

2013

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
JAN-FEB 2013**

**Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,
A Happy and Blessed New Year to
you all!**

This is a *new* year, and hopefully not an extension of the last one, but a year that will offer peace, happiness and a future filled with hope for everybody.

The year gone by will long be remembered for many reasons - the uncertain weather, economic woes, and so much tragedy in people's lives. Everybody is trying hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel, so that they will be able to smile again as they enter 2014. However, the fault lies not within the stars, as they say, but within man himself and his greed for more of the good things of life which he can neither afford nor needs. Homes and livelihoods have been lost by this craving and suicide figures have never been higher!

We, Sai devotees are blessed to know of Swami, and the love He has showered upon us over the years, and, indeed, continues to do so. Regretfully, there are those who have never heard of Him, and even wonder at our devotion to such a Glorious Being. So it must be through our actions of service and love towards others that will impress them to learn more about the Avatar of this New Age - this *Golden Age*.

Mankind is obsessed with all things material and his greed-list gets longer and longer. Some years ago, Swami touched on this very subject, which I now quote:

"There is no human being in the world without love. However, that

love expresses itself in many ways. In a mental asylum there are people with many kinds of delusions. In a sense, the entire world may be considered as a mental asylum. There are many people in the world who are crazy about money. There are others who have obsessions regarding their health and sickness. Some others are crazy about power and position. In this manner, every individual is obsessed with some desire or the other. There are, again, some who are obsessed with the idea of God. That is the only commendable obsession."

On another occasion, Swami referred to the present-day Seven Deadly Sins, as follows:

"The nation today is affected by the consequences of seven grievous sins. The first is business without morality; the second is politics without principle; the third, education without character; the fourth, worship without sacrifice, the fifth, wealth without hard work; the sixth, human exist without regard for scriptures; the seventh, devotion without austerity.

These are the Seven Deadly Sins that are ravaging the nation. The country will regain prosperity and peace only when all these are banished and you have morality in business, principles in politics educated men who have character and work as the basis of wealth."

These words were said many years ago but are as pertinent today as when He first said them.

All this is food for thought. Ed.

I am the Sai Baba of Shirdi come again; then I was mostly engaged in preparing the meal; now I have come to free you all with strengthening, purifying repast.

-Baba (age 14)

SAVING HANDS UNDER

THE FLOODED RIVER

I thought Swami had come to my life only in the year 1965, when I had the fortune of meeting Divinity for the first time. But I was wrong. Swami later one day confirmed that I had been earmarked by Bhagavan for shaping my life, even before I had met Him.

Swami clarified that, *"I know the Past, the Present and the Future of all My devotees very well. I know their destiny, and subtly interfere and help them for the quickest evolution in their spiritual pursuit"*.

And as a confirmative assurance, Swami asked me, *"Do you remember those Hands that saved you from a flooded river, in your childhood days?"*

In a flash I remembered the unforgettable incident when I was a young boy. On a fateful weekend, the river Harichandra was flowing fiercely, flooding the riverbeds too. In my childhood days, not knowing the dangers, we were delighted to watch the unending stream of floodwater. The roaring waves of the river seemed to invite us. I was standing on a rock kept on the side of the riverbed near our home. The sight of the river was mesmerising

me. I did not know how much time I was standing there. I heard the call of my mother and I knew I should rush back to avoid harsh words or even a beating from my mother. During the few minutes when I was standing, the water had been slowly rising. I did not notice it. But suddenly the mud below the rock had been washed off and the rock slipped into the rushing waters. Faithfully, I have followed the rock as a companion. The rock had landed nearby, but I was washed off along the big waves of the river. Somebody was shouting, calling for help, and many rushed to see me mercilessly thrown up and down (in) the water.

I was going down the water, unable to grasp my breath. I had already taken a lot of water into me and I could not breathe.

It was at that critical moment that I suddenly felt that somebody from down under the water was supporting me! I could feel a pair of hands holding me and keeping me aloft in the water for a distance of few meters. I saw a branch of a huge tree almost touching the water and I had (the) presence of mind to hold on to that branch. As I was holding desperately to the branch, half portion of my body was still in the water and the force of the water was threatening to pull me again into it. I was crying loudly and called my mother. But no sound was coming out from my throat. The fear of death in that tender age was overwhelming me. But from that instant I could not feel the mysterious hands which were supporting me till then. I thought that somebody had tried to save me

from the floods and then vanished when perhaps I seemed to be safe holding to a tree branch.

There was immense hue and cry along the shore of the river, many people running here and there. An old man climbed over the tree and jumped into the water nearer me, took hold of me and swam along the shore for a small distance, before he could set his feet on earth. He then put me on the floor face down, till I vomited all the water, which I had consumed during those dreaded period of uncertainty.

But all along, I was thinking of those mysterious Hands, which were supporting me from under the water. Who was He? I did not know. The elders in our house did not believe the story of those two hands supporting me from down the water.

As I had mentioned earlier, now I firmly believe that our Lord Sai had been watching me even from my tender age, and Swami was in the act of resurrecting me from the jaws of death.

- "Mumbai" Srinivasan

Dust if you think, dust you are.

God if you think, God you are.

- BABA

New ELISA Work-Station

The very latest technology in the field of diagnosing infections, like HIV (Aids), Hepatitis and dengue, among others, has been recently installed in SSS Institute of Higher

Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram. This state-of-the-art, fully automated ELISA work station for its microbiology department was bought at the cost of Rs. 35 lakh (5,000 euro approx.).

With the new machine tests can be performed in the hospital in a shorted span of time. Dr. Choudary D. Voleti said that this new machine will bring the sample testing time from 6 hours down to 2.5 hours, thus reducing the waiting time for patients.

"It is now possible to test 400 blood samples at a time," he said. "The procurement of the new ELISA work station is in consonance with the principals of health care laid down by Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Baba's health institutes, therefore, give top priority to patient-care and are always evolving ways to serve the patients better," Dr. Voleti said.

**The heart full of compassion is
verily the temple of God.**

- BABA

The Next Sai Incarnation

In the early 1990s, during a talk with students, Sathya Sai told them "that the father of his next incarnation, as Prema Sai, had been born in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. He also said that the body of Prema Sai was in the process of being formed." "It is also said that Prof. Kasthuri will be the mother of Prema Sai," who is now already reborn.

The future incarnation of Sathya Sai is to include the roles of being a husband and father. It is said, at a certain time, Prema Sai will be married, and be the father to one boy.

Prema Sai Baba is said to complete the mission of the Sai Avatar to end this age of darkness and to usher in the golden age of Mankind. Around 2105, the incarnation will finish as Prema Sai Baba (then 86) will enter into mahasamadhi.

Professor G. Venkataraman relates a personal experience with Sathya Sai in which Prema Sai became the topic. A warden offered a peanut to Swami who first refused but later popped one nut into his mouth. He then started giving us one nut at a time. Everyone put out his hand to receive the Prasadam from Swami and when my turn came I did the same. But what fell into my hand was not a piece of groundnut but an enamel billet with some art work on it. I gave Swami a puzzled look and he said, "See *what it is.*" I tried to see what was on the billet but could not see clearly since I did not have my glasses on. Swami then made some teasing remarks and said, "This billet shows the Cosmic Form of the Lord. Embedded in it are the forms of Shirdi Sai and Swami. I have left some space for Prema Sai also. Shall I include Prema Sai also?" We remained silent, stunned by the experience. He then smiled and said, "No, I shall not include Prema Sai because you faithless fellows would desert me and go after him!" We all laughed." In 2004, Professor Anantharaman talked about an experience with Sai Baba. "Howard then asked what work would Prema Sai do? Sai said

"He will have plenty of work. Prema Sai will elevate human consciousness to divine heights. Not only will there be a lot of work but he will also need a lot of help." James Sinclair, in 2005, described a series of dreams that "went on for years". I saw myself walking up a hill, led by three men in the darkness of night. One was an old man in white. One looked somewhat like Jesus Christ. The one in the middle had an orange robe." Fifteen years later, he describes finding a book about Sai Baba, and seeing his appearance, "recognised that the recurring dream had been of Shirdi Sai, Sathya Sai, and Prema Sai walking up the hill night after night for many years."

My Name is not distinct from My Form. The Name recalls the Form as soon as it is pronounced or heard. When the Form is seen, the Name comes into the consciousness that very moment. So, when the Name is ever dancing on your tongue the Form too, has to be before you and beside you. What need is there to mention this as a gift from Me? I have to manifest the Form, whenever My Name is remembered with faith and devotion.

- BABA

BLACK & WHITE

Have you ever wondered why one wears white or light coloured clothes at Prasanthi Nilayam?

The following article offers a unique explanation for this. "Whilst every colour is God created, some colours attract and some colours repel negative energies. Colours are vibrations - all creation is vibration. Certain colours therefore retain negative vibrations! When we become over emotional or involved in lust, greed, anger, ego, etc. this breaks down our outer protective sheath - our aura. We lose our protection enabling negative entities to cling on to us. Many astral entities (spirits) inhabit funeral parlours, hospitals, dark alcohol clubs, night clubs and places of sin. These entities attach themselves to persons having a weak aura due to losing their auric protection!"

"Traditionally, Tibetans and Indians always wear white at funerals. One reason for wearing white is (because) negative/spirits do not like attaching to white clothing. It's now a fashion trend to wear black all the time. It means one is enveloping themselves in a barrier which restricts goodness to come in."

"Think about this, white reflects away much negativity. White stands for purity and calmness. (It is not by chance that hospital staff wears white). Imagine being in the presence of a Guru (teacher) where many devotees who come to him for help. They bring their problems with them. If the Guru wore black or dark colours he would absorb all their negativity and become ill in no time. (Gurus also tend to wear reddish

colours as these enhance the Third Eye perception and give them much healing energy). The Guru's white clothes reflect the negative energy away. Black absorbs all that comes

to it, this also acts as a sponge, "give me your problems and I will absorb them (black)". Wear black in the sunlight and you will roast as the heat vibrations absorb easily".

"Hence black is the most absurd colour for funerals and hospitals, it attracts all sorts of dark moods and energies and influences, just when you need extra protection, and retains all this. Black garments act as a vacuum cleaner sucking bad vibrations, holding them and passing them on to the wearer. This also applies to home furnishings; dark colours absorb and retain depressive energies".

"Many women wear black from head to toe, this is not Satvic. I asked Babaji for more guidance on this in meditation. I was shown an example where a pregnant woman completely enclosed in black clothes, her child in the womb has very little chance of absorbing purity. Is it surprising why many of them grow up aggressive?"

"Since the colour black is tamasic in nature, it has maximum capacity to attract and transmit negative and distressing frequencies in the environment, i.e. to the extent of 70%. This means, out of all the possible negative vibrations (ghosts included) that there can be in the environment, the colour black can attract up to 70% of them." (Singbam@aol.com)

Prior to coming upon this article, I

was always surprised to see the number of young people, in particular, who choose to wear black. I once saw a young man at wedding wearing black shoes, black

socks, black suit, black shirt and black tie. His hair was 'lacquered' black, and he had a pale complexion! He was like a walking shadow!

I shall leave it to your imagination!

You come near for some time and stay away into distance. I don't mean physical distance at all. You may be physically far, but mentally by My side. I do not measure distance in miles. I am with you, in you, beside you ever. Only you have to be aware of Me and make use of My Presence.

- BABA

Fears of Destruction

Dispelling fears of destruction, Swami discoursed on March 17th, 1961, exhorting humanity to revel in His glory resorting to spiritual practices, to win His anugraha, that would allay all unwarranted fears troubling human minds.

"Kasthuri has just now read from the Panchangam (almanac) for the New Year, the predictions of the astrologers about rainfall, the condition of the crops, the prices of articles in the markets, rise and fall in the rates of gold and silver, the

prospects of internal and external peace, the occurrences of natural calamities like floods, droughts, earthquakes, etc. But reading all this only increases your worries, your restlessness. Take things as and when they come. Do not try to peep too far into the future with the help of astrologers. They are mostly wrong, and the data you supply them are mostly unreliable".

"Take care of the Panchangams (the five-limbed almanacs) within you; that is more vital. The Panchangams within you are the five senses; educate the mind to hold them in check - then you can have peace of mind, whatever the rise in the market rates or the quantity of rain. Do not get panicky over what the almanac says about the combination of many planets, the Ashtagrahakoota. They exaggerate the consequences; nothing much will happen; the Pralaya (destruction of the Universe) is more in the frightened mind than in external nature. If you earn the Anugraha (blessing) of the Lord, no graha (planet) or combination of grahas can harm you. If you learn how to secure that Anugraha, you need not worry about the Panchangam".

"Today, you are celebrating the arrival of a New Year with a new name, a name that you will use for twelve coming months. But remember, it is not the year alone that is new once in 365 days. Every day is new, every hour and minute, every second is new. Do not celebrate only the New Year Day in joy; celebrate every second in joy".

"Start from today, not that today is a New Year - there are so many New

Years celebrated as such by one or the other community that every day is a new year to some one set of people - but because it is today and the matter brooks no delay, start from today a new chapter in your life, the chapter of Japam (recitation of holy names) and Dhyanam (meditation), Japa-sahitha Dhyaanam (recitation-oriented meditation) or Dhyaana-sahitha Japam (meditation-oriented recitation). In the Thretha Yuga, the Name was Seetha Rama; in the Dwapara Yuga, it was Radhe Shyama; in this Kali Yuga, it is Sarvanaama, that is to say, all Names of the Lord; you can select any one that appeals to you."

The appeasement of the dog's hunger is the same as Mine. The dog has got a soul; the creatures may be different, but the hunger of all is the same, though some speak and others are dumb (mute).

Know for certain, that he, who feeds the hungry, really serves Me with food. Regard this as an axiomatic Truth.

- BABA

Miracles On Vaikunta Ekadasi

During the evening of the Heavenly Eleventh Day of the Moon, Swami, had for many years been regularly "taking" Divine Nectar for

distribution among the devotees while in the midst of prayers or discourses on the riverbed or seashore. For example, on December 21, 1958, during Baba's Kerala Tour, He went to the Kovalam Beach, seven miles away from the town of

Trivandrum accompanied by many devotees. At a quiet spot on the seashore, a mile away from the bathing area, Baba sat with the devotees around Him, and sang a few songs, which were followed by a prayer session. During the session Baba "took" from the sands a bewitching sandalwood image of Lord Krishna playing the flute, and after a few minutes He "took" a gold ring with the Krishna motif embossed on it! Everyone expected that Baba would distribute amrita, "nectar of immortality," "taken" by Him from nowhere. They were not disappointed, for even as the devotees sang, the fragrance of the nectar was wafted in the still night air and no one knew from where! Baba's Palms became sticky, as if saturated with syrup, even while beating time for the songs. All knew that the fragrance was then emanating from those Palms. He held His Palms together and pointed them at a silver vessel. Thick ambrosial "honey" flowed into it from His Hand! He distributed it Himself to all present, including some fishermen who had joined the group. The sweetness and scent of the nectar were incomparably strange and outside the experience of everyone. *"Sathyam Sivam Sundaram"*.

Close your mouths and open your hearts. Then you will easily experience the bliss of the Divine.

- BABA

Sri Ramana Maharshi's Samadhi

It is recorded that Sri Ramana Maharshi experienced, at the age of 16 years, Moksha (liberation) or enlightenment, and left home for the sacred mountain Arunchala, where he lived in an ashram that grew around him.

An interesting incident occurred in Prasanthi Nilayam when he attained Samadhi. This is recorded in the book *"Who Is Baba"* by Shri R.D. Alwe.

A Sai devotee named Varadu reported the following: - at the moment of the death of Ramana Maharshi (one of the greatest Self-Realised masters of the last century), an extraordinary event occurred in Baba's ashram, giving us a clue both to Baba's identity and His relationship with Ramana. A Sai devotee named Varadu reported what happened.

"The night when Ramana Maharshi passed away in Tiruvannamala -14th April 1950- I was with Swamiji (Sai Baba), Krishna (another young devotee) and myself were both there. That evening around 9 p.m. we continued whatever it was we were doing (I think we were doing a puja) when suddenly Swamiji looked at us. There was a particular way of looking he has which means that He wants to go to His room.

The moment Krishna and I went through the door into the room and closed the door, Swami fell down. I was ready for it. Krishna and I both held hands, and Swami was lying across them. Then He (Swami) rose up into the air from our arms. He was as stiff as a board. He started murmuring something about, *'Maharshi has reached My lotus feet'*. And then the sole of Swami's right foot split open, and nearly two kilograms of beautiful, well-scented Vibhuti poured out from the sole of His foot. I collected the Vibhuti while He was still levitating in the air! Then He came down and returned to His senses and asked what He had said. I said, "Swamiji, this is what You said: *'Ramana Maharshi has passed away'*. This is what came out of Your feet." He said, *"Put it into packets and give it out as prasadam."*

"A day or two after this incident, we learned from newspapers that Ramana Maharshi had died. It had been at the time that Swami said, Maharshi merged in Baba's feet!"

"Is it now therefore clear that Sai Baba is a full embodiment of the Divine Self, the Supreme Atmic Reality that Ramana had realised at the age of 17. Sai Ram."

Where is the need for you in this world or any world to grow faith in others? Believe in yourself first.

Then believe in the Lord.

- BABA

Here is a small story about

The Power of Prasad

Once a young man came to the ashram of a master because he was suffering from despair. It really didn't matter what he did, the despair continued to plague his life. Eventually he prayed for it to be taken away, but nothing happened and the despair and suffering it brought now intensified.

A woman devotee tried to comfort the lad, and having received some blessed food she broke it into pieces and gave some to him.

He ate a small piece of the food slowly and deliberately, when he had finished, he found to his amazement the despair had disappeared. He felt completely well.

(S.S. Memories)

Love is present not only in human beings but also in all creatures, birds or beasts; nor is that all. It is, in fact, all pervasive. Love pervades everything in creation. Man's humanness is vitiated when he fails to recognise this love.

- BABA.

Do Ghosts, Spirits and Demons Exist? (by Singhbam)

In the Sikh Bible, Babaji (Father) talks of many dimensions, teeming with elemental and spirit creatures. Even our Holy Bible, Bhagavad Gita and Scriptures, also state this. In this Kal Yuga (Dark times), these energies are even more prevailing.

Mankind is so steeped in negativity, they have a problem identifying themselves from the negativity around, and become puppets for the Demons.

God, through the Ten Commandments and other scriptures laid down Laws of the Universe to be followed.

How many of us follow them?

In 2010, we opened our aircraft workshop one fine morning, when suddenly Sai Baba appeared, "*Amarjit, chant some prayers quickly.*" I questioned Sai Baba, who repeated, "*Do not waste time, pray with your staff quickly.*"

We started chanting our Lord's prayers, "Sai Ram, Sai Ram, Sai Ram," for some minutes. Suddenly, a terribly loud scream echoed from the middle of our aircraft workshop. We were shocked to see a huge negative energy (Demon/Rakshas) materialise and run out screaming.

Sai Baba spoke, "*Amarjit, prayers protect your land and home from negative energy. Negative energies cannot live alongside areas of purity and prayers, remember this always. Treat your workshop as your worship too. Always be in tune with the Lord wherever you are. God will always look after you, guide you and soften your karma.*"

"The war between good and evil continues. Mankind is steeped in lust, greed and other vices, which has made them lose their ability to sense or see negative energies because they have absorbed these within".

"At one time mankind could see all

these energies and take precautions; be pure always and your senses too will become pure!"

Saying this my Father, Sai Baba, dematerialised and left me to, once again, ponder and think.

We now carry out regular prayers in our workshop, and also keep prayers playing on a CD player non-stop in our workshop at all times with Sai Baba's guidance.

You need not search for God. It is God, Who is searching for a real devotee.

- BABA

Prayer of Surrender

Why get agitated? Let Me take care of all your business. I shall be the One who will think about them. I am waiting for nothing else than your surrender to Me, and then you do not have to worry any more about anything. Say farewell to all fears and discouragement. You demonstrate that you do not trust Me. On the contrary, you must rely blindly on Me.

To surrender means: To turn your thoughts away from troubles, to turn them away from difficulties you encounter and from all your problems. Leave everything into My hands saying, "Lord, I thank You for You have taken everything in Your hands, and You will resolve this for my highest good."

Remember that thinking of the consequences of a thing is contrary to surrender. That is to say, when you

worry that a situation has not had the desired outcome, you thus demonstrate that you do not believe in My love for you. You will prove that you do not consider your life to be under My control and that nothing escapes Me.

Never think: How is this to end?

...What is going to happen? If you give into this temptation, you demonstrate that you do not trust Me. Do you want Me to deal with it... yes or no? Then you must stop being anxious about it! I shall guide you only if you completely surrender to Me and when I must lead you into a different path than the one that you expect, I carry you in My arms.

What seriously upsets you is your reasoning, your worrying, your obsession, your will to provide for yourselves at any price. I can do so many things when the being, as much in his material necessities as in his spiritual ones, turns to Me saying: "You think of it", then he closes his eyes and rests quietly. You will receive a lot but only when your prayer will rely fully on Me. You pray to Me to adjust your requests.

Don't behave like sick ones who ask a treatment to the doctor, all the time suggesting it to him. Do not do that; but rather, even in sad circumstances, say: "Lord, I praise and thank You for this problem, for this necessity. I pray You to arrange things as You please for this terrestrial and temporal life. You know very well what is best for me.

Sometimes you feel that disasters increase instead of diminish. Do not get agitated. Close your eyes and tell

Me with faith: "Thy will be done. You think of it." And when you speak thus, I accomplish a miracle when necessary. I only think of it when you

trust Me totally. I always think of you, but I can only help you completely when you rely fully on Me.

- Sathya Sai Baba

Those who do not know this entire world as Consciousness, in reality see it as material and drift in the ocean of delusion.

(Vishnu Purana, 1.4.40)

Vibhuthi Saved Home

It was around 1945; the Second World War had not ended yet. Bhagavan Sri Sathya materialised Himself in front of a house in Bangkok. He called the lady of the house, gave her some vibhuthi and told her to sprinkle it all over the roof of her house, and disappeared. He spoke in her own language. She saw that the 'powder' He had given to her looked like white sand.

She did not, however, disregard His words and sprinkled it all over the roof of her house, and within a few minutes, an air raid took place. All houses in the neighbourhood, except hers, were destroyed with bombs, bombing all over!

Whoever you are, you are Mine.

I shall not give you up.

Wherever you are, you are near Me.

You cannot go beyond My reach.

- BABA

Closeness to Baba

On one occasion, a programme of sports was organised in the Hill View

Stadium. Inaugurating the games, Swami released two white pigeons. As the games were underway, Swami, and other distinguished guests watched from the dais. After some time, they noticed the same pigeons, earlier released, flying in the sky across the dais. Swami observed, *"Look at those birds. They have been with us for a long time. Therefore they have become incapable of adjusting themselves to the outside world, although they have been set free."*

No doubt Swami was then referring only to those pigeons, but what He said then applied to all His dear students and devotees.

You cannot see Me, but I am the Light you see by.

You cannot hear Me, but I am the sound you hear by.

You cannot know Me, but I am the Truth you live by.

- BABA

"PEACE BE UPON HIM"

Swami's prediction came true recently, when a large contingent of Islamists paid a devotional visit to Prasanthi Nilayam.

They were devotees from the Middle East and Gulf, comprising of countries from Bhahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran and Syria.

Hindus, Muslims and Christians prayed together as they paid their respects to Sai Baba.

The programme consisted of six Arabic songs, followed by Bhajans and all participants were blessed with clothes, and special prasadam of dried fruits and nuts.

Swami did say that when Muslims finally recognise Him, they will come in droves!

Praise be to Him. Peace be upon Him!

***"To see the world in a grain of sand
and heaven in a wild flower.***

***Hold infinity in the palm of your
hand and eternity in an hour."***

- William Blake

Swami's Letter to Students

- July 1977

My Dear, The time will come when the whole of this dream will vanish. To everyone of us there must come a time when the whole universe will be found to have been a mere dream, when we shall find that the soul is

infinitely better than its surroundings. In this struggle through we call environments, there will come a time when we shall find that these environments were almost zero in comparison with the power of the soul. It is only a question of time, and time is nothing in the infinite. It is a drop in the ocean. We can afford to wait and be calm.

With Blessings, Sri Sathya Sai Baba."

**Difficulties are created to increase
the yearning and to sift the
sincere devotee from the rest.**

- BABA

Baby Sathya Gita dies

Puttaparthi woke up on Tuesday morning (22nd. Jan.) to the sad news of the death of Swami's pet elephant, Sai Gita's junior - little Sathya Gita, who breathed her last, at 5 am, after three weeks of illness, in spite of many top veterinarians who did their best to save her.

Swami welcomed her, on July 21, 2007, to Puttaparthi. Ever since, Sathya Gita was very joyful and was brought to darshan very often, apart from festive occasions.

Let's all pray for this blessed elephant which had a very short role to play in the Sathya Sai Avatara. Heartfelt condolences to Sri. Pedda Reddy, her Mahout, who took such good care of her.

**How can I fail to remember one
who always remembers Me?**

- BABA

Moses at the Burning Bush

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you', and they ask me, 'What is His name?' then what shall I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "*I AM THAT I AM*" - *this is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent Me to you.*"

"In fact, "I" is the first Name of God. People address God by various names, for their satisfaction and happiness. However, "I AM" is the true Name of God." - BABA.

**You are the Full, you are God. God
is you. Those who have
experienced this highest wisdom
can attain Oneness with the One,
here and now.**

- BABA

The Divine Reality Revealed

In an interview on Radio Sai's programme, *Heart2Heart*, Rev. Father Charles Ogada CSSP (Holy Ghost Fathers & Brothers) stated, "If we do not understand the reality of Jesus it will be impossible to understand the reality of Sai Baba. And how can we understand the reality of Jesus? We can only understand the reality of Jesus when

we understand our own very reality. This is because we are one with God."

This was in response to a question posed by Juan Carlos Ponce de Leon, an ardent Sai devotee from Peru in the course of an interview in January 2007.

Due to space, I am only able to quote short passages from that interview, but they are well worth considering. Father Charles gave a talk at Christmas in the Divine

Presence of Sai Baba.

How did he first hear of Swami, he was asked. "I have told you what happened to me when I was seventeen years old... How the Voice said to me, "*What would you want to do with this life?*" The Voice filled my Soul and Heart with so much Love. I replied: 'What else Father, but to give this life to You.' From that very moment the external world became meaningless to me. When you taste the bliss of the Spirit, every other thing will become insipid to you. I started thinking how to give this life to the Father."

Juan: How did He (Swami) come?

Fr. C: First there was this priest, named Rev. Father Raymond Arazu. He was to teach us a course in comparative religion. During one lecture he mentioned the name, Sai Baba.

J: Did he mention the name in a good way?

F.C: Yes, in a good way. He was also a devotee.

J: There are many priests who are secret devotees.

F.C: Yes, many! They worship and adore Swami in secret. Like Nicodemus in the Bible who goes to Jesus in the night. But this priest, Father Arazu is no longer a secret devotee. Otherwise, I would not have mentioned his name. In fact he now conducts Satsangs in his residence where people come to learn about Sai Baba and the universality of religion. Once, he told me, that he has won his freedom because the Church does not know what to do with him. They just let him be.

J: Do you think that the Vatican and the Church's Hierarchy know that many priests are becoming devotees of Sai Baba?

F.C: Yes, of course. The point is that as long as you do not come public in any form to express your faith and devotion in Swami, the Church can do little or nothing to you. For example, look at the case of Father Don Mario Mazzoleni who was excommunicated. Until Mario wrote his book, *'The Catholic Priest meets Sai Baba'*, he was safe. Actually, it was the book that got him into 'trouble'. The book became as it was, evidence against him in the Church's Court that he had gone against the faith of the Church. There are so many priests who come to Puttaparthi here secretly - and after having Swami's darshan, they return.

J: So the Church allows priests to be devoted to Swami but not come out in the open?

F.C: It is not really allowed. It is not official. However, faith is something inside. It is beyond the reach of anyone. As long as that faith remains within, you are safe from the hands of the Church's Hierarchy. But when

you begin to write and preach it openly, then they have evidence to hold on you for excommunication or other punitive measures.

J: Were you afraid to make the speech on Christmas Day 2006, before thousands of devotees gathered around the Lotus Feet of Swami?

F.C: No. It was His Grace. It was Swami's Love. If as a result of that Grace one goes into trouble, then it is a good trouble.

{ Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. Luke 6:27 }

F.C: Jesus said, "Love your enemies." This teaching is one of the greatest spiritual revolutions in the history of mankind. Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. This is the primary teaching of Sai Baba: Love all, serve all. Swami has not said; Love some, or only those with the same religious affiliation, or members of the family, or those who love you. This is restricted love. Swami says: Love is expansion. Expand your heart to embrace all. Love All! Not only human beings but all creation, mountains, oceans, birds, animals, trees, stars... all creation is a manifestation of Divinity. Love them as such and let your service emanate from the roots of that divine love.

(The interview continued with some interesting questions and answers.)

F.C: People often ask the question: "Who is Sai Baba?" But this question is not right... Should you ask, "Who are you?" When the questioner does not know his own reality, how can he grasp the solution to the question

he has posed? First find out the reality of the questioner. When you find that out, then automatically you will know the reality of Sai Baba. This is because Sai Baba is one with you. The promoter of the question is the solution to the question. Know yourself, then you will know that the Self in you is Sai Baba. Without this Self Knowledge till not it is a waste of time trying to grasp the reality of God.

Why did the Jewish religious Hierarchy and aristocracy do away with Jesus? Why did they kill Him? Because they never understood who Jesus really is! And we are no better than them. After 2000 years, have still not understood the reality of Jesus. That is the very reason for all the divisions and fights not only within the Christian churches, but also between different religious faiths. For example, Jesus once said: **"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."** Now that has caused a lot of confusion in the Christian forum.

J: Yes. So many of my Christian friends come to me and tell me, "Jesus is the Only Lord. Why follow Sai Baba when Jesus said He is the Only Way to the Father?"

F.C: But who is Jesus? Who is that Way? Who is that Life? Is Jesus referring to His physical body or to the name 'Jesus'? When Jesus said, 'I am', what exactly does He mean? Now say, 'I am'. **I AM.** 'I am' is also talking to you now. Who is that 'I am'? It is God. Jesus does not see Himself as the body. Jesus does not see Himself as the Name. God has so many names. God is beyond name.

Jesus identifies Himself as the "I AM" principle. Jesus is pure existence - Satchitananda, the 'I AM THAT I AM'. Everything that says 'I AM' is Jesus.

We limit Jesus to the form, son of Joseph, son of Mary, born in time, confined to Israel's culture. We limit Jesus to the name 'Jesus'. But the truth is Jesus is beyond the name 'Jesus'. Jesus is not only for Christians. Jesus is not only for those who call Him 'Jesus'. Jesus is the 'I

am' principle. This 'I am' is the Life in all, the existence in all, the Truth in all. Everything which breaths 'I am' is calling the name 'Jesus'.

Jesus means that, "God is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to God except through God". In other words, God is the Goal and He is also the Way to the Goal. We can only reach God through God. We can only see the Sun through its rays. So what Jesus said is by no means exclusive to the Christians or to those who call God by the name 'Jesus'.

(Finally), it is possible to realise Me only on the day you realise who you are.

(The full transcript may be read on Radio Sai Listeners' Journal, Dec. 2007, "Heart2Heart")

Baba Becomes Bhagavan for Me

Mr. Rajendran writes; With many other devotees, I was waiting for Baba to arrive for darshan. When He did so, He asked a devotee near me where he was from, "U.S.A." came the reply. In answer to Swami's question re. what he earns, about Rs. 60,000/- every month.

Baba advised, *"Spend the money usefully. Don't tell lies. Send money to your parents also. Contribute your might for good causes. You should never get bound by ego, and not lavish in wasting money. As you earn more and more, you should also become more and more humble. You are living alone in America, and do not give up good habits."* Swami then produced a large spatika chain and placed it around his neck.

Swami asked him if he said prayers. *"No."* Swami said, *"Not like that. Whatever you do it should be done at the stipulated time. You should never miss the time. Suppose you feed a dog at 10.00 am, and if you do that for 3 days, from the fourth day onwards, the dog of its own comes exactly at 10.00 am. When a dog is coming like that will not even loving God also come? Definitely He will come and give His blessings. But God will not come if you call Him at any suitable time for you. It is very important that we should have stipulated time to call Bhagavan. We should not waste even a minute in our time. See the creation of the God. You will find that everything evolves time bound. You can easily know that God likes it."*

As Swami was speaking, he produced a sparkling diamond ring, and Rajendran wondered from where the ring had come.

"These things appear on Divine Sankalpa. Those who believe in the power of Sankalpa can only understand this. The miracles that I perform are not that important. Are you able to realise My Love? It is My Love that had made it possible to achieve so many things which you

mention. This Divine Love is eternal. There is no goldsmith to make it, no measurements were taken. It is ready-made. You will live with good health, prosperity!"

At this very instant, Baba became Bhagavan for me, said Rajendran.

Sai Ram.
