of 21st August 2005. It started soon after Bhagavan's Divine Darshan in



*Arjuna surrenders to the Divine Will of Krishna - A scene from the drama "Karishye Vachanam Tava".*

Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.00 p.m. Portraying the difficulties and disappointments faced by two students of a Sai institution when they joined a pharmaceutical company, it excellently showed the grit and determination of the Sai students to carry out the command of their Divine Master for bringing about transformation in the outlook of the managers and clearing the mess of unethical practices which had overtaken their company. Down to earth realistic story, powerful acting of the students and excellent direction made the drama a superb comment on the present corporate world. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the students and posed for group photos with them. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. The programme came to a conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.00 p.m.

Ahamkara (ego) is the pest that attacks the roots of the tree of human life. Raga (attachment) and Dwesha (hatred) foster Ahamkara. The three together spell doom for human life. Man's life will shine forth brilliantly when his mind is filled with divine love.

- Baba

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## **Cultural and Music Programmes by U.K. Devotees**

A group of 400 devotees from the U.K. came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 26th July 2005 to 4th August 2005. During this period, they were given the coveted opportunity of presenting two music and cultural programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

The first programme entitled 'Sai Prem Ganga' comprising Vedic chants, instrumental music and a Bhajan medley was presented on the afternoon of 2nd August 2005 by a group of these devotees. At the outset, Sri Ajit Popat of the U.K. made a brief speech giving details of the pilgrimage and their programme. Sri Popat observed that every moment spent in the proximity of Bhagavan was a golden moment. It was the grace of Bhagavan which protected and sustained man, he said. Music programme followed after this and began with prayer to Lord Ganesh, the remover of obstacles. A group of nine boys and girls then recited Vedic Mantras. It was sheer delight to hear sacred Vedic chants from the children of an overseas country in appropriate rhythm and intonation. This was followed by solo devotional songs and instrumental music medley by a visually challenged lady devotee, Ms. Charlotte. The programme of group Bhajans started after this and continued up to 5.30 p.m. At the conclusion of Bhajans, Arati was offered to Bhagavan.

The U.K. devotees presented their second programme on the afternoon of 3rd August 2005. The programme began at 4.15 p.m. with recitation of

verses from the Vedas and the Quran. A group of singers dressed in Qawali costume then made a presentation of Qawalis in praise of Bhagavan. This was followed by Bhajans by the Institute students. The programme came to a close at 5.15 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

## **Devotional Music by USA Devotees**

An excellent programme of devotional music was presented by Sathya Sai Spiritual Education children from Norwalk Sai Centre, Connecticut (USA) in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 1st August 2005. The programme which began at 4.00 p.m. in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan enthralled the audience for nearly 45 minutes with its melodious and soulful English songs. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation and blessed the children and organisers at the end of the programme. Bhagavan materialised a gold chain with a pendant for the lady director of the music programme. He also materialised a gold ring with 13 diamonds for a male organiser. Interestingly, the children sang 13 devotional songs.

Soon after this excellent musical presentation, Institute students presented a musical medley of devotional songs in praise of their Beloved Bhagavan. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.30 p.m.

## **Celebration of Varalakshmi Vrata at Prasanthi Nilayam**

In a grand function held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Varalakshmi Vrata (worship of goddess Varalakshmi, the





*An imposing idol of Varalakshmi adorned with flowers on the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

bestower of prosperity and auspiciousness) was performed on the morning of 12th August 2005, in which more than 900 ladies took part. Sai Kulwant Hall presented a festive look with various decorations on this occasion. Huge pictures of goddess Varalakshmi and Bhagavan adorned the front pillars of the Hall, while a beautiful stone idol of the goddess was placed on the dais amidst eye-catching decoration of flowers.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. in a grand procession led by Nadaswaram musicians. As soon as Bhagavan entered the Hall, the Institute students started Veda chanting. Bhagavan was offered a traditional welcome with Poornakumbham when He reached the dais after showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees and the

ladies who were participating in the Varalakshmi Vrata.

The programme started after the lighting of the sacred lamp by Bhagavan before the idol of Varalakshmi. At the outset, the priests recited auspicious chants and Ganapati Prarthana (worship of Lord Ganesh). They also explained the significance of this Vrata which was being celebrated for Loka Kalyana (welfare of the world), promotion of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa, and for the peace and happiness of the family of the participants. As the priest gave instructions for the performance of the worship of goddess Varalakshmi, the participating ladies carried out the rituals with



*Varalakshmi Puja being performed in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

the Puja material provided to each one of them by the organisers. The Puja came to a close at 8.30 a.m. with sacred Vedic chants to propitiate the



goddess. The Institute students chanted Vedic Mantras while Prasadam was distributed to all. In the end, Bhagavan went into the rows of all the ladies who participated in this Vrata and showered His blessings on them. Bhagavan also blessed the two priests who conducted the Puja; He materialised a gold ring with diamonds for one of them. The programme in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.30 a.m. The participants were offered a sumptuous lunch in the South Indian canteen on this day.

In the afternoon, an excellent presentation of Carnatic vocal music was made by the famous Carnatic singer Smt. Nithyashree Mahadevan in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the outset, the artiste expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for giving her this golden opportunity of singing in His Divine Presence on the auspicious occasion of Varalakshmi Vrata at Prasanthi Nilayam which she considered as Bhuloka Vaikuntha (heaven on earth). Starting her devotional songs with a prayer song in praise of Lord Ganesh, the artiste enthralled the audience with her devotional songs in praise of Varalakshmi and Bhagavan. Sung with deep feelings of devotion in her sweet voice, the songs had a captivating effect on the audience who expressed their appreciation of the songs with applause at the end of each song. The musical presentation was truly the grand finale of this auspicious function. Bhagavan blessed the artiste at the end and gave her a silk Sari. The programme came to a happy

conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.00 p.m.

### Independence Day Drama

Patriotic fervour was seen at its best in the drama entitled "Swaarajya" presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on the afternoon of 15th August 2005 in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam. Enacted in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan, the drama called to memory the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters to liberate India from the colonial rule of foreigners. The episodes of the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, Sukh Dev, Jatin Das for the freedom of the country were so



*A scene from the drama "Swaarajya" presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on 15th August 2005.*

realistically depicted that all eyes became moist with tears. Similarly, the strict adherence of Mahatma Gandhi to the values of Ahimsa and Sathya, the dynamic leadership of Subhash Chandra Bose and the valiant struggle launched by Alluri Sitaramaraju from the forests of Andhra Pradesh recaptured the spirit



of India's freedom movement. The concluding episode of the drama showed that mere political independence was not enough; it could not bring peace and prosperity to people. What was more important was Swaarajya, freedom of the spirit of man from the shackles of greed, jealousy, selfishness and other negative feelings. The drama showed that only the realisation of this eternal truth could provide real freedom, peace and happiness to man in the world, as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Realistic story, lively acting, appropriate patriotic songs and flawless direction made this play a very appropriate Independence Day presentation. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the cast at the end of the drama. He also gave them the coveted opportunity of group photo with Him. The programme which started at 4.15 p.m. came to a close at 5.35 p.m. with singing of National Anthem by all.

### **Sri Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**

The holy festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great piety and solemnity on 27th August 2005. The venue of the celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated for this occasion. Sweet notes of Nadaswaram reverberated in the Hall to welcome Bhagavan on this holy day. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.50 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on one and all by

taking two rounds of the Hall. At 8.15 a.m., the grand procession of cows from Gokulam and richly bedecked Sai Geeta entered the Hall. The procession included Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. While chanting continued, Prasadam was distributed to all. Meanwhile, Sai Geeta came near the dais and received the love and blessings of Bhagavan who fed it with fruits. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.30 a.m.

The programme in the afternoon started with a specially prepared musical medley of Stotras and devotional songs sung by the students of the Institute in praise of Lord Krishna. Soulful recitation of Stotras and captivating devotional songs in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan filled every heart with spiritual vibrations. This excellent musical presentation was followed by two speeches on the significance of this holy festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami. First to speak was Dr. M. Sainath, a faculty member of the Institute. Referring to the teachings of Lord Krishna in the Gita, Dr. Sainath remarked that the Gita offered solution to all the problems of life which man today was faced with. Narrating the story of a child lost in a fair, he said that the child was not attracted by anything in the fair and was happy only when he got the hand of his father. In the same way, man should hold on to the hand of the Avatar who had incarnated on earth to redeem mankind, said Dr. Sainath. The second speaker was Sri Shashank Shah, an M.Phil student of the Institute. Sri Shah narrated a few incidents from the life of Dwapara Yuga Avatar, Lord Krishna

*Continued on page 277 ...*



# 80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THE WORK CONTINUES

## 1. Community Service Programmes

**Indonesia:** The Sai Study Group, Medan organised a series of service programmes during the months of February to June 2005. Medical camps and food distribution were provided in the following areas: Pulo Sicanang, Rantau Panjang, Citaman Jernih, Bagan Kuala, Ujung Kubu and Sei Bulu.



*A patient being treated at the medical camp in Medan, Indonesia*

During the five month period, a medical team consisting of five doctors and 50 Sai volunteers served a total of 3,433 patients. The ailments treated included asthma, skin problems, rheumatism and influenza. Free medications were also distributed to the patients. Sai workers conducted several food distribution drives to the needy people in the above locations. Each family received a package consisting of, on an average, five kg rice, two tins of milk and a variety of other items of daily need. To-date, a total of 19,300 kg rice and 890 tins of

milk have been distributed, benefiting over 5,000 families.

**Taiwan:** An all-day Parenting Seminar was held at the Taipei American School on 27th March 2005. Dr. Pal Dhall and Dr. Tehseen Dhall from Australia conducted this seminar, which was attended by Chinese school teachers, SSEHV teachers and parents. Dr. Pal Dhall pointed out that all parents wanted to see their children grow up to be moral individuals, but most lacked the necessary skills to do so. He spoke about the invasion of technology into our homes which was bringing along with it many negative influences, and about how the modern system of education was emphasising academic performance alone, and not ethics and character. The dynamics of enabling and disabling parenting practices set many heads thinking and everyone realised how sacred a duty it is to raise a child and many left with a greater understanding of the importance of the Sri Sathya Sai Value-based Parenting Programme. Two workshops were followed by an interactive question and answer session. The programme concluded with the lighting of a candle and passing on the light to everyone, with the prayer that the lamp of wisdom shine brightly forever in all hearts and that the valuable lessons learnt during the seminar help enrich lives and make better parents.

## 2. Medical Camps

**South Africa:** On 3rd July 2005, a dental camp was organised at the



Catherine Booth Hospital where 165 patients were treated. 145 dental extractions were performed and medical services were provided to 20 more patients. On 16th and 17th July 2005, an eye camp was held at the Catherine Booth Hospital where 21 cataract operations were performed. A team of two ophthalmic surgeons and two ophthalmic nurses conducted these surgeries. These volunteer surgeons were impressed with the voluntary service programmes carried out by the Sathya Sai Organisation and graciously agreed to be part of the team. They also assisted in obtaining important equipment such as microscopes that were necessary for the operations. With Swami's grace and blessings, the Sai Organisation of South Africa is thus making great inroads and progress in strengthening outreach programmes to the disadvantaged members of their communities.

**USA:** A daylong medical and dental camp was conducted on Saturday, 25th June 2005 at the Central Arizona Shelter Services facility in Phoenix, Arizona. 80 volunteers from all across the State participated in this camp which served underprivileged homeless people. Twelve physicians and six medical assistants comprised the medical team that rendered services to 150 patients at the camp. Prevention and health education were emphasised in the following areas: smoking, hepatitis and HIV, alcoholism, diet and exercise, and mammogram and pap smear tests for early cancer detection in women. Free haircuts were provided to nearly forty persons. Patients were provided with

hygiene kits and appropriate referral services with follow-up care. Sai Spiritual Education children made posters on healthy living. At the dental clinic, a team consisting of four dentists and two dental assistants rendered services to 57 patients. The procedure consisted of thorough examination, evaluation and treatment pertaining to extraction, filling and cleaning of teeth. Free lunch was served around noon time to approximately 375 people.

The Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Central San Jose conducted a Health and Wellness Screening service on 9th April 2005 in the Sunnyvale, California community. The location of the project, Fair Oaks Park, was a predominantly Spanish neighborhood which was selected with considerable help from the City Mayor's office. 49 people were served during this half-day camp, with the participants predominantly of Spanish and Asian Indian origin. The services included blood glucose level, blood cholesterol level, blood pressure, height, weight, and BMI skin fat caliper measurements; risk factor profile, nutritional counselling, exercise recommendations; smoking cessation counselling, alcohol and drug rehab information. The medical team consisted of five doctors, three registered nurses and two medical assistants. More than 50 non-medical volunteers including SSE students participated in the areas of registration, documentation, ushering, sandwich preparation, distribution of flyers, poster displays, and transportation. Approximately 7 volunteers rendered help translating for Spanish patients in the areas of registration, ushering, and doctor's





recommendations. A list of local health resources (public hospitals, community hospitals, free clinics and planned parenthood centres) within a 10-mile radius of the project location was prepared and shared with the patients for follow-up. Patients were served food. The Mayor of City of Sunnyvale, Sri Dean Chu visited the project and commended the loving and disciplined service rendered by the Sai workers. The Mayor and the City of Sunnyvale have invited the Sai Organisation to conduct similar projects in other areas of the city in future.

### 3. Public Meetings

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** On 18th June 2005, a public meeting was held by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. 137 people attended the meeting, which featured two speakers – Dr. Thorbjørn Meyer and Ms. Vesna Krmpotic. The film ‘His Work’, which was translated into the Bosnian language, was screened at the end of the meeting. Approximately 100 copies of ‘Duga’, the official magazine of the Sathya Sai Organisation of BiH, and nearly 1000 bookmarks with Bhagavan’s photo and quotes were distributed to the attendees. The audience was very much moved by the beautiful life and teachings of Bhagavan. That a meeting of this magnitude could be held in a country which had until recently seen the ravages of war is an eloquent testimony to the healing power of Bhagavan’s Divine Love.

**USA:** The Sai Public Meeting held in the Gershman Hall in Center City

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 12th March 2005 attracted over 300 attendees. Smt. Cathy Daub, the mid-Atlantic SSE regional coordinator, was the master of ceremonies for this event. The first speaker, Dr. David Gries, gave a presentation on the wonderful humanitarian works of Bhagavan Baba. He spoke with sincerity, love and humility and the assembled guests were moved by the magnitude of Bhagavan’s compassion as expressed through the numerous service projects that the Sai Organisation had accomplished and continued to accomplish. The second speaker, Dr. Sam Sandweiss, articulated the essential teachings of Bhagavan – that we are all sparks of divinity, but we allow our minds to interfere with the flow of love and light in our lives. The film ‘His Work’ was screened next, at the end of which a brief pause of awe and reverence ensued. Then a wonderful applause of gratitude and appreciation arose from the audience. Every heart felt Bhagavan’s grace that flowed freely to all present and out into the world sending divine vibrations of peace, love and harmony.

– Prasanthi Council

## B H A R A T

**Andhra Pradesh:** Ranga Reddy district carried out “Bheema Ratha Shanti Utsav” at Vennachedu, Kosagi, Tandur and Parigi covering 115 old couples above 70 years on the lines it was conducted at Prasanthi Nilayam recently. The couples were given new clothes and gifts and treated to sumptuous lunch along with their family members. This district conducted “Farmers Meet” at Kerelly on 2nd July



2005 in which senior scientists of agriculture interacted with 55 farmers assembled and suggested suitable remedial measures to the problems faced by them in cultivation. This district held eye check-up camps at Vennachedu, Kosagi, Tandur and Parigi villages, selected 37 cataract patients and got them operated at Government Hospital, Vikarabad. The patients were given new clothes at the time of discharge.

Prakasam district conducted free eye check-up camps, examined 1312 patients and selected 178 cataract patients for operation. Steps are being taken to get them operated in batches. This district built a school building under Sri Sathya Sai Gurukula Seva Yagnam and handed it over to the concerned authorities in an inaugural function on 26th June 2005.

Srikakulam district conducted a series of medical camps, treating 1512 patients and one veterinary camp, treating 869 animals. It dug 4 drinking water wells at 4 different places, distributed 800 Amrutha Kalasams (food provisions) to selected poor families, gave 56 uniforms to mentally challenged children, and honoured 81 teachers during Guru Purnima.

**Tamil Nadu:** Spiritual marriage for 36 elderly couples was performed in Chennai. The couples dressed in the traditional garments,

assembled in Sri Sudharsan Marriage Hall near Varadharaja Swami Temple, and came in a procession to the venue. Messengers of Sai, Mahila Youth, Gurus and Mahila Vibhag assisted the couples individually. The marriage was conducted in a traditional manner on the morning of 24th July 2005.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** On the occasion of Guru Purnima, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Lucknow carried out Seva activities in two new villages, Naktamau and Jallabad, on the outskirts of Lucknow. The Gram Pradhans (village heads) suggested that there was a need to conduct an eye check-up camp and a veterinary camp. It was also decided to carry out Narayana Seva on a large scale by providing food for each of the 175 households of the villages. Food packets were prepared by devotees while chanting Vedic hymns and Sai Gayatri. Seva Dal volunteers personally handed over the food packets to each household. More than 40 patients were examined during the eye camp and 19 spectacles were distributed free. The veterinary check-up camp was conducted by going door-to-door. 148 animals were examined and medicines were given free of cost wherever required. The programme ended with Sai Bhajans by devotees which were also attended by the villagers.

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and Kali Yuga Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and pointed out similarities between them. He observed that Lord Rama incarnated to establish Sathya and Dharma and Lord Krishna came to establish Santhi and Prema while Sai Avatar has come to

establish all the values, viz., Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. This was followed by Bhajans led by the Institute students. The celebrations of this holy festival concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.50 p.m.



# Who is Poor ?

Chinna Katha

**A** KING SET OUT WITH A HUGE army to attack a neighbouring kingdom with the objective of extending his kingdom. On the way, he camped at a place with his army to take rest. It was a hilly area. Cold wind was blowing there. While strolling here and there, the king saw a person on the top of the hill. He became curious to know who he was. So, he climbed the hill. That person was wearing only a loin cloth. After seeing him in this condition, the king felt, "Poor man! He is undergoing great suffering due to extreme cold." Thinking thus, he gave him the warm Kashmir shawl and Kurta (shirt) which he was wearing. Then that person said to the king, "Sir! I have my own covering for the protection of my body. It has been protecting me since my birth, and will remain with me till death." The king was surprised at this and asked, "What covering? Where is it? It is not seen anywhere." Pointing towards the skin of his body, the man replied, "This is the covering which has been given to me by God. You give your Kurta and shawl to someone who is more poor than me." The king asked, "Is there anyone more poor than you? Where is he?" The man asked the king, "Well, where are you going now? What is the task that you are going to

perform?" The king said, "I am going to attack the neighbouring kingdom with full preparation so that I can merge it with my kingdom." The man said, "Oh king! You want to cause the death of thousands of soldiers



*The man said to the king, "It is you who need this Kurta and shawl more than me."*

just to acquire some square miles of land. Isn't it your covetousness that would be responsible for it? Not contented with what you have, you are craving to have more and more. Then, you are the poorest of all. Who can be more poor than you? It is you who need this Kurta and shawl more than me."

This remark was an eye-opener for the king. He understood that one who lacked contentment was truly poor. Realising this truth, he turned his army back towards his kingdom.

When thoughts and feelings are impure and agitated, one cannot be calm and happy. When the mind is polluted, reactions are polluted. To keep the mind clean, one has to analyse sympathetically situations involving others and their activities, and then decide on how to react to them.

- Baba



## Less Luggage, Happy Journey

Life is like a train journey; young children have a long way to go, but elders have to alight from the train pretty soon. You must learn to make your journey comfortable and happy. Do not carry heavy, unwanted luggage with you that will make the journey miserable. Do not indulge in fault finding and picking quarrels with others. Do not desire to have the best things for yourselves only. Share with others around you the good things you are given. Anger, hatred, envy and jealousy are the heavy luggage that I ask you to avoid taking with you on the journey.

- *Baba*

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