

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

In these difficult times, including the days and years ahead, we within the Sathya Sai Organisation, are truly blessed to have the love and protection of our sweet Lord Sai. I am reminded that many years ago, Swami wrote the following letter to all His Devotees, which is as pertinent today, as it was then:

My Dears,

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 what 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**

For the present, then, we must continue to serve and assist Swami in His mission in every way possible whether we are office holders or not. We now have a full National Committee in place representing each of the four Provinces of Ireland. They are as follows:
Munster Chair:- Paul Curtin.

Leinster Chair:- Marion Mac Govern.

Ulster Chair:- Laila Madhavan.

Connaught Chair:- Dr. Rohininath.

Secretary:- Anna Skrine.

Treasurer & EHV Coordinator:- Rosemary Marron

I shall continue to Chair the National Committee and I would like to wish each office-holder every success in their respective roles. Our first Meeting will take place on 4th April, in Dublin, when Ishver Patel will address this Committee. *Ed.*

The Driver of the Car

The young son of Mrs. Sivivasan, was asked by Swami to ask Him a question. The boy asked, "Swami, which is Your favourite car?" People nearby were shocked at hearing the little boy's question, seeing it as a waste of a precious questions and time. Swami smiled lovingly and replied, "*Morris Minor*," and continued to tell stories of how He drove to Madras, and how He had obtained a license!! "You used to drive Yourself, Swami?" exclaimed the boy, with beaming smiles. Swami transfixed the boy as he looked up at Swami, and Swami continued to say, "I will

give you a big car. Will you take it? You mustn't say no!" The boy was overawed by now and replied, "OK!" Swami then asked, "*Will you give Me your car?"*" "Sure, Swami." "*Shall I drive it?"*" asked Swami. "Sure, Swami!" Swami, smiling, placed His hand on the boy's heart and said, "*Your heart is the car and I am the driver.*" A profound lesson in devotion taught by Swami in the simplest manner. Swami says, have faith in Him, and, "*Be free from fear, anxiety and agitation. Surrender to God; His wisdom can enlighten you. His power can overcome all obstacles. Faith and surrender are the manifestations of devotion.*"

(From a talk given by Mrs. Mallika Srivivasan, CEO of TAFE (tractor and farm equipment) and the most successful woman CEO in India.)

Shirdi Sai, Parthi Sai, -soon Prema Sai, will come and the greatness and the Power of Love will spread everywhere. Everyone's home will be Bharat (India) Prasanthi Nilayam will become the home for all - Viswa Nilayam. There will be peace and harmony everywhere. There will be no three C's - Caste, Country, Colour anymore.
-BABA.

Why Does Swami Create the Divine Lingam?

"The LINGAM is the absolute form of Divinity, it is from God's navel. The Lingam is the Purest Form of Divinity. Lord Shiva is associated with the Lingam because Shiva is the Purest Form of Divine Consciousness in every form. Shiva and the Lingam represent the Purest Form of Love. Once when Lord Shiva was deep in meditation and prayer, the heat that radiated from His physical form threatened to burn everything. As the Gods stood before Him in sincere prayer, Shiva started vomiting fire continuously and after some time, from His mouth, came the Lingam. The Holy Lingam cooled Shiva's Divine heat and saved the world. That is how it came to be associated with Shiva. "Why do I create the Lingam? Because when I take the Lingam out from My physical body, the Godliness of that Lingam spreads to each and everyone assembled there and who are praying to God. Many times people ask Me, 'Swami, why do You suffer so much physical pain before the Lingam comes out of You?' I do not suffer at all. It is only reflections that see Me in distress. Why should I suffer? People suffer because they do wrong. When they see the Lingam, everyone becomes purified. Swami undergoes physical suffering for His people to make them understand that I take the sufferings of My people on Me. This is

nothing for Me. It is you that should understand that Swami suffers because He wants all of you to live in peace and happiness always."

For Your Info.

Krishna was born on July 20, 3227 BC. The Kurukshetra War was fought 3141 BC, when Krishna was 86 years old.

Attachment to the world can be destroyed only by attachment to the Lord. If you want to adhere to Sathya (truth) and Dharma (righteousness), you must see in every act, the reflection of the Glory of the Atma. Then attachment to the Lord will transmute the attachment to the world into a pure offering. -BABA.

Flying Lessons from God?

Some months ago I was flying our Piper Seneca G-BBLU twin engined aircraft on a test flight with another pilot, Julian. We departed from Biggin (Hill, Airport, Kent), and during the test flight the undercarriage/wheels failed to extend/lower down. So in fact we would have to land without the wheels which could be disastrous. We were overhead Maidstone about 20 miles east of Biggin Hill Airport. We flew back to Biggin and joined 2000ft overhead, the airport asked if we wished to declare a problem, as they confirmed that our wheels were not down. We said no. We tried to extend the undercarriage/wheels, they failed to lower. Julian, my pilot, said, "Singh, we have two choices, First, is we land and crash, and hope for the best. Second, we ask Sai Baba, but what can He do - this is a mechanical failure." So, I said OK, we will ask Babaji but only if we both ask together. So we said: "Dear Baba, Dear God, please help us, the undercarriage/wheels will not lower even on emergency extension, please lower it so we don't get hurt." Suddenly, this voice boomed in the cockpit: "*Amarjit (Singh) you both are more worried about not hurting yourselves, what about the aircraft, the ground, the air, any other lives which may be hurt, and what about the trauma, the very Air, the 5 elements of creation (it) will hurt in the crash.*" We understood His message straight away and we said, 'Dear Babaji, please extend the undercarriage, we do not want anything else to get hurt, the aircraft, the ground, and insects on the ground, anything else, please allow us to land safely. As soon as we said this, the wheels/undercarriage came straight down locked. We had 3 GREEN LIGHTS, we landed safely. On later inspection we found the Hydraulic Fluid aluminium pipe had burst due

to corrosion and there was no way, apart from Divine intervention, the undercarriage would have extended, as even the emergency extension had failed. We landed safe and sound. We then thanked Sai Baba. Lots of Divine Love, from Amarjit.

Many people call themselves devotees without understanding the meaning and significance of the term devotion. Devotion does not mean performing rites and rituals. True devotion lies in obeying the command of the Lord and spreading His message... One has to worship God both in times of pain and pleasure. -BABA.

Test My Omnipresence

Mrs. Rani Subramanian

When my husband was away, my son became very ill with a fever of 103-104 degrees, for five days. Doctor came and he thought it was malaria, then influenza. He had to admit he didn't know the cause. However, he continued to treat him but my son didn't respond to any medicine. After four days the doctor came and told me that he thought it could be typhoid. My son at the time was 5 or 6 years old and his fever was not coming down at all. He became delirious! Didn't recognise me or anybody, and when I tried to put him to bed, he would run. I was worried and wondered what had happened to him! Immediately, Baba's thought came to mind: "*I told you to test My Omnipresence! Now is the time for you to test. Go and pray to Me!*" I told the maid to somehow manage to look after the child and I will just go and pray, and return. It was 9.0 clock and I prayed to Swami: "Swami, You said to test Your Omnipresence. Today I need Your Omnipresence because this child is behaving so queerly! I can't understand what is happening! I want your help! You must fulfil 3 conditions of mine! One, when I go back now, he should be fast asleep; he shouldn't be running around and saying all sorts of things! Then I will know you are Omnipresent. 2nd is, when I get up in the morning and when I check his temperature, it should be normal - exactly 98.4 - I will not even accept a 99! The temperature usually goes up again in the afternoon. So, when I will test again in the afternoon, and in the evening, it should be continuously 98.4! He should be absolutely normal in every sense! Then I will believe you have helped him." Then I got up and returned to the bed room and found him fast asleep! Then I asked my maid: "When did he go to sleep?" She said; "*Amma*, a few minutes after you went, he went off to sleep." The following morning he got up very normal! None of that

babbling was there. He recognised me. I took his temperature in the afternoon and evening it was 98.4! What more did I need? Apparently at that time, Swami was in Venkatagiri, with the Maharaja, and He was talking to them at 9 o'clock. Maharaja used to take Swami by car to Venkatagiri. While I was praying at 9 o'clock, Swami was talking to the Maharaji, when He went into trance! He just fell back and they couldn't understand what happened! When He came around, they asked Him, "Swami, what happened?" They had heard about His trance but had not witnessed one till then. So they asked Him, "Was it a trance? Did you go anywhere?" Swami confirmed this. He replied: *"One of My devotees, Rani Maa, was in great trouble. Her husband has gone on tour; he is not there, she alone with her two children. Her boy has got delirium from high fever. She is very worried and troubled. So she prayed to Me: 'Swami, come and show me Your Omnipresence!' So, I went and saved the boy. Now the boy is alright!"*

(A devout and dedicated devotee for nearly 60 years, Mrs. Rani Subramanian, came to Bhagavan Baba as early as 1950. Aged 85 years old now, and fondly called 'Rani Maa' by Bhagavan, her life is a treasure-chest of scintillating experiences from yester years.)

Spiritual life is a Divine life where you are connecting yourself with the Source all the time! That is, thinking, talking and functioning from the level of Divinity. You must test My Omnipresence. "You have earned My Grace only because you have worked with your Self, but you have to pass a very big exam - the Ph.D: the last one. Look at one step only! Don't look ahead! Just look one step forward! -BABA.

The Tiny Sparrow

In a clearing in a forest there stood a huge banyan tree. It had a gigantic trunk with mighty knolled prop roots, and sturdy branches. And on one such sturdy branch there was a lean twig on which sat a tiny sparrow. A slight breeze set the twig into harmonic oscillation, and the sparrow chirped in with rhythm. The breeze slowly turned into a wind, and the sparrow's seat shook violently. But the sparrow just continued chirping with none to listen to its melody. The wind turned fierce and roared; the sparrow only twittered. And in the asymmetric battle that continued, the twig snapped, unable to bear the onslaught. What happened to the tiny sparrow? *It just spread its wings and flew away!!!* "Man lives in this world and builds a home, housing in it everything he has acquired in life. And he sits in this house and twitters to the tune of life, but when the winds are not in favour, and the

world comes crashing around him, he hops about lamenting his plight. He blames all including God!" The tiny sparrow on that branch did not depend upon the twig, or on the branch, or on the gigantic trunk of the mighty banyan tree. It depended on its wings! So too in life, let us depend not upon mere twigs of passion and fashion, of pain and gain, of wealth and glory. Let us rather depend upon the wings of Faith. Faith in 'His' Benevolence, and in 'His' Benediction! *"When the tempest becomes stormier than we can bear, we can spread these two wings of NAAMA SMARAN and SEVA, and glide effortlessly to our destinations!"* Swami.

If you pose a question as to "Where is God?" some people will say, "He is in me," pointing to their body. Body is not permanent. Hence, this is not a proper answer. When I say the flower is in My hand, the flower is smaller than Me. In the same manner, when you say God is in you, you are bigger than God! In fact, the whole world is in the hands of God. Hence, it is not proper to say that God is in you. You are in God. All are in God. The world itself is a manifestation of God. This is the Transcendental Truth. This is the changeless truth. -BABA.

BABA RESTORES SIGHT

In 1916 Vittal Rao Deshpande took his grandfather, who was blind in both eyes, to Shirdi. Leading him with both hands, he took the grandfather before Shirdi Baba, bowed and the grandfather said, "Baba, I cannot see." Baba replied, "Yes, you will." While leaving his grandfather, Vittal went to change a note, and Baba placed His hand on the old man's head and his sight was fully restored. The grandfather, with tears in his eyes, said, "Baba, Your kindness is wonderful. I can see everything now." The old man left Shirdi for Bombay, with a clear vision, requiring no assistance.

Chanting of the Gayathri Mantra purifies the mind and confers devotion, detachment and wisdom. Young men must necessarily chant the Gayathri Mantra. Today we find people getting initiated into Gayathri Mantra in the advanced stages of their youth. Intellect will blossom and shine forth in all its splendour only after initiation into the Gayathri Mantra. That is why it is essential that Upanayanam be done at the age of eight. One who is initiated into the Gayathri Mantra at an early age will become highly intelligent. Chanting of the

Gayathri Mantra will sanctify man's life.
-BABA

God and I in space alone and nobody else in view. "And where are the people, O Lord!" I said. "The earth below and the sky overhead and the dead whom once I knew?" "That was a dream," God smiled and said, "A dream that seemed to be true, There were no people, living or dead, There was no earth and no sky overhead There was only Myself and you." "Why do I feel no fear?" I asked, "Meeting You here in this way, For I have sinned I know full well, And there is heaven and there is hell, And is this the Judgment Day?" "Nay, those were dreams," the great God said, "Dreams that have ceased to be. There are no such things as fear or sin, There is no you - you have never been - There is nothing at all but Me."
("Illusion", by Edna Wheeler Wilcox.)

Rail Link to Shirdi

Shortly, thousands of Mumbai's Shirdi Sai Baba devotees will be able to reach Shirdi for darshan, by an over-night rail journey. The work on this new rail connection has been completed and has been inaugurated on 15th February, to cater for the enormous crowds travelling there. The Railway Board has decided that train No. 1333, which goes to Manmad, will now go to Shirdi via Puntamba, a distance of 17.5 km.

Developing attachment to persons and possessions is the cause of all sorrows. By reducing attachments and developing love for God, one can reduce misery and experience more happiness. The more one loves God, the more the bliss one experiences. Men are plunged in misery because they hanker after the physical instead of yearning for God. If men transform their desire for material objects into the desire for the Supreme, they will enjoy immense happiness. All that is necessary is to see the Divine in everything. This is true devotion. Work will then turn to worship and every act rendered holy.
-BABA.

VIBHUTI

When Swami was eight years old, He used to apply Vibhuti to His forehead in three broad horizontal strokes. When this became gradually erased during the course of the day, He would rinse His fingers in water and apply fresh Vibhuti, again and again. Those days were prior to His declaring His advent, back in 1940. When Swami moved into the Patha Mandiram, He would perform aarthi at the end and apply Vibhuti and distribute it to His

devotees. In those days, devotees witnessed Vibhuti emitting from His mouth or feet, or other parts of the body. It is said that Swami still takes Vibhuti from the dhuni at Shirdi - which on occasions, would be hot and grainy - a drama commenced aeons ago, in the era of Lord Shiva.

(Treasure your Vibhuti. Ed.)

What you are is God's Gift to you, and what you become is your Gift to God. -BABA.

In today's world everyone is in search of God. God is nowhere else but within you. Only God's Grace can change the whole world. Always keep God in your mind. Only God can change the world. Treat yourself as a servant and not a master. -BABA.

Vibhuti Covered Pick

The Scottish born, naturalised Indian writer and traveller, Bill Aitken, relates the following dramatic story: On the 14th June 1980, I was lucky enough to be present in a house visited by Baba in New Delhi, after His Divine visit to Kashmir. I was preparing to go on a pilgrimage to the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, one of the most difficult treks in the Himalayas. I took my high-altitude equipment with me, including ropes, pitons (rock clamps) and my trusted iceaxe, an indispensable tool for negotiating icy terrain in the high mountains. Baba graciously asked after my welfare and I said I would like Him to bless my adventure. My hostess suggested I give Baba my ice-axe to bless. He smiled, took it and began to ask some searching questions about the composition of the steel used in its making. His students knew more about this than I did. Suddenly He produced Vibhuti from thin air (without the usual circular movements I had seen in public), and proceeded to rub it with great intensity on one side, the pick side of the ice-axe only. He didn't put any Vibhuti on the other parts. Then with an air of finality He said, "*You will be successful,*" and handed back the ice-axe. I do not know what constitutes a miracle, but I do know that a month later, on 26th July, while climbing into the Sanctuary, the pick of the ice-axe saved my life. Traversing some tricky wet slabs of rockcut croppings above the Rishi Ganga gorge at Rhamani, I was aided by two excellent Garhwali porters. They were so skillful and daring that they disdained to use any rope and would cross the wet slabs sloping out over the edge of the gorge in their feet. They would go ahead fixing rope, then sit on their haunches and wait for me with all my climbing regalia to haul myself up. We began up a narrow earth gully which was particularly slippery and treacherous. There were no

reliable footholds anywhere and we had to make them as we went. I looked back into the yawning chasm that led a thousand feet straight down into the huge gorge carved out by the rushing river below. I kicked a toehold in the damp earth and reaching up whacked the pick of the iceaxe into the earth above. To my dismay the six inch pick clanged against rock after it had gone in only three inches, not enough to hold much weight. At the same moment the earth under my toehold crumbled away and I felt myself sinking gently with the earth until I was dangling above the gorge supported only by the Vibhuti covered pick. For the agonising moment my full weight came on the axe; my thoughts were more of self disgust at my incompetence than fear of hurtling a thousand feet to certain death. Somehow that three inches of steel didn't slice through the soft earth but held me long enough for the porters to back down and grab me. After a few more close shaves we were successful and got to our destination, the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, reaching that holy place on Gurupurnima. There were other hair raising incidents on our return trip, but thanks to Baba's Divine Grace, we came through alright and I am alive today to narrate this story.

You must have firm faith, however, clouds of doubts will come, which is but natural. Still, you must persist, wait for the winds to blow them away and you will see the sun again. The sun is always there. It is only that the clouds hamper your vision. -BABA.

Faith in the Atma - the true Self.

During the course of Swami's Christmas Message, He referred to the need to develop faith in the principles of the Atma - which is our true Self. All that we see, hear or do, is unreal, like a dream, He said. *"Only one thing is real and eternal, that is the principle of the Atma. This can also be called the principle of love. Love originates from the Atma. If only we have love, we can conquer the entire world."* Should anything bad happen to you, it is of our own making - the result of our bad thoughts. *"Everything good and bad is of your own making."* God does not give us these thoughts - good or bad - we ourselves are responsible for them. We have all created them. Being created human, with human values, only then are we deserving of attaining divinity. He said, *"Your senses make you unsteady in a number of ways and lead you to the wrong path. But when your mind is pure, they will lead you to the right path. Therefore, always keep your mind pure and steady. Do not allow it to cause*

ups and downs by its unsteadiness. The mind is the basis of the entire world. You think of an object, and the same is changed into subject. The subject and the object are not different from each other. "You are confused when you think that man is different from God." Swami declares, that good and bad coexist - they are always together, and that there is only a difference of time between them. We cannot see good and bad at the one time. *"You should always pray to God. This is what you have to do in the world today. You can attain everything when you have self-confidence,"* Swami said.

Do not shape your conduct with an eye on the opinion of others. Instead, follow bravely, gladly and steadily the sweet and pleasant promptings of your own Sathwic-manas (pure mind), your own awakened consciousness, your own inner self. Associate yourself only with those who are truthful. -BABA.

The Divine Announcement

"Today I have decided to have a separate campus affiliated to Sri Sathya Sai University in Muddenahalli," Swami said on 23rd of November, 2008, an announcement that took everybody present by surprise. *"Bhagawan's Will is bound to happen. The work will start from tomorrow. Therefore, Swami has Willed to have Sathya Sai University in Muddenahalli. The people living in Muddenahalli are village folk. They live by physical labour. To pursue higher studies, they have to go to cities or towns. Once they have completed their education, they can go elsewhere to earn a living. Swami has decided to inculcate spirituality through Bhagavatam, Bhagawad Gita and Ramayana."*

It was interesting that Swami chose Feb. 14th for the ground-breaking ceremony. This day is symbolic of love the world over! The entire campus was gaily decorated with a riot of colour everywhere. Almost 10,000 devotees, teachers and students gathered on the lawns in front of the "Premdeep", the Divine abode, to welcomed the arrival of the Lord in Sathya Sai Grama. Swami proceeded to the hillock, for the laying of the foundation stone, for the Administrative Block and Residence of the Divine Chancellor. Many dignitaries spoke of the unfathomable compassion and concern of Bhagawan for the entire mankind and the service activities undertaken by Him for the amelioration of the difficulties of people. Swami, referring to the declining spiritual progress in villages, said that this campus would give emphasis on spiritual studies that

should help the children to grow into noble citizens. The campus would, He said amidst cheers, be inaugurated in one year's time and that the entire cost of the project would be borne by Him alone. He advised patrons not to accept any money from outside, "Why do I need anyone's financial assistance?" He said that people in society have become very greedy. Greed, He said, brings in its train sorrow and suffering. To get rid of this people should tread on the path of self-discovery, which will confer on them bliss. Even in villages people have many facilities but they do not have any spiritual inclination; they have given-up the practice of remembering God. Swami concluded His Divine Discourse saying, "You are indeed fortunate because you have got this opportunity of Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan. It is your duty to keep your parents happy. So many foreigners come to Prashanthi Nilayam, and learn to lead a peaceful and happy life. Within the next 18 years the whole of the world will become one big family and Hindu way of life will be adopted by everyone." Swami concluded with the declaration that, "Next year on 14th February I will come for the opening of this new campus. Don't worry about money. When Lakshmi is in My heart, there won't be any shortage of money. I don't ask anybody for money and you also should not ask anyone for money. "When I declare something, it is bound to happen. All will be surprised when I finish a task. Always have faith in God. All your worldly problems will be solved."

You look to Me and I look to you. You take one step towards Me and I take a thousand towards you. -BABA.

Swami's Golden Words

Swami's words, are Divine words. The following are but a few uplifting and inspiring words for us to embrace. "I must tell you that you are luckier than men of previous generations. The accumulated merits of many previous births must have granted you this luck. You have come to Me and it is your duty to develop this relationship that you have achieved by sheer good fortune. In four or five years time, you will see Yogis and Maharishis and Munis crowding here and you may not have such chances of asking Me questions and getting the answers, or approaching Me and directly speaking to Me." (27-9-1960) "You will witness this Puttaparthi becoming Mathura Nagar, (the name of the place where Lord Krishna lived). No one can stop this development or delay it. I will not you up, nor can anyone of you give Me up. Even if you

loose faith, you will repent and come to this refuge very soon, clamoring for admission. I shall be in this body for 58 more years: I have assured of this already. Your lives are intertwined with My Earthly Career. Act always in accordance with that great privilege". (21-10-1961)

"Be confident that you will be liberated. Know that you are saved. Go and tell all that you had gone to Puttaparthi and got there the secret of liberation" (25-1-1963)

"Now, I must tell you that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for even such 'drama' with scenes of failure and defeats. What I Will must take place; what I plan must succeed. I am Truth, and Truth has no need to hesitate, or fear or bend". (19-6-1974)

Don't forget your parents are God. They should never shed tears. God will give everything to children who take care of their parents. -BABA.

A THRILLING EXPERIENCE

Many people experience Swami in their lives, in so many different ways; some dream of Him, others are blessed with a personal interview, and so on. But the experience of American James Sinclair, must be the most extraordinary of all, but let Sinclair himself tell this remarkable story. "I will tell you of an event that at that time seemed shocking but would take 30 years to become fully clear. It has to be kept in mind that neither I nor my wife at that time, had any understanding or inclination towards Eastern tradition or philosophies. "In 1964, just a short while after our marriage, my wife and I accepted an invitation to stay at a friend's woodland cottage. As we were going to sleep, I saw an old man standing over my bed in the moonlight. My feeling was not one of fear but rather like one has while a mother is looking at her son. The old man then turned and walked across the room and through the wall! "Just then my wife said in a loud voice, 'Jim, are you awake?' She screamed, since she was watching the old man as he walked through the wall. We had never seen anything like that in our life and were shaken by the experience. "I began to meditate twice a day. I had an interesting. My meditation was on the light from a candle. Every time I started my meditation looking at the candle flame, I saw a little fellow in the flame wearing an orange robe with a great shock of black hair. Then I would transcend thought. "I also began to have the same dream every single night. It went on for years. I saw myself walking up a hill, led by three men in the darkness of night. One was

a old man in white. One looked somewhat like Jesus Christ. The one in the middle had an orange robe. This dream occurred night after night for years. At that time, I had no knowledge of Shirdi Sai Baba, or Sathya Sai Baba. For that matter I had no idea of any Avatar and did not know what the word meant. "I was walking from the lavatory in the night. You know how you get the feeling someone is there. I did. I turned around and there He was. I hadn't the slightest idea who He was. This handsome figure dressed in a long orange robe, with a shock of hair you wouldn't believe, was in my hallway, looking at me silently. I nearly jumped out of my skin. As fast as I had seen Him, He was gone. Well, it happened second time. "Not too much later, I was in my meditation room, and this same figure was standing (there) when I came out of meditation. I rubbed my eyes. He was still there. He motioned as if I was to do something with His Feet. I knelt down and touched His Feet. As I looked up He was no longer there. "Off I went to the fort of spiritual knowledge in New York, Samuel Weiser's bookstore. I approached the clerk. He asked if he could help me. I said, "I certainly hope so." I described my visitor, of course without giving details of the visit. I wanted to know if there was any book about someone who looked like the description of my visitor. He said, 'One moment, I will be right back.' He returned and handed me a packet of whitish/grey powder and a book entitled '*Holy Man and the Psychiatrist*', written by a doctor (this book is by Dr. Sandweiss, Ed.). "The salesman told me that he himself was a devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Was I in for a surprise when I 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? The figure in the flame was also Him. "On my first visit to Prashanti Nilayam, which is a story in itself, I was granted an interview with Baba. As I entered the room, He said, '*All I have given you, and you have never been happy one minute in your life. I came to you twice. Would you do something for Swami?*' My answer was, of course, yes. Swami went on, '*Be happy!*' "In the 1994 interview, Swami said to my wife and myself, '*I came to you 30 years ago,*' He said it right out of the blue. 1994 was the year when we had the experience in the woodland cabin with the figure of the old man in white. That was indeed 30 years ago!"

In today's world everyone are in search of God. God's Grace can change the whole world. Always keep God in your mind. Only

God can change the world. Treat yourself as a servant and not a master. -BABA.

Q. & A.

Questioner, People say that they are often punished by Swami. Is that a fact?

Baba, Of course. In punishing a person for misdemeanor, Swami wants to correct the defaulter. But, though harsh in appearance, at other times, He is all Love inside. Sometimes He corrects a person in private; at other times, He does so, in public. For, if He corrects in public, all who hear will learn and see for themselves, what pleases Swami and what does not. Swami is very strict in His principles and rules. An Avatar does not compromise. To the Sadhaka, strictness is, ultimately, the best kindness.

Q. Many Gurus teach, "All is done by the Lord; and, not by you." But, the world over, there is the concept that man is responsible for his actions.

A. As long as you believe you are only human, this concept will persist. But, that cannot change the truth -"You are God."

Q. Is not praying the same as begging? If we are God, we beg only for ourselves.

A. It is not begging when you ask God for something. When you receive what He gives, you have to rise up to His level at least for that moment. When you beg from one equal to you, you put yourselves down and he is raised up. When you beg from one lower than you, you degrade yourself still lower. But, when you beg from God, you rise; you are elevated in spirit and you sense fulfilment.

Q. But, I had thought that since God knows all, He would remedy the situation, if it is appropriate that it should be done.

A. Of course He would, provided you have surrendered fully, without any reservation, But, until then...

Q. Yes. Swami had written in a letter to me, "Do not worry about your health. Your God is always with you, in you and around you."

A. That is right. What I said is enough for those who have surrendered! You must awaken your senses of identification with the body. You may have a headache today, a stomachache tomorrow. Don't worry. You are not the body; no; you are the Atma, the Divine Dweller in this body. Once I have told you not to worry, there is no more need to ask Me about it. Don't identify.

Q. Swami said that while praying to God, the petitioner raised himself to the level of God. In order to make such a prayer, in what state of mind should one first put himself?

A. It is not necessary that one should put

oneself into any particular state of meditation.

Q. Usually, the advice is that one should go to a quiet place and be in a quite mood when he wishes to pray.

A. Wherever and whenever you put yourself in touch with God, that is the state of meditation. You may feel that 1 p.m. in California is not a good time to call Me, for I may be asleep in India and that I should not be disturbed! I know you have felt like that once or twice. But, I am Omnipresent; I have no such limitations. I never sleep. At the middle of the night I turn off the light and rest in bed, because if the light is on, devotees will gather. I have no need of sleep. But, you need at least 4 hours of sleep. Much has been written in recent times about the coming age -the Golden Age - and Swami has referred to it from timeto-time.

Q. Swami, the Golden Age that You have spoken about, when will it begin?

A. The day when the brotherhood of man and the Fetherhood of God will shine bright and beautiful is drawing near.

Q. What will this time be like?

A. This age will be a Golden Age for seekers of God, for earning and learning Viveka. In it falsehood will fail, truth will triumph, and virtue will reign. Character will confer power then, not knowledge or inventive skill or wealth. Wisdom will be enthroned in the Councils of Nations.

Q. What sign will You give that the Golden Age is beginning?

A. The Glory of Sai will spread to every part of the world. It will increase a thousand fold. You will see thousands pressing along this road, hundreds on every rock on these hills. The time will soon come when this huge building or even vaster ones, will be too small for the gatherings of those who are called to this place. The sky itself will have to be the roof of the Auditorium of the future; I will have to forego the car and even the airplane when I move from place to place, for the crowds pressing around them will be too huge; I will have to move across the sky; Yes, that too will happen, believe Me.

Q. Swami, is it true that small children who die, are not born again?

A. Yes. What type of children? Parents of the deceased child should not have any type of disease and should be healthy. The child should not have any congenital disease and should have been born healthy. If such children die, they do not have rebirth. Children below fifteen years who die, when they are healthy, will not have rebirth - up to fifteen years lust, anger, etc., would not have polluted their minds. If *yogis* have some *karma* to

exhaust, such as dwelling in the womb, miseries of childhood, etc., they take birth to undergo this *karma* for a short period and then die. That will be their last birth. Om Sai Ram.

Be free from fear, anxiety and agitation. Surrender to God; His Grace can save you. His wisdom can enlighten you. His power can overcome all obstacles. Faith and surrender are the manifestations of devotion. -BABA.

Sathya Sai Education

Project in the UK

The City of Leicester, in the UK., is about to have the first building in Leicester for the purpose of advancing Sathya Sai Education and other SSSSO activities in the UK. The Grade 11 listed building had previously been used as a College of Further Education, having 22 large classrooms, spread over three floors, together with two large halls. The site, also, has parking facilities for approx. 70 vehicles. Thus it is ideal to house the Sathya Sai School in Leicester, which has been running since 2001 in rented premises. The Leicester school is the only Sai School in Europe. This is a dream fulfilled, by and for, the devotees in the UK. in having their own Sai School and to have a home for the Sai Organisation. Overall the premises will serve:

* As a permanent home for the full-time Sathya Sai School, Leicester.

* The needs of the local Sai Centres and thereby the local population with such activities as holiday schools and weekend classes.

* As an ideal venue for providing training on Sai Spiritual Education and Sathya Sai EHV., including the formal courses offered by the British Institute of Sathya Sai Education (BISSE). The building is situated on Narborough Road, in Leicester (LE3 0BT). Quoting Swami, **“Anything can be achieved with unflinching faith in God. Discharge your duties with a sense of surrender to God”**.

All actions to be performed in a spirit of surrender to God. Only then will you become immortal. -BABA.

“Knock and it shall be opened unto you”

One may recall the well-known painting of Christ, standing in a garden at a cottage door, holding a lamp in one hand and knocking on the door with the other. This beautiful picture was painted by Holman Hunt (1827 - 1910)

and is titled *The Light of the World*, that now hangs in Keble College, Oxford. A friend of the artist said to him, "Holman, you have made a mistake. The door you have painted does not have a handle." "It is not a mistake," replied Hunt, "for that is the door of the human heart, and can only be opened from inside!" To make that move towards God, he suggested, we need to get up and open the door to let God in. This happens only when man realises the need for God. This is known as spiritual awakening. Something happens deep within you and your life becomes new. You are filled with light and warmth, joy and peace. You realise that the life you have lived till then, a life of creature comforts and of pride, self and power, was not life at all. When Arjuna asked Krishna, "You say that this whole world is nothing but a projection of our mind and is therefore nothing but a dream. But you too have taken a form in this dream, so are you also not a part of this dream?" Krishna smiled and replied, "*Yes, my dear. I too am part of your dream. But I am like the roaring lion in the dream. My roaring will wake you up from this dream unto reality!*" How many times have we viewed this picture without realising its depth?

Within the next 18 years the whole of the world will become one big family and Hindu way of life will be adopted by everyone.

- BABA.

Just Let Go!

There was once a sadhu, who was not a true sadhu, but one who put on the ocre robe, not because he had a longing for liberation, but because the life suited his laziness. He lived in a small hut by the Ganges; the waters quenched his thirst and the generosity of the gullible pilgrims satiated his hunger - enviable was his position. Sitting on the banks of the river one day, he saw a shiny object floating down the river and plunged in to retrieve it. Holding it in one hand and claiming it as his, he saw that it was a beautiful silver vessel, and held it close to his chest, as he swam back to the bank with his free arm. The current was very strong and he was swept into the centre of the river, making it difficult to swim with just the use of one arm. After a desperate struggle against the current, he had no option but to let go of the vessel as self-preservation gained the better of his greed. Now, with both arms free he succeeded to swim back to the river bank, only to see the precious vessel float away from him. He sat on the bank and wept and wailed, "Oh, I have lost my silver vessel!" The entire episode was witnessed by a true sadhu, who approached him and said, "Friend! That vessel

was floating down the river and would have continued on its course had you not interrupted it. You swam to it, and grasping it, you claimed it as your own. But you had to let go, to save your life, and now you say you lost your vessel! When was it ever yours? Is not all this sorrow of your own making?" First we painstakingly strive to possess them and then madly wrestle to preserve them, All the while forgetting the fundamental fact that everything in this world follows the law of movement and change. Nothing belongs to us. The wise sadhu continued, "Welcome all that comes to you. Stand not in the way of that which departs from you! (Including human beings) For what is yours will be yours & will come to you. What is NOT yours will never come to you!! Then why grieve? JUST LET GO!" This doesn't mean, however, that we shouldn't strive to have material possessions. We can enjoy every materialistic possession and 'let go' of the same when the time comes, without grief when we realise that the same has been given to us for rent by the UNIVERSE!! The same applies to 'near & dear' ones, as well!

Rama is immanent in everyone. Easwara is present in all; Rama is within you. In fact, you yourself are Rama. Establish this truth in your heart firmly and spend your time profitably. Then your life will be filled with everlasting bliss. Constantly recite the name of Rama. Aeons have passed, yet the name of Rama has not been forgotten. Rama is not separate from you. You are not separate from Rama. You may call a person by his name, but it is Rama who is present in him. You may call Him Sai Rama, Sita Rama or Ayodhya Rama or any other name, but do remember Rama forever.

- BABA. (March 2007)

Sai - My Saviour

Sri R. Indireswara Rao.

I heard of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in my early childhood and when I was in 4th or 5th class, I used to be an ardent devotee of Lord Rama. I did not consider even Krishna as God. I used to view skeptically the tales about Swami. In 1962, we went to Puttaparthi. We arrived late and Darshan was over. We stood in the premises expecting to have a glimpse of Swami when He came out of His room, on the upstairs of the Bhajan Mandir where He used to reside then. Swami came out of His room, stood in the verandah ...He came down and asked us to follow. A platform constructed for the Yajna was still there with tall stone pillars raised on either side. "*Remove those pillars from there*", He told us. "*Bring them there!*"

“Yes, Swami”, I replied, enthusiastically. “*You seem to be weak and lean*” Swami remarked smilingly. “*How can you do it?*”

Some people joined, tied strong ropes to the pillars and held. I and another young man from Kerala named Rishikesh, held the pillars so that they would not fall. Some others took crowbars and were trying to lift the pillars from the base. Swami was warning from a little distance, “*Be careful!*”

Then suddenly one of the ropes tied to the pillar, gave way. The pillar by then was loosened from its base, and fell owing to its own weight...the pillar fell on the legs of Rishikesh, crushing them to pulp. I immediately ran to him and cried in alarm, “Swami! Legs of Rishikesh are crushed.” But Mr. Rishikesh was doing Sai-namam, though writhing in pain. Swami dismissed my shouts of alarm and said, “*You are unnecessarily frightened. Nothing happened to Rishikesh. Let Me see!*”

Swami came to Rishikesh, materialised some Vibhuti, and sprinkled it on his legs. By that time the pillar was removed. Swami waved His hand over the affected *portions of the leg and said, “Remove his pant (trousers) a little and seewhat happened?”*

I rolled the pants up carefully, and to my astonishment, there was no scratch, even! I had seen his legs below the knees having been crushed by the falling heavy stone pillar...did not bear even a scratch. “*Did I not tell you, nothing happened?*” Swami smilingly slapped me, “*You fellow, you raise a hue and cry for nothing!*”

Though there was no discernable injury, Rishikesh had to be hospitalised for about ten days. He used to suffer from severe pain. When it was brought to Swami’s notice, He said, “*His mother is an ardent devotee. He was to die that day. But because of her incessant prayers, I saved him. Yet he had to undergo suffering at least for a few days for his past karma. Now he is rid of all that.*”

After a week or so, Rishikesh was alright again.

Even if we don’t have any property, we can lead a happy life only *if the property of love is with us.* This love should be supported with self-confidence. God is the only source and sustenance for the entire Universe. Everything else is an illusion. Sorrows and difficulties, loss and gain, diseases and sickness - treat them all as Divine Will. Then everything will turn out to be good for you. You are God verily just get rid of “I”, the ego and “the ‘my’ attachment”. Rise above these. Let us all move together; Let us

all grow together; Let us all stay together and grow in intellect together. Let us live together with friendship and harmony. Lead a contented life, you will derive great happiness. -BABA (Nov. 23rd. 2008)

Education must not only inform, but it must also transform. -BABA.

However high a bird may soar, it sooner or later must perch on a tree-top to rest and enjoy some quietness. So too, a day will come when even the haughtiest, the most unbelieving and even those who assert that there is no”God”, will have to pray, “God, grant me peace, grant me consolation, grant me joy, save me from this misery and show me the truth. -BABA.

Our website:

www.sathyasaieire.org
