

2012

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
JAN-FEB 2012**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful 2012!

Difficult times like these, also offer opportunities to those who wish to extend a helping hand to those in need.

SEVA is the means by which Sai devotees may assist those who are experiencing hardship as a result of severe 'cut-backs' in every area of our daily lives. And by all accounts this New Year will be a particularly difficult one for most people in this country, and indeed elsewhere. Nobody, I fear, is going to be exempt in these times of hardship, so it is up to our Office Holders to establish structures by which these services can be implemented and put into action on behalf of those in need.

SEVA may be an individual or group activity, so nobody need feel isolated in their endeavours.

Swami is always with us and we can be assured that He will guide and assist all in this noble work. So I ask the Committee to heed this request, and bear in mind the words of our Lord Sai, "*Hands that help, are holier than lips that pray!*" Ed.

He Arrived Unnoticed

Swami's school in the small town of Muddanahalli, is located on the roadside between Puttaparthi and Bangalore. In Feb. 1993, the school celebrated its Anniversary and Swami was invited to attend. On the given day, the teachers, students and guests waited long for His arrival, and although the cultural programme went ahead without His presence till the entire programme was over, and still no Swami.

There was an aura of disappointment hanging over the gathering like a dark shadow.

However, later when the photographs of the occasion were developed and processed, everybody was astonished to see Swami standing amongst the dancing children.

Not only that, but Swami was seen not only in one single place, but at five different places wearing a different dress at each place!

**You must subject yourself
to the hammer of discipline and
the chisel of pain/pleasure,
so that you transcend them and
become Divine.**

Swami's Every Word Is Pregnant With Meaning

"I had the opportunity to act in the play '*The Kingdom of Heaven*'. This was a drama on the life of Jesus Christ," said the Warden of the Sri Sathya Sai Hostel in Brindavan, Prof. in SSSU, Dr. Ravi Kumar.

Written and acted by former students, who prayed to Swami to permit them to perform it. Swami checked the list of actors and picked one out, saying, "*Ask Ravi to play this role.*"

"Having finished my education in Swami's College, I was doing a post-graduation at Anantapur, 80kms. from Puttaparthi. The boys replied, 'Swami, Ravi is not here, he is studying elsewhere.' Swami replied, "*No, he comes on weekends, he can practice at that time.*"

"I was given the role of a blind beggar, who is cured by Jesus Christ. During rehearsal Swami entered through the side and said, "*See! Sai Baba came and this fellow got his eyesight!* We all laughed! The same thing happened next day and again

Swami said, *"See, Sai Baba came and he got his vision back!"*

"After much interaction was going on, Swami suddenly asked, *"Did you hear the applause during Darshan?"*

"Yes, Swami, we heard the applause, and He looked at me and said, *"You know, I gave vision to an 18 year old girl who was born blind!"* Looking straight at me He said, *"And I will give you also!"* We all laughed, because we thought He was joking, since I was playing a blind beggar in the drama. But we never realised that Swami was actually indicating to me what was to come in the future - that I would lose my eyesight, and that He would give it back!

It was five years later that I burnt my eyes completely while doing an experiment in the Chemistry lab and gained my vision back only by His Grace!"

"Every session with Swami before the actual performance, therefore, was a boon to the students. Because the Supreme Teacher would take that opportunity to instil attitudes and behaviours, knowledge and wisdom, faith and conviction into the hearts and minds of His wards, which could mould them into masterpieces of men. And to this end, He would invest any amount of time and exert Himself to any length."

If your foot slips, you sustain a fracture;

if your tongue slips, you fracture someone's faith and joy.

That fracture can never be set right; that wound will fester forever.

Therefore, use the tongue with great care!

Amazing Story of Peng Shuilin

(The following is an amazing article by Madhvi Sai, that appeared recently in the U.K. Sai publication, "Sanathana Dharma")

In life we keep complaining about what is or why we don't have. Half the time we seem dissatisfied, though full-bodied and free to choose. Fat people say, "I want to be slim", and skinny people say, "I want to be fatted." Poor people want to be rich and rich people are never satisfied with what they have.

Peng Shuilin is 78 cms high. He was born in Hunan Province, China. In 1995, in Shenzhen, a freight truck sliced his body in half. His lower body and legs were beyond repair. Surgeons sewed up his torso!

Peng Shuilin, now 37, and spent nearly two years in hospital in Shenzhen, southern China, undergoing a series of operations to re-route nearly every major organ or system inside his body. Peng kept exercising his arms, building up strength, washing his face and brushing his teeth.

He survived against all odds. Now Peng Shuilin has astonished doctors by learning to walk again after a decade. Considering Peng's plight, doctors at the China Rehabilitation Rescue Centre in Beijing, devised an ingenious way to allow him to walk on his own, creating a sophisticated egg-cup-like casing to hold his body, with two bionic legs attached.

It took careful consideration, skilled measurement and technical expertise. Peng has been walking the corridors of Beijing Rehabilitation Centre, with the aid of his specially adapted legs and a re-sized walking frame.

RGO is a reciprocating gait, Ortho's is attached to a prosthetic socket bucket. There is a cable attached to both legs so when one goes forward, the other goes backwards.

Rock to the side, add a bit of a twist and a leg without the weight on it advances, and while the other one stays still, giving a highly efficient way of ambulation. Oh, so satisfying to 'walk' again after ten years with half a body!

Hospital vice-president Lin Liu said; "We've just given him checkups, he is fitter than most men his age." Peng Shuilin has opened his own bargain supermarket, called the *Half Man-Half Price Store*.

The inspirational 37 year old has become a businessman and is used as a role model for other amputees. At just 2ft 7ins tall, he moves around in a wheel chair giving lectures on recovery from disability. His attitude is amazing, he doesn't complain.

"He has good care, but his secret is cheerfulness... Nothing ever gets him down."

You have a whole body. You have feet. His life is a feat of endurance, a triumph of the human spirit in overcoming adversity. Next time you want to complain about something trivial, don't! Remember Peng Shuilin instead.

Life is a gift. Today before you say an unkind word - think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about your food - think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion.

Today before you complain about life - think of someone who went too early to Heaven. Before whining about the distance you drive - think of someone who walks the same distance with his feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - think of the unemployed, and disabled, and those who wish they had your job. And when depressed thoughts seem to get you down - put a smile on your face and think, you are alive and still around!

Never Complain.

Never Ridicule Others.

The chief cause of ill health and death, are fear and loss of faith.

If one concentrates on the Atma, which has no change in characteristics, no subtraction or senility and no decline or damage, men can conquer death.

The Language of the Heart

The Lord has the same affection for all creatures, and whosoever remembers Him, resides in Him, and the Lord in turn.

Swami's powerful dictum, "Love All, Serve All... Help Ever, Hurt Never!" is the fervent prayer that Swami gave us, for His Divine intervention, as in the case of saving six blind and emaciated lionesses from a Circus troupe.

During her time-off from duties as a stewardess, this kind-hearted lady read the news about a circus that came to town, and wondered why people trap and snatch away these animals away from their families and be subjected to the human will, forced to mimic 'their' ways.

These six lionesses had been examined by Vets. and certified two as blind in both eyes, one partially blind and one blind in one eye and a cataract in the other. All were very weak, dehydrated and unfit to 'work'...all were beaten, whipped, goaded with sharp instruments in their abdomen, one was tied and picked up by her tail!

The circus owners had powerful friends and money on their side, while she had to rely on compassion and prayer, while clutching her

picture of Swami, at the legal battle in court, as the circus owners sat quietly confident and intimidating as the case against them went on. The Judge even tilted his favour towards the owners as she stepped-up her pleas to Swami.

Diwali was fast approaching and the Court would be shutting down. The Judge was replaced, this time by a female Judge with a kind and understanding heart. Finally, before the closure of the Courts, the Judge gave judgement in favour of releasing the animals!

The circus owners refused to assist her in removing the animals, and she was obliged to make her own arrangements for transporting the 'six royals' that the Lord had allowed her to rescue.

In time the transport took the animals to the National Park where they were released for the time being into a cage as they were medically examined and received treatment. It would be a while before they healed from their trauma. Also, their diarrhoea was severe too. She thought also of Swami and the anguish He must have felt at the plight of these poor creatures. He has said, that He is the secret spring within each activity, so the answer once again lies in His simple, yet profound statement; *"There is only one Language, the Language of the Heart. The language of the heart expresses itself through sympathy, kindness, service, love and brotherliness. This is the language that really matters."*

(We wish these 'Royals' a peaceful, and happy retirement. *Ed.*

**If you don't believe in God,
believe in yourself.**

Q.&A.

Devotee: "Is bhajan a good antidote to all evil qualities?"

Baba: "Yes, only if it's done with love... love for God and love for all round you. No use singing like a nightingale, when you are acting like a crow!

Don't make show like cinema stars. It will be waste of time for everyone!

First bring love inside you, and then the love that comes out through your voice will touch God. Pay strict attention to Bhava, Raga, Tala (Feeling, Melody, and Rhythm) that will touch God and transform all who listen. Keep it vibrant and don't let it drown in sorrow and pity...God doesn't want your pity, God wants your joy. Now talk is over, too much talking isn't good."

Devotee: "Before we leave one last question?"

Baba: "Yes, you may ask anything."

Devotee: "What should be our daily medication for a Divine life?"

Baba: "Medication or meditation? You need both. Be good, do good, see good... don't fight, stick to the discipline of Sadhana (spiritual practice), sing the name of God always; love all, serve all... accept everything that happens to you as the will of God done for your own good... then no worry, no pain. But, first, always act with dignity... that you are God, not animal, not animal."

Devotee: "Swami, what's the first step in Sadhana?"

Baba: "Silence, silence of all the senses... now go and practice

Swami's words and don't waste time in gossip. I bless, I bless all."

**I will have to move across the sky.
Yes, this too will happen, believe
Me!**

Christmas Grandpa

Divine Discourse, Dec, 1995

The season of Christmas is associated with Christmas Grandpa or Santa Claus. Tokovan was his original name. He was born in Turkey. He began his career as a priest and gradually began to attain spiritual heights. How did he become a spiritual giant? By the spirit of sacrifice. He used to give a chocolate or a doll or a gift to any child he met. All his life he kept on giving continuously. When Christmas was approaching, all the children used to run behind Santa Claus. He used to carry all the gifts in a bag and distribute to all the children. In what manner did he distribute? He said, "Here is a token of God's Love. Here is a token of God's Love," and thus distributed them. Eventually he came to be called Christmas Grandpa, and his original name was forgotten.

The important message which I want to convey today, which Jesus also propagated, is one of Love and compassion. So boys and girls, on this holy and sacred day, when we celebrate the birthday of that holy personage, we must conduct ourselves in accordance with his message. It is easy to celebrate birthdays, but we must also keep in sight the purity and message of the person whose birthday we celebrate.

Share Love, be united, consider all to be the children of God. Foster the brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God.

The common aim of the sages and saints of all lands is to lead man towards God and prevent him from sliding down to the level of a beast. Man must earn equanimity; he must be firmly established in truth and love. That will make his heart reflect the Lord within. When the road laid down for man's uplift is overgrown with thorny bushes and becomes unrecognisable, the Lord Himself takes human form and marks it out again.

Breakfast at McDonald's

I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree, *Breakfast at McDonald's*, and have recently completed my college degree; the last class I had to take was Sociology.

The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called, "Smile". The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reactions. I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say 'hello' anyway. So, I thought this would be a piece of cake, literally.

Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son and I went to McDonald's one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special playtime with our son. We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch. An overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside me as I turned to

see why they had moved. As I turned around I smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men.

As I looked down at the short gentleman, close to me, he was smiling, his beautiful sky-blue eyes were full of God's Light, as he searched for acceptance. He said, "Good day" as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realised the second man was mentally challenged and the blue-eyed gentleman was his salvation/guardian.

I held my tears as I stood there with them. The lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all, Miss", because that was all they could afford. (If they wanted to sit in the restaurant and warm up, they had to buy something. He just wanted to be warm.)

Then I really felt it! The compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That was when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me, judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue-eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me with tears in his eyes and said, "Thank you." I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, "I did not do this for you. God is here, working through me to give you hope." I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son. When I sat down, my husband smiled at me and said, "That is why God gave you to me, Honey, to give me hope."

We held hands for a moment and at that time we knew that only because

of the Grace that we had been given were we able to give.

We are not church-goers but we are believers... That day showed me the pure Light of God's sweet love. I returned to college, on the last evening class, with this story in hand. I turned in 'my project' and the instructor read it, and then looked up at me and said, "Can I share this?" I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class. She began to read and that is when I knew that we as human beings, and being part of God, share this need to heal people and to be healed. In my own way I had touched the people at McDonald's, my son, the instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student.

I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learn: UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE. "It's the treasure of friendship you've given me" I thought thankfully. *S. Bhimsingh. Reproduced from Sanathana Dharma, magazine, U.K.*

Swami is with us even now!

An Under Graduate student, Rajeev, was afflicted with a strange problem which made him unable to walk properly, due to this ailment. He was shifted from the B-Floor to Room A-15 in the hostel, which is on the Ground floor. Ten days ago in the very early hours, all his room-mates woke up to see the miraculous Divine foot-prints in the form of Vibuthi, present all over one half of the room. Baba's Divine Foot-prints appeared to lead from the centre of the room towards Rajeev's bed where they stopped.

The wonderful thing about these foot-prints on the floor around Rajeev's bed, was that they were all of the right foot - the foot which troubled Rajeev.

What a Divine Miracle - a Divine sign from Bhagavan that He is with us always and guiding us at all times.

So many wonderful miracles since Swami's Samadh i.e. Swami's talk with Shri Narasimha Murthy in Muddenahalli, His Divine Foot-prints in Sundaram, Chennai, Swami's Divine Hand-prints in New York, and now this.

It is true to say that He has never left us!

Sanctify the New Year by engaging yourself in pure, selfless and ennobling activities...As far as possible, avoid causing harm or pain to others.

As you sow, so you reap.

Whenever you feel disturbed by a sense of anger, envy, pride, jealousy and the like, be alert and resort to the contemplation of the Lord.

-BABA's New Year message 1991.

The Miracle of the one Rupee note

Late Kutumba Rao was an ardent devotee of Baba, he came to Parthi in late 40s to see who this wonder kid is, after being impressed and convinced by Bhagawan he stayed back and did a great service at various levels in the Trust and passed away in 1989. This happened in 1950 when Shri Kutumba Rao came to Parthi for Darshan enroute to Tirupathi. His intentions were to stay at Parthi for 3 days and from there to go to Tirupathi for a couple of day's stay. As he spent time at Parthi, attended a few sessions of Chitravathi, bhajans he forgot the time. He only realized the time when his money coffers became empty. With full faith he prayed to Bhagawan for the success of his

remaining part of the tour. As a response to that he heard a message in the evening that Swami would be leaving for Brindavan by late evening, which means that he lost the opportunity to talk to Bhagawan in the next morning. The determined Kutumba Rao prayed and stayed. A few hours passed and Swami left for Brindavan. Shri Kutumba Rao was completely at lost as he left with penniless to go home or continue his journey. When he was in that dilemma a person came in search of Shri Kutumba Rao and asked him are you Mr. Kutumba Rao. After hearing in affirmative the stranger put a pocket in Kutumba Rao's hand, to his pleasant surprise, told him, Swami asked me to give you. Shri Kutumba Rao opened and found a set of currency notes in that packet. The overjoyed devotee thanked the omniscient Lord and pursued his journey. He never counted how much money was there in that pocket. As the Lord sent, it should have sufficient money to take care of his journey. As he started spending money to his delight he kept on getting money.. He reached home and after spending some time with family he went inside the Pooja room to open the packet to count the money. To his Surprise, there was only a Rupee note left in that. This note is still in the Pooja room of the family members of Shri Kutumba Rao. Such was the faith and so was the response of the Lord.

Celestial Beings at Swami's Feet

It was Vaikuntha Ekadasi, a day of exceptional sanctity, Holy scriptures describe it as the glorious day on which Lord Sri Maha Vishnu

vouchsafes darshan to devotees at the northern gate away of his celestial abode. A devotee called Raja Reddy care taker of prashanti Nilayam was sleeping in the veranda on the first floor of Prashanthi Nilayam. At about midnight he woke up. He noticed through the slightly open doors of Swami's room, a very bright illumination.

He wondered why so much light was there at such an odd hour. He drew close and peeped through the gap between the doors, He was astonished to find several celestial beings taking turn to pay homage at the Lotus Feet of Swam

They emitted fantastic illumination. Swami was reclining, like Lord Sri Maha Vishnu, on the bed provided by Adishesha, and was graciously accepting their homage.

Seven fires were burning bright all around Swami's bed. The vision startled Raja Reddy. He quickly drew the doors close and went back to his bed in the veranda. He could not sleep no further.

Next morning he mentioned to Swami about his heavenly experience and enquired,

He asked "Swami, who are all those persons?" Swami explained, They are all celestial beings (Devathas). They have come for My darshan. What you saw in the form of flames are the Saptha rishes (seven great rishis).

As I protect you by My blessings, you are still alive. Otherwise, the moment you set your eyes on that scene, you would have been reduced to ashes!" Sathya Sai Baba is

really the human form of Parabrahma.

Whatever the crisis, however deep the misery, do not allow your grip over the mind to get loose;

Tighten it further, fixing your eyes on the higher values.

Do not allow the mind to stray away from the tabernacle of the heart.

Make it bow before the Atma within.

The Nectar of Immortality

The Three steps of giving up, of knowing and of reaching, Baba says; "*You are in the Light - The Light is in You - You are the Light*".

THE LINGAM

Swami said that sometimes a talisman turns dark after it has been worn for sometime by the devotee.

He has indicated that some objects impart their Divine Light to the wearer and extract the *thamas*, or darkness, in return. That is why they turn black.

Why Does God Come In Human Form?

Swami is quoted as having stated in Eruch B. Fanibunda's impressive book, "*Vision of the Divine*", the following explanation as to why He chose to come on Earth in human form, and He achieves this Ideal by living as an embodiment of Dharma.

The author knew this from his own experience of Baba, regardless, he stated, of what cynics and sceptics may say about His life. He goes on to suggest that

the miraculous is only an infinitesimal aspect of His nature and it should not deter one from emulating Him in everyday life, and goes on to say that the miraculous aspect of His is very insignificant as compared to His totality. He further stated that He attaches the same importance to it as an elephant would attach to a mosquito on its back!

"I am in you and for you," Swami says.

"Also, you are in Me and for Me...I am not won by adulation or lost by denunciation. I am won by Truth, genuineness and sincerity."

He further says, *"I eat as you do, move about as you do, talk in your language and behave as you can recognise and understand. This is for your sake not My sake. I turn you towards the Divine, winning your confidence, your love, your submission, by being among you as one of yourselves; one whom you can see, listen to, speak to, touch and treat with devotion and reverence. My plan is to transmute you into seekers of Truth. I am present everywhere at all times and My Will must prevail over every obstacle. I am aware of the past, present and future of your innermost thoughts and carefully guarded secrets."*

"I am Sarvantharyami, Sarva Saktha and Sarvagnya. Nevertheless, I do not manifest these powers in any capricious manner or for mere display, because I am an example and an inspiration, in whatever I do or omit to do. My life is a commentary on My message."

The author states that Swami's invitation is open to all mankind. However, before one rushes in to

accept it and arrive at P.N. it is necessary to read the first line of the invitation again, so that one may derive the maximum benefit from Baba. *"Follow the discipline and test yourself."* This is a form of self-diagnoses with the help of the Avatar. Indeed, this is an exceptionally rare opportunity given to mankind today. In the whole of recorded history of mankind there have been only two Poorna Avatars - one was Krishna and the other is Sathya Sai Baba.

How blessed we are to be on this Earth at this time. Treasure it!

Two people come together because of their past karma and the karmic debt owing to each other.

Once the obligations are fulfilled and mutually cancelled, they will be separated by the natural occurrence of death.

Death is a natural act.

Divorce and separation are unnatural acts. They are man-made, and not God-made. If two people decide to separate, they will be doing so while the karmic debt between them still exists.

This debt will have to be repaid as it is the law of karma.

So, it will be carried over to the next birth, when the two people will have to work off the mutual debt and cancel it completely.

EGGS - vegetarian or non-vegetarian

Prof. Anil Kumar, stated in his Sunday Talk, the following reference regarding to the use of eggs if one is a vegetarian.

"There is still a great dilemma about eggs being a vegetarian dish or a non-vegetarian dish. Someone said we can eat unfertilised eggs. How will we know?

"Regarding this question, I suspect this gentleman is interested in having eggs and he is trying to find an excuse how to have some! So is there a Divine licence to take eggs?

"Instead of avoiding eggs, while thinking of eggs, better you eat one, (laughter) because it seems this egg has become a mental obsession. 'Egg, can I eat egg? Egg, egg, egg - should I eat it? Is egg vegetarian or non-vegetarian?' Instead of asking all that, it is better you just finish it off. No problem, no problem."

Love all. Love is God's only property.

It does not belong to man. It is not a purchasable commodity.

It issues from the heart.

It alone can be said to be Divine.

Divine love is different from human attachments. It is timeless.

It is omnipresent. Make it your sole ideal. It is inherent in you.

Manifest it in the proper way.

Attention All Devotees

Back in 1995, Dr, Michael Goldstein, M.D., issued the following statement which is as relevant today as it was back then;

"It has come to our attention that several individuals and/or organisations are using Swami's name in association with their healing workshops. They are teaching a "system of natural healing" called Reiki and claim that Swami has approved, blessed, and/or initiated them in this practice. Let it be known that Sathya Sai Baba has not given His permission to associate His name with those practices. Swami has not initiated anyone in any special healing technique.

Baba has come for the good of all people everywhere. He has said repeatedly that He relates to every man and woman, heart to heart. He has assured us on many occasions that He requires no intermediaries. We must remember Swami's words and not be swayed by the charisma or convincing arguments of people who would exploit."

All Troubles & Difficulties are part of your karma.

They are the results of your karmas, (and) there is no point in praying to wipe away all such troubles and difficulties.

The right type of prayer would be to ask God for courage and strength to bear all the difficulties, and problems and tragedy with equanimity.

"Be Ideal Human Beings"

"Love and faith are the cardinal principles for redeeming human life. My life is My message. I have love for all. I have affection even for those who commit wrongs and for those who dislike Me. I have no ill-will towards anyone because of My love

for all. And therefore the whole world loves Me. The root cause of My love is My esteem for all (Visvasam). The basis for the esteem is adherence to the Path of Truth. Divinity is the basis for adherence to Truth. Thus this Divinity is the primal source of universal love. All should practice universal brotherhood. Out of fraternity will be born Divinity. Then, humanity will manifest its glory. Men will behave like ideal human beings.

Be ideal human beings."

(Sathya Sai Speaks - Vol. 31, p.45)

Do not walk in front of Me,

I may not follow you.

Do not walk behind Me,

I may not lead you.

Walk beside Me and be My friend.

You and I are One.

Centrally Held

The abbot of a monastery was often asked by its visitors, "How is it possible that all monks are harmonious and united, despite their different origins, tendencies and learning?"

Instead of giving a theoretical explanation, the abbot replied with an illustration. "Imagine for yourself a wheel with a rim, spokes and the hub. The rim envelopes and forms the boundary from which the spokes run towards the centre to the hub. Although it seems as if the outer rim holds everything together, it is actually the hub in the middle that holds everything. Mankind is like the rim of a wheel, each person is like a spoke and God is the hub at the centre of all."

Breathless, the visitors looked on - they had understood something important.

But the abbot continued further, "If we look at the wheel, we notice that the closer the spokes come to the hub, the closer they come to one another. Similarly, as we, humans, approach God at the centre, we actually come closer to each other ourselves.

"We can come closer to God and our neighbours only through love. It is clear that if one loves God, one will inevitably love one's neighbours. This is the only way through which we can live, despite our differences, among each other, and for each other."

(Translated from unknown German source.)

**The Lord will accept a heart
without words - but not words
without a heart.**

Our True Nature

Back in 1992, Swami made the following statement during a His Divine Discourse;

"Time is moving extremely fast. The lifespan allotted to each person is melting away like a piece of ice. But unfortunately, people are leaving their bodies before they realise the purpose of life. Human birth is difficult to obtain. It is sad to see that people leave their bodies before attaining the goal. Realising the duty and goal of life, people have to sanctify their lives and their bodies by engaging in good actions. If only they will it there is nothing which individuals cannot achieve in this world.

"Today, people think they know everything, but still they cannot

achieve happiness. What is the reason for this? They may be able to count the stars and to make a landing on the moon, but if they don't have integrated awareness, they do not know themselves.

"External vision does not bring about understanding of the integrated nature of man. Integrated awareness can be understood only by inner vision. Only then can one attain a taste of bliss..."

"The world is not separate from God. The whole world is permeated by God; the entire universe is a form of God. You are subject to grief when you give up sacred and divine thoughts and are filled with worldliness. Therefore, it is essential to see the world as the form of God, not as the mundane world. Only when you have divine perception will you be devoid of sorrow, and then you will be filled with happiness. You have to give up worldly-mindedness, then you will certainly attain the state of divine Atmic bliss (Atmananda).

"The true individual Self is God.

The individual Self resides in the body, and God lives in the heart.

They come together, play the game, and separate themselves.

There is one Director who directs the play of life.

Like a puppet show, there are good and bad puppets, and all of them exist together.

They are not two separate entities."

"God and the individual Self are not separate. Because of ignorance, one gets the feeling of separateness. People are deluding themselves, looking at a rope and thinking that it is a snake. The very moment we realise it is only a rope, the fear of the snake disappears. The snake never appeared, and the rope had never disappeared. What existed before and

after realisation of the truth was only a rope. Similarly, looking at the world, we think it is the nature of the individual self. But the entire world is a form of God..."

"One will be free from sorrow when one realises that the individual Self is none other than God. Know that God resides in the universe and that, similarly, the universe resides in God. It is a unique and friendly relationship between God and the universe. This relationship is inseparable. These are the valuable words of Sathya Sai.

"BEGIN NOW!"

"The advent of a new beginning is greeted by welcoming the new and bidding farewell to the old. This is the usual practice in the ordinary world, but this is not entirely a worldly affair. The observance

of a beginning is based on statements in the almanac. The almanac is an artificial, man-made work and is not related to anything permanent. The sun and the moon remain unchanged, but the calendar is a man-made device. For the Divine, there is no coming or going; God transcends such concepts. He is the Lord of what is called the 'Kingdom of God'. Each one has to acquire the proper qualifications to enter that Kingdom. All are not entitled to enter it, but every person should aspire to achieve that right. That is the essential purpose of human birth. People are bound by their actions in the world. Your actions should be good. Be pure in your speech, develop a sacred vision, and purify your hearts."

- Sathya Sai Baba, Jan. 1992.

**Solar energy has to be drawn
down to reinforce the inner vision
of man, the soul latent in
mankind.**

**When the soul-force is
strengthened, the intellect, the
senses and moral emotions are
activated and guided along
fruitful lines.**

**Can darkness confuse the brain or
hide the truth when the sun
shines?**

**Therefore, rely on the *Gayatri* to
draw down effulgence from the
sun, so that it may impart
illumination to your intellect.**

"I am the Whole Universe"

The late author Howard Murphet, asked Swami the question that many of us would be happy to ask, "Swami, You had incarnated as Shirdi Sai Baba and now you are the reincarnation of Him eight years later. Swami, where were you in that short span of eight years?"

"I permeated the whole Universe,"
He replied, *"down to every single atom. There is no such thing as a single place for Me. I am the whole Universe."*

(Sanathana Sarathi - Jan. 2011, p.16)

**Special *India Today* Edition on
Bhagawan Baba**

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Media Coordinator for copies

My body is not immortal;

My message is.

Law & Love

Someone mentioned how a devotee had paid money to another who had made an unjust claim along with false accusations. He did that mainly to avoid unpleasantness, he confessed.

Swami remarked, *"It is wrong to honour wrong claims or pacify those making unreasonable claims, whether you do so in cash or in kind. One can give a poor person something because a person is poor. But one should not yield to false claims and compromise truth, particularly when you are in the right, just to avoid unpleasantness."*

"Expressing love for a person in need is all right. But to pacify a person who makes false accusations

and unlawful claims is not correct. You should never become confused in following the right path, or law, even while you are expressing love. Law and love should always go together”.

Practise the unremitting chanting of the names of the Lord, which are so full of sweetness and beauty. This will give you unlimited ananda (happiness).

The Power of Faith

During His Divine Discourse in the Sai Kulwant Hall, on 7th Oct. 1997, Swami made the following statement;

“The power of faith is illustrated in an incident from the life of Christ. Once a blind man approached Jesus and prayed: ...‘Lord! Restore my sight!’ Jesus asked him, ‘Do you believe that I can restore your sight unhesitatingly’... ‘Yes, Lord!’

‘If that is so, then open your eyes and see it’, said Jesus. The blind man opened his eyes and got his sight.

“Likewise, people pray to Swami, asking to give something or other. Do you believe that I have the power to give what you seek? My response is dependent on your faith...”

“Men today are like a man on the ground who wishes to see the pilot of a plane moving in the sky. The only way he can see the pilot is to get into the plane himself.

To experience God you have to aspire for a vision of God. That is the way to lead an ideal and blissful life.”

Listen to My stories with care and meditate on them to bring you happiness.

Q. & A.

Q. What is truth?

BABA. What the soul feels is right, is the truth. The inner self, or soul, knows what truth is. You can sermonise about anything or anyone, but the real truth is inside you and is already known to you.

Q. Has not religion deteriorated now?

BABA. No! Religion never deteriorates. It is always the same. But those who follow religion do not understand what religion stands for. It is wrong to say that this religion is good and that religion is bad. All religions preach the same unity and *prema* (love). We should not pick out minute differences between various religions. We should promote all the main points of unity...Promote the religion of love to remove agitation and strife in the world...Love works miracles and can conquer the world. Spirituality can bring about happiness which material prosperity by itself can never give.

Q. Can you tell us whether there is rebirth?

BABA. You know what belching is... Now if you belch, can you tell Me whether it was due to what you ate yesterday or what you are going to eat tomorrow?

Q. How should *dharma* be promoted?

BABA. No one need promote *dharma* since it is always there. What is required is for people to practise *dharma*.

Q. What is your answer to those who say that you indulge in magic?

BABA. If they say so, let them say... There are things beyond scientific investigation". As He said this, He materialised some *vibhuti* and gave it to a newsman, saying, "You have some trouble... Take this in water three times a day... By smoking you are not only wasting money, but also spoiling your health". He further materialised a small silver locket and also gave that to him. When He got up, He allowed photographs to be taken. He materialised *vibhuti* again and giving it to one person, said, "Please distribute it amongst yourselves".

If the women of a country are happy, healthy and holy, the men of the country will be hardy, honest and happy.

IMMENSE POWERS

Sathya Sai Baba wrote in "Sathya Sai Vahini", published in Sanathana Sarathi, in June 1980, p.122, the following;

Sage Viswamitra discovered the mantra named "Gayatri" which is affiliated with the energy of the sun (surya).

This mantra has infinite potential, it is a vibrant formula. It has immense powers - powers that are truly amazing - for the sun is its presiding deity. Students of the Ramayana (story of Rama) know that same sage, Viswamitra, initiated Rama into the mysteries of sun worship through mantra. The Gayatri enabled Viswamitra to use rare weapons which bowed to His will when the mantra was repeated with faith. Through the power attained in this way, Viswamitra was able to become

a great scientist and create a counterpart to the cosmos.

"The person who is able to increase the capabilities of his hands and his senses is now considered a scientist. This is incorrect. In the past, the term vijnani (one who has extraordinary wisdom) was correctly applied to those who developed spiritual power and discovered the formulae for delving into the Divine within; they were imbued with faith and devotion and could spontaneously demonstrate that power in actual day-to-day living."

Westerners have investigated the vibrations produced by this mantra. They have found that when it is recited with the correct accent as laid down in the Vedas, the atmosphere becomes visibly illumined.

Without compassion and love, one cannot be called a human being.

The Avatar's Role

Swami has stated in "Summer Roses On the Blue Mountain", the following explanation of an Avatar's role in the world.

"An Avatar is capable of all things at all times, yet the Avatar will not undertake to demonstrate His powers at all times. An Avatar will undertake to demonstrate such powers when exceptional circumstances demand it and will shed the grace on a deserving person only..."

"We should examine why the formless Lord takes that form, so that He may mix with human beings and set examples and ideals which they should learn."

"Many people innocently ask why an Avatar tolerates hunger and suffering in the world. They say that He, who has all powers, should remove suffering in one moment. Then why should an Avatar come in human form at all? He can remain as a formless Divinity and do those things from that position. To expect the Avatar to simply remove all suffering is very foolish. People should attempt to make use of the mental and physical strengths that have been given to them."

Just as the thread in the necklace is not visible, Atma is invisible in the manifest world.

God pervades the whole universe but is not visible.

All that is good and bad happens by the movement of time.

Prosperity or poverty also occurs with the change of time.

Time alone is responsible for all events which occur in the physical world.

Is there anyone in the entire world who is not subdued by time?

There is none at all!
