

2010

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
MAR-APR 2010**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

Our congratulations go, now, to the new Chairman of the Sathya Sai Organisation, Ireland, Jagannadha Muttumula -Jagan to his friends - who now takes over the National Chair from me, as of the first of March, 2010.

We wish him every success and I'm sure he will carry into his new role, the love and good wishes of all our Sai devotees.

It will now be his choice to construct the offices of the Organisation, in the order of his choosing. As you are already aware we have two senior positions yet to be refilled, the result of resignations, namely the Munster and Ulster Chairs. Here again, it will be Jagan's choice, as to whether the Provincial structure that has been in place, will continue to be so. Finally, it will be his choice, also, to shuffle around the present Committee, or appoint members of his choosing.

I wish him well in his new role and I assure him of my continued support. *Ed.*

Leave the burden of all your responsibilities to God. - BABA

The Dawn of a Golden Age

Much has been written, over the years, on the subject of the "Golden Age", but with little detail as to what it will consist of, or when it will actually occur, and what our involvement in it will be.

In twenty years time we will be in the Golden Age, Swami has stated. Indeed, we will be drifting into it within ten years. Not too long to wait! But in the interim one wonders what is in store for the world.

However, the following is what Swami has spoken on the subject.

"Everything points to the terror of conflagration coming; and My Mission is to preempt the fires by reestablishing Dharma and the spiritual law of one God, one religion, one language (of the heart) embracing one humanity. ...I want to build one humanity without any religion, caste or other barriers in a universal empire of love which could enable my devotees to feel the whole world as their family.

"If God Himself is here to foster Dharma, and you engage yourself in the same task, then you are worshipping Him. Then you are near and dear to Him, for you are serving Him, His devotees, and yourself.

"My Mission has now reached that point in time when each one of you now has work to do. This planet has a purpose in the great galaxy in which it is held. That purpose is now unfolding before your eyes. I call upon you to radiate the Devotion within you so that its unseen power will envelop all who come into your orbit. To successfully perform your part always remain centered upon Me. Allow yourself to impart that purity of heart within you towards all human beings and all living creatures and do not reach for the fruits of your work. This part of My Mission is performed in absolute silence. You are My instruments from whom My Love will pour. Be always aware that the

moment you let your ego descend upon you, My work ceases. When you have overcome your negative unmindfulness, you will again become My source. The multiplication of My Love will be felt throughout the world.

"I have drawn you to Me. I have made great steps in My Mission over these past incarnations. So, in your lives, by your examples, live and practise My message, knowing that some will understand and others will not. Have no concern with the outcome of your efforts, for some people are ready and others are not. Each one is free to go his own way, in his own time. Many will choose to remain in darkness with all the attachments that hold them back from the true path. But, eventually, their time will come and, one day, all will be re-united in the Kingdom of God." Sathya Sai Baba.

"God is ready to offer you anything you want, but you must be eligible to receive it - just as a depositor can withdraw money up to the amount of his deposit. The same rule applies to what you can receive from God. It depends on the size of your deposit with the Divine. Then the cheque of your prayer will be duly honoured."

"Sanathana Sarathi", Sept. 1997, (p. 239)

Divine Power

Dr. Vinayak Krishna Gokak

Baba can appear in an operating theatre, behind closed and guarded doors. He can be here and there, in another place a thousand miles away

at the same time. His image can stamp itself, as in the heart of crystal, on the stone lingam in a village temple.

Swami can appear in a dream before numerous devotees and recount them their dream-experience when He meets them individually. In a chat over the breakfast table, speaking to the devotees who were there at the time, regarding all such miracles, He once said: *"This is happening in millions of homes. The time has not come, as yet, to assess it publicly. I am waiting so that all the devotees who have yet to come to Me, do so. When there is public assessment, there will be such widespread excitement that I may be rendered inaccessible. All these are signs of a Power that can change the very course of events in the world."*

An American devotee who was present at the time when the remarks were made, asked: "Baba, have I your permission to tell my friends in America about this pronouncement?"

Straight came the answer: *"It's not My business. It may be your duty."*

Baba is what He is. It is not for Him to proclaim from the housetops what He is. But it becomes the duty of the devotee who has come to know Him and to experience His effulgence, to tell the world what Baba is, if the devotee is convinced that what He has experienced is the truth.

Baba has declared that He is here in the flesh to restore India to her former spiritual glory and to carry the message of spirituality to the whole of humanity through her. He has said in categorical terms is that His labours in this manifestation will

not cease till His mission is over. I am one of those who believe in him and in the surety of His pledge. The question may be asked: Why? On what grounds? My answer to that question is: I believe in Baba and in the surety of His pledge, not because I am what I am, (but) because Baba is what He is.

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. 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

Heed These Divine Words

Swami never ceases to pour forth words of great wisdom. They are given to us to guide and guard us in our daily lives and draw us closer to God.

Consider the following: *"Worship the Lord Who lives in the cavity of your heart, nearer to you than your thickest friend, your father, mother or preceptor. He is all of these and more to you. The physical body and the pleasures and comforts you crave for are all subject to damage and decay. One day or other, it becomes food for dogs and jackals. The Lord, on the other hand, grants you bliss and joy forever. He cannot be won by unlimited scholarship, pompous vows or colourful rituals. Surrender your heart to Him. He desires nothing else from you."*

"God is a spotlessly clean mirror; you see in it your own reflection. When you have terror-striking propensities, the reflection you see will strike terror into you. When you have soft harmless propensities, the reflection will be tender and soft. Do not lay blame on the Godhead, as you are prone to do. When everything goes right, you say that God has come close to you; when something goes wrong, you say the God has deserted you, and gone afar! He does not move far or near. The distance from Him to you is as much as the distance from you to Him. He is everywhere. He always is, in your heart. Recognise Him there; realise Him as closest and nearest to you. He is your own self."

Believe that God resides in all beings; speak such words as would spread goodness, truth and beauty; do such acts as would promote the happiness and prosperity of all; pray that all worlds have peace. Expand yourselves; do not contract into your own tiny individuality. Expand into universal love, unshaken equanimity, and ever-active virtue. That is the path which will bring out the divinity in you to the fullest. - BABA.

Swami Holds everything in His Hand

On one occasion, Swami was conversing with devotees in His interview room. He held up the palm of His hand and asked those present, what was in His hand. A devotee replied that there was nothing.

Swami said, *"This empty hand holds everything!"*

When He closed His hand and opened it again, there was a locust resting there and it was eating a tiny leaf that served as its meal. Everyone could see that it was eating the leaf. Shortly, Swami closed His fist and opened it again to reveal that it was now empty. The devotees could not believe their eyes. Through this incident Swami revealed to everyone that Creation, maintenance and dissolution, lie in His control.

Swami explained His Divinity in a few meaningful words, declaring, 'Bha' denotes Creation, 'Ga' denotes Protection and 'Va' denotes ultimate dissolution. He who embodies these three supreme powers is Bhagawan.

Criticising others, finding fault with them, all this comes out of egoism. Search for your own faults instead; the faults you see in others are but reflections of your own personality traits; pay no heed to little worries; attach your mind to the Lord. Then you will be led on to the company of good men and your talents will be transmuted. - BABA

The following quote from Swami is,

I believe, an important one for all Sai devotees to heed.

"Let not another's mistrust in Me become yours, let not another's agitation with life become your source of losing rest, and let not another's blindness to Me result in your pretense of losing vision, too. If you have found Me - you must keep

Me. Several keys lie in the hands of the mortal to open the doors to Divine Bliss - it takes only one - just one key, that will unlock him from the chains of his own world's attachments, and he will then find his freedom, forever, when entering the gates that lead to My home."

We are blessed, indeed, to have with us, the Avatar of this age, to show us the way back to our true home. Let us not squander this precious opportunity.

The wise man sees himself everywhere and is at peace; he is happy that there are so many reflections of himself all around him. That is the attitude you must learn to possess, that will save you from needless bother. - BABA.

The following is from Sai Spiritual Showers

A group of Sai devotees once requested Bhagawan to inaugurate a new temple in their town, but He refused to comply with their request on the ground that black-market cement was used for constructing the temple. When the devotees pleaded not guilty, Bhagawan revealed to them that the so-called Sai devotee who had donated some cement bags for the construction of the temple had illegally saved them from out of the cement allotted to him as a contractor for constructing a dam. Hence Bhagawan's refusal.

On another occasion, He asked a Vedic scholar to get out of His presence when He was seated in the midst of some students and other devotees at Whitefield. When the

pundit showed signs of bewilderment as to why Bhagawan was so harsh to him, He admonished the latter, saying that it was a crime for a Vedic pundit to profess to be a Sai devotee and at the same time to indulge in illegal malpractices by way of lending money to poor and illiterate villagers without proper licence from the Government, and that too, at exorbitant rates of interest.

The third incident relates to a Commercial Tax Officer in Orissa, who once made use of his official jeep to take his family and a few neighbours to visit a cave temple of Shiva in the interior of a dense forest on a 3,000 feet high mountain. On their way back the jeep got stuck in a hill stream and refused to budge an inch. The dark night was gathering fast. An hour's struggle to extricate the jeep was in vain. The officer was terribly scared, because the jungle was known to be infested with wild animals as well as dacoits, and his party consisted mostly of women and children. As he happened to be a Sai devotee, he fervently prayed to Bhagawan in utter desperation. Lo and behold, there appeared on the spot four Sathya Sai Seva Dal volunteers who rescued the party by pulling out the jeep and then vanishing in a second. Thus by Bhagawan's Grace, the officer and the party reached home safely. However, Bhagawan taught him a lesson not to misuse the Government vehicle for private purposes, by immobilising his jeep and thereby creating panic in him and his party.

About ten years ago, a 45 year old recluse called Kalpagiri, came to P.N., and no one could guess that this so-called 'monk' was a wolf in sheep's

clothing. Four years earlier, he committed a ghastly murder and to escape from punishment from the law, he made good his escape by donning the saffron robe and wandering in the Himalayas and other places of pilgrimage. As soon as the Omniscient Baba saw Kalpagiri in the Darshan line, He called him inside and told him during the interview: *"My dear Kalpagiri! How can the saffron robe or visits to Rishikesh and other holy places rid you of the sin of murder? Enough of your roaming in the guise of a Sanyasi for the last four years. Go now to the Police station and surrender yourself there. Experience your Karma by receiving the punishment due to you according to the laws of the land. When the death sentence is declared, file your clemency petition to the President. I will save you. You will not be hanged. You have My protection to atone for your heinous sin, through devotion, in this very birth. Come on, this sacred saffron robe does not befit you. Take this white cloth."*

Saying so in a tone that combined love and sternness, Bhagawan gave Kalpagiri a white dhoti.

Accordingly, Kalpagiri surrendered himself to the Police. The case was taken up. Though he confessed his guilt, the judge awarded him the capital punishment, as the crime was of a heinous nature. In line with Bhagawan's direction, a clemency petition was submitted to the President of the Indian Union. Eventually, he received the President's pardon. Death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and Kalpagiri became an ardent devotee of Bhagawan, spreading his

beneficial influence on the other convicts too.

In conclusion, it may be seen from what is stated above that where there is a will, there is a way either to scrupulously abide by the Governmental rules and regulations or to violate them for selfish reasons, in disregard of the common good for which such laws are made by Government.

Nobody can understand or explain Divine plans. God alone knows His plans and He only can reveal them. No one can predict when God will shower His Grace on an individual. Only God knows the answers to the questions like who, when, where, why and how.
- BABA

Wondrous Potency of Vibhuthi

Patterson, a very successful Canadian businessman, travels worldwide in connection with his business.

On one such occasion he went to India to meet with Dr. Bala Krishna, son of Prof. Bhagavantham, and was invited to Dr. Krishna's home. The residence was decorated like a temple, with a beautiful photograph of Swami in place. Patterson was impressed and enquired as to whom the picture belonged, only to be told that it was of Sathya Sai Baba. He was told of Swami's divine powers, His love and compassion; and how He incarnated in answer to the prayers of devout and saintly persons of eminence, to bring about the deliverance of humanity.

Patterson's interest in Swami grew, and asked the doctor for a momento or token to help remind him of Sai Baba. He assumed he would be given a photo of Swami but Dr. Krishna chose to give him Swami's Vibhuti packet. "Ashes? Do you give me ashes to remind me of this great Yogi?" asked Patterson.

Dr. Krishna gently explained, "These are no ordinary ashes. It is divine Vibhuti. It is priceless! Invaluable! If you get into serious trouble and you think Swami's compassion alone can save you, put a little of it on your tongue and pray to Him!"

Patterson returned by air to New York, via London, having been given a seat among women and children. During the journey he was uncomfortable and disturbed by the noise of the children, but as the plane was nearing London, he remembered the Vibhuti packet, and recalled Dr. Krishna's advice. Opening the packet he applied some holy Vibhuti on his tongue, and earnestly prayed to Swami, asking Him to provide him with a more comfortable seat on his onward journey to New York. When he landed in London, he was surprised to hear his name announced on the public system. This announcement directed him to the airline office, where he was told that he was allotted a seat in the First Class section, for the remainder of his flight. He was immensely pleased and offered to pay the extra cost, only to be told that it had been already paid for on his behalf. Patterson's heart leaped!

By consuming a little Vibhuti and remembering the name of Baba, that

he could get His help, a thousand miles away and have his wish fulfilled, he was truly moved by Swami's mercy and love!

Anything can be achieved through prayer. There is nothing greater than prayer. Hence, everyone must necessarily offer his prayers to God. However, one should not pray for worldly gains. 'Oh God! I want your love and nothing else,' this should be your constant prayer. Once you become the recipient of God's love, you can conquer the entire world. - BABA.

Love of a Thousand Mothers

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba devotes three-quarters of His precious time to His students. He feels that the future of society rests solely on these innocent, clear-hearted children. He is all love for them. He tells them, *"Look at Me within your own selves. I look at Myself in you. You are My life, My breath and My soul. You are all, every one of you, My Form. When I love you, I love My own Self. When you love yourselves, you are loving only Me!"*

Karma is verily God. God exists in the form of Karma in everything right from microcosm to macrocosm. Man must necessarily perform action and should offer all his actions to God. If you do this, you will not be bound by the consequences of your actions.

- BABA

The Omniscient Sai by Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju

I will tell you a personal incident. I came from the hot state of Andhra Pradesh with a warm climate. As Bangalore is very cold, I soon developed a sinus problem. I took a water heater and went for my bath.

I was about to take my bath, when there was a sudden power cut. The power went off and the water was not ready for my bath. I washed my face and went for darshan.

I sat in darshan. Slowly, came the gentle figure, with broad smile, holding His robe with one hand, and weaving the hand in circles with the other. He stood in front of me, looked into the empty space and waved both hands, saying, *"There are some who come for darshan without having a bath."*

I was wonder struck! I was taken aback, and said, "How do you know?" He replied, *"Where am I? I am in your bedroom and I am in your bathroom. I am everywhere."* Then I ran to my room and took a double bath. I returned and sat on the verandah. Baba came suddenly after bhajans. He came straight to me and said, *"A normal bath is enough, don't worry."*

The Omnipotence and Omnipresence are qualities of divinity to let us know that the Avatar is not less than the divine personality. Once in Kodai Kanal, I was with all the Seva Dal in the garden. They were giving ice creams, so I also received one. Swami came to the mandir and I stretched out my hand. Swami said, *"You have taken ice cream already outside."* I said, "Swami, I did not say I have not eaten." Then Swami said, *"Why do*

you stretch your hand here? There the Seva Dal gave you ice cream." Then I replied, "but Swami, I want from Your Divine Hands, therefore I am asking." Then He gave me one with His Divine Hands, and asked me, "Is it nice? OK, take two." So this kind of Omnipresence will make you happy and it will be beneficial to you.

I must save everyone of you, even if you say, 'nay', and move away, I shall do it. Those who have strayed away from Me have to return to the fold, sooner or later, for I will not allow them to be distant for long. I shall drag them towards Me. That is My basic nature, love and mercy. -BABA. (1961)

Wisdom of Sai

A devotee once told Swami; "Swami, there is one way to wipe off the poverty of India." "*What is that?*" Swami enquired. "If you can, by your Divine power, convert the water of India Ocean into petrol, that is enough," said the devotee. Swami said, "*But...*" The devotee enquired, "Why 'but', Swami?" Swami quipped, "*Then, if someone throws a lighted matchstick into it?*"

When the road ends, and the goal is gained, the pilgrim finds that he has travelled only from himself to himself. - BABA.

Jesus' Journey East

Nothing is written, in Christian literature, of Jesus' journey east as a young man in His early teens, and

later, after His crucifixion, when He travelled with His mother Mary, sister Mary and Mary Magdalene, to Bharat (India).

However, there has been much written, indeed too much to ignore, of His fateful journey as a youth.

Sai Baba spoke brilliantly on Jesus, during a Christmas Day discourse in 1979. I'm always fascinated how Swami drops little golden nuggets of wisdom about Jesus' life and journeys. He even gave us the precise date and time of Jesus' birth; "*He was born at 3.15 am., on December 28th,...it was a Sunday.*"

Jesus left home about 13 years of age, and travelled with very little money to Sindh, Jagannath (Puri), and studied with the Jains before He travelled to the East coast and was welcomed by the Hindu priests of Brahma. They taught Him the Vedas, healing by prayer, and how to drive out evil spirits. Later His stay in the country of Goutamides, with the Buddhists, where He mastered the Sutras, the Vinajas and the Abhidharma, and was considered to be an outstanding Master. He was later accepted as a Bodhisattva (In Buddhism meaning an enlightened being who, out of compassion, forgoes Nirvana in order to save others). He lived with the monks for six years before returning to His homeland to commence His Mission.

This period of Jesus' life has long remained a mystery within the Christian faith. It is such a pity that these eighteen years should continue to remain His "missing years".

Sathya Sai Baba stated in His 1994 Christmas discourse, that Joseph, His

father, died when Jesus was 30 years old, and not, as often suggested, when He was ten. We owe a great deal to Swami for all these "lost" details of Jesus' life.

Once you are in Swami's hold, can any power in the world free you from that grip? - BABA.

Haiti Relief Support

I wish to confirm that the total amount sent on your behalf to the Sathya Sai World Foundation for Haiti Relief came to \$1,067.91.

I received the following email from Dr. Reddy, in response;

"Dear Patrick Gallivan, Om Sri Sai Ram,

We wish to thank you and all the devotees of Ireland for their generous contribution to the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation for the Haiti Relief work. Please see the attached receipts for the contributions made to the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation.

Jai Sai Ram,

With warm regards.

Dr. Narendranath Reddy,

Director, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation."

As already stated the total amount came to \$1,067.91, and the receipts Numbers were: 702 & 912.

What is meditation? Adherence to truth is true meditation. – BABA.

OUR GOOD FORTUNE

Once Swami was in Kodaikanal. Sitting in His room, He was looking out at the crowds waiting outside for His darshan. Several students were sitting at His feet, around Him.

Swami told them, *"Do you realise how fortunate you are? Thousands are waiting outside for Me. Here you are, enjoying the privilege of serving at My feet. But you do not know how fortunate and lucky you are. I am giving you this opportunity so that you will be close to Me. If I feel like it, I can walk across the sky from one side to the other. If only I did that, the whole world would be at My feet. Several lakhs of devotees would swarm to Me. But at the time, not one of you would have the opportunity of being so close to Me. Armed guards would always surround Me for my protection. I assure you, those days are not far off. Believe Me, a day will come, when you will barely be able to spot a tiny red flash of My robes, from a long distance, that too with a great effort. You will realise Swami's glory, when I walk across the sky from one end to the other. So, as of now, try to derive benefit from every single moment of your closeness to Swami."*

On another occasion, at the sports programme organised at the Hill View Stadium, Swami released two white pigeons. While He and His distinguished guests watched the sporting events from the dais, they noticed the two white pigeons released earlier, flying in the sky across the dais, as 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 two pigeons, but what He said then, equally applies to all His dear students and devotees.

Do not distinguish between your work and God's work. Your work is God's work because you too are God. - BABA

TOLERANCE

Many years ago, the students of the Primary School in Puttaparthi used to take their daily morning bath in cold water. Swami felt sad and thought, *"Parents of these tender young children left them in My care because of their immense trust in Me. Poor fellows, they have only cold water to bathe in every day."*

That thought soon led to the provision of solar heaters, which heat water using Sunrays. In no time, they were installed in the hostels. students, teachers and the Principal of the school were very pleased. They had prayed to Swami to inaugurate the Solar heating system and He agreed.

The time came for the inauguration, and the equipment was connected to a tap by a rubber tube. When Swami arrived and turned on the tap the water would flow into a bucket placed below. They didn't have long to wait; Swami arrived and He turned the tap, but unfortunately the rubber tube got detached just at that moment and there was a burst of water on

Swami's face and His garments. The sudden and unforeseen mishap shocked everybody into an embarrassed silence. Not a hand moved to correct the situation as the onlookers stood petrified. Swami understood their misery. He laughed aloud to break the spell and said, *"Look, the inaugural bath has been taken by Me!"*

Swami's laughter and pleasant remarks brought relief to everyone. Their hearts became light and they could breathe easily. Everyone enjoyed His laughter.

He is ever-merciful. He knows no anger. *"My life is My message,"* He says. It is a message of love, compassion and mercy. There is no place for anger.

The Avatar comes when there is yet a remnant of good men, yet a trace of Dharma; for what is the use of a doctor when the patient has collapsed? When a large number of good men are afflicted with the fear for the survival of goodness, then the Lord incarnates to feed their drooping spirits and revive faith and courage. "Parithraanaaya Saadhoonaam" in the Geetha does not mean the "protection of Saadhus or ascetics"; it means the "protection of all who have Saadhu virtues"; 'Saadhu' means 'good'. Good virtues might be found even in animals and insects and worms. He will guard and guide even such. He comes to promote Dharma; and virtue is the foundation of Dharma. - BABA, (1962)

Swami On Food We Should Eat...

Sathya Sai Baba, stated in a discourse on 23rd November 1994, the dangers of eating meat and the requirement of every devotee to refrain from it.

"Today, let it be anyone, whether one deems himself a devotee or not, he should give up meat eating. Why? Meat eating promotes only animal qualities. It has been well said that the food one consumes determines one's thoughts. By eating the flesh of various animals, the qualities of these animals are imbibed. How sinful it is to feed on animals, which are sustained by the same five elements as human beings! This leads to demonic tendencies, besides committing the sin of inflicting cruelty on animals. Hence, those who genuinely seek to become devotees of God have to give up non-vegetarian food. Calling themselves Sai devotees or devotees of Rama and Krishna, they fatten the chickens. How can they be deemed Sai devotees? How can God accept such a person as a devotee? Therefore, whether they are devotees in India or outside, they should give up, from this instant, meat eating.

"Therefore, those who aspire to become devotees of God must give up meat, liquor and smoking!"

On another occasion, Swami referred further to the issue of 'meat eating', stating the following: *"It is a fact that plants also have life like animals. But animals are endowed with mind, and nervous systems too while the plants do not possess the same. The animals cry and weep when they are being killed. It is not the case with plants; as such,*

equating killing of animals and destruction of plants is faulty logic. Further, killing the animals and eating their flesh leads to the creeping or dissemination of the animal qualities and behaviour in to the man (meaning that man acquires the beastly qualities by eating animal flesh). Thus follows our acquiring the beastly qualities - tamasic nature - of the buffalos or the sheep. Hence, meat eating should be discarded.

"Food conditions the nature of the mind. Mind guides the thinking. Thinking results in action. Actions lead to commensurate or matching results and effects. This chain of action between the food we eat and the results of our actions highlights the fact that meat eating leads to beastly actions and the concomitant evil effects."

**Politics without principles,
Education without character,
Science without humanity, and
Commerce without morality
Are not only useless, but also
positively dangerous.**

-BABA.

A Wonderful Prayer

I may never see tomorrow, there's no written guarantee

And things that happened yesterday, belong to history.

I cannot predict the future, I cannot change the past

I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last.

I must use the moment wisely, for it soon will pass away

And be lost to me forever, as part of yesterday.

I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet

Be a friend to the friendless, make an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today, may never be undone

Any friendship that I fail to win, may nevermore be won.

I may not have another chance, on bended knee to pray,

And I thank Bhagawan with a humble heart, for giving me this day.

Anon.

Swami Does Not Waste...

In what way can Bhagawan waste money on Himself? He neither wears slippers, watch or trendy dresses. He is simple and complains that even the buttons on His robe have become too heavy for His taste. If we calculate, Swami's daily expenses, it may be less than Rs 10 per day.

However, when Swami is doing something for others, He spares no expense. Has He not spent several crores of rupees building educational institutes and hospitals, and doing water projects? None for Himself and everything for others - that's our Swami!

Swami indeed does not waste Money!

It is quite evident to anyone in Darshan how controlled Swami is in His movements, looks and speech. Even when conversing with someone, it is easy to notice that Swami does not use any more volume than needed by devotees to hear Him. Institute boys are often commanded by Bhagawan by eye movement alone!

Swami indeed does not waste His energy!

Once our brothers had a personal letter to offer to Bhagawan. Swami, during the discourse of Darshan, walked to the person, received his letter, looked at the unmarked envelope covering the letter, pulled out the contents, kept the contents and returned the unmarked envelope for reuse! Moreover, quite often one may observe Bhagawan reusing the reverse side of the envelopes for writing small notes.

Swami indeed does not waste paper!

During a Verandah session with the boys, Bhagawan once was clarifying why His eyes were particularly red that day. Apparently Swami had some soap in His eye while washing His face. This happened not due to carelessness, but precisely because Swami was so keen on conserving water even while washing His face, that He kept shutting off the tap between the regular acts of rinsing and applying soap!

Swami indeed does not waste water!

(These are lessons for all of us! Ed.)

Service

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centred.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

What you have spent years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help, but may attack you if you help them.

Help them anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you will get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you have anyway.

Mother Teresa ('Sai Ram', 1997)

The Purpose of Life

& Reincarnation

Sathya Sai Baba stated the following in relation to this subject:

"What is man's journey? Where is he going? Why is he continuously reborn? In order to seek the right path and know-ledge of Truth! What

road should one seek? You should return whence you have come. That is seeking! You have come from the Divine Essence, from God, and you must return to Him."

Sai Baba also stated, *"This is the reason why man is said to be the zenith of creation. This is the purpose for which he has struggled through stone and grass, tree, bird and beast. Hence, man should not fritter away the precious prize he has won; he should not slide back into the beast; he must move forward into Divinity."*

He continued, *"Each of you has struggled upwards from stone to plant, from plant to animal, from animal to man! Do not slide back into the beast; rise higher to Divinity, shining with the new effulgence of Love."*

Also, *"You have earned the human body by accumulated merit of many lives as inferior beings and it is indeed very foolish to fritter away this precious opportunity, in activities that are natural only to those inferior beings."*

And finally He stated, *"Do not expect to find happiness in the other world; that world too is impermanent. Once you have exhausted your merits, you will again be cast out of it. Even in politics, candidates are selected for a term that expires after five years. Each year that passes shortens the right he earned through the election. In the same way, the duration of your 'paradise' will depend upon your merits. When these are used up, you will have to return to the earth."*

Man's position in creation is, according to Sathya Sai Baba, even higher than particular Biblical

passages suggest. While the Psalm 8 says that man was created 'little less than a god', Sai Baba's discourse states that man *has* the status of a god, but is totally ignorant of the great wealth lying within, and as Swami said, he is likened to a beggar sleeping on a safe full of diamonds! All he has to do is wake up and discover those riches and begin to use them, for his benefit and the benefit of mankind.

"Man is Divine; he has the Lord dwelling in his heart, yet he is bound, miserable, limited, weak, agitated. Why? He is ignorant of his reality. He imagines himself weak, limited, bound and he is so shaped by the mind, which is the source of that imagination."

The Ghagavad Gita refers to the soul, for example, *"The soul is never born and never dies; it was not born and will not be reborn; without birth, without end, eternal, ancient, it is not killed when the body in which it lives is killed. Just as one casts off old clothes in order to put on new clothes; so the soul casts off bodies in order to take on new ones."*

In conclusion Man is a Divine project, within him the Divine Spark, the manifestation of God. P.G.

A Beautiful Poem by Swami

The following poem was written by Swami for the 59th Birthday issue of "Sanathana Sarathi", in November 1974.

This One is Mine

I do not need any riches; for, why should I?

A carefree mind is enough, O Father,

That is a Million for me!

I shall not yearn for Fortune; for, why should I?

A smile-lit face is enough, O Father.

That is a Million for me!

I shall not pine and want; for, why should I? A glance from Thy Eye is enough, O Father,

That is a Million for me!

I shall not crave for Wealth; for, why should I?

The joy of being Thine is enough, O Father,

That is a Million for Me!

*Enough for me these things I have,
Whatever Thou hast gifted now;*

Why think of getting more?

I'll have them when Thou wishest;

*Enough for me Thy un-diminishing
Grace*

*Which falls on all whom Thou hast
blessed,*

With the words: This one is Mind!

"With Love, Sai Baba"

An aged man, sitting for darshan, got up as soon as Swami came towards him and said, "Baba, daughter-in-law not well. She is pregnant and doctors are saying one of the two will survive. Please save her and the child."

Baba said, *"Ek nahi - Do hain (not one, two are there). Don't worry,*

Baba will save all." The man left, leaving all his worries at Baba's feet.

The very next day Baba gave a dream to both the man's son and his daughter-in-law. He said, *"Worry not. Baba has taken up your case. Your operation will be done but don't go to any hospital."* Both the wife and the husband thanked Baba for His grace and the next day after bhajans they placed a letter at Baba's photograph agreeing to follow His command.

Again the next day, Baba appeared in the to-be-mother's dream, in a doctor's uniform and materialised instruments (required for operations) and proceeded to operate on her. In between He would speak to her: *"Abhi operation karne wala Hai (now I will start operation). Abhi baccha nikalne wala Hai (now the child is going to be delivered.)"*

Once the operation was completed, Baba showed her both the children in the dream, snapped His fingers and said, *"Delivery over. Now get up."* The woman woke up from the dream to find two cute twins (looking exactly the same as Baba had shown them in the dream), by her side and a letter in one of the children's hands in which Baba suggested the names of the children and ended signing it, *"With love, Sai Baba."*

Those who struggle to uphold truth are the real devotees of God...Truth is the basis for all other human values such as love, peace, righteousness and non-violence. - BABA.

Baba Blesses

Back in 1944, nine families started an Akhana Bhajan Mandali, consisting mostly of relatives. They had bhajans every thursday evening, regularly. In 1946, they requested Swami to attend their first annual Akhanda bhajan, which He did, and stayed for 24 hours of the bhajans. They had originally planned for about 150 people, because of their limited means, but as Swami attended the function, over 500 people attended, including several distinguished devotees who came with Swami.

They had a problem of how to have prasadam for all present, as they hadn't anticipated such a crowd. They presented the problem to Swami, Who with His merciful love, went to the kitchen and blessed the food. After the function was over they served Pongal to over 1,000 people till the evening, and it never got finished.

This miracle was one of the earliest experiences of their lives, which is still green in their memories.

In 1974, they celebrated the 25th year of their Akhanda Bhajan in the Golden Jubilee Hall, Lalbagh. By then their Akhanda Bhajan had become very popular with ever increasing numbers attending the function. Nearly 10,000 people attended the 1974 celebrations!

Swami, in His concluding speech, declared that in future, instead of their family conducting this Akhanda Bhajan, the entire world should conduct the Bhajan on the same day.

Swami materialised a Navarathamala, and gave it as a benedictory blessing to the family.

From the book, "Sanathana Sarathi", chapter, "Five decades at the Lotus Feet", by Dr. R.S. Padmanabhan.

What is the meaning of the word "human"? It means Divine. What do the human values connote? They connote the Divine qualities of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence. They give real value to a human being. Everything else in this world is unreal. When you realise these human values, you become God yourself. All these human values come from within you. -BABA.

Puttaparthi to Get Total Makeover

The State Government is gearing-up to institute works pertaining to roads, drainage, drinking water supply and other "beautification" works at the earliest, before the commencement of the 85th Birthday celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, on November 23rd.

All this is a view to the many devotees, including many from around the world, who will be visiting Puttaparthi for the occasion.

Prof. G. Venkataraman said on "H2H"-

"Talking of Karma, I must recall one case which was described by Baba Himself when He addressed students many years ago. It was His personal meeting with students, and

a few of us elders were present; I was present because I was the Vice Chancellor then. Swami said that in the early days there used to be a person who took care of the canteen in those days. This man loved Swami intently but was pretty nasty with all others. He was repeatedly warned to be loving but his natural tendencies or *Gun*as ruled him. In his last days, he became very sick but no one would help him. There came a time when he lay in his own excreta and his body full of puss began to stink. Swami then went to him, cleaned him and attended on the sick man. The fellow wept, "Swami, I served you so much; is this how my life must end?" Baba replied, "*You showed love to Me and that is why I have come. But I always warned you not to abuse others; you never paid heed to My words. What can I do if your Karma chases you like the bloodhound from hell?*"

"Complaining about the Ashram is nothing new. Someone did the same to Ramana who asked in reply, "Have you come here to improve yourself or to improve the Ashram? This Ashram is a microcosm of the world outside. If you learn to improve yourself here, then you can go into the world and stay improved; that would also enable you to improve your environment!" Believe me that is actually true. I have talked to many who have vouched for this."

Source: "God-Avatar-and the Doubting Thomas"

People imagine that others are making fun of them and are causing suffering to them. It is nothing but a reflection of their

own feelings and thoughts. It is your own feelings and thoughts that come back to you. When you think about sorrow, you will get sorrow. If you think about anger, you will get anger. You yourself are the source of all reaction, reflection and resound, and none else. You are responsible for your sorrow or happiness; none else is responsible for it. -BABA.

"When God Gives His Word He Will Never Forget It" -Swami

The following is an extract from Swami's Ugadi Divine Discourse, in 2007, when He referred to a promise He made to Subbamma. She said, "Swami, I have no desire for anything. Before I leave my mortal coil, if You can graciously pour a few drops of sanctified water into my mouth from Your Divine hands, it would be enough." He assured her, He said, that her wish would be fulfilled.

Swami related that when returning to Bukkapatnam, He was informed by relatives, that Subbamma died the day before. He told them that it was only illusion, that she did not die, and that she would not leave her mortal coil until she had His Darshan.

Upon arriving home he saw her body covered with a cloth, which He removed and called out to her, "*Subbamma! Subbamma!* To everyone's surprised, she opened her eyes, and He said to her, "*You wanted that I should pour a few drops of water into your mouth during your last moments. Is it not? Here it is, have it.*"

Dipping a Tulasi leaf into a tumbler of water, He allowed the sanctified water to drip into her mouth, which she drank. She took leave of Swami saying, "Swami! I have been waiting to take leave of you finally before I shed my mortal coil. You have fulfilled my last wish, as promised. Now permit me to leave. Here I am going." Swami gave His permission, and she merged in Him.

Later, Swami build a housing colony in memory of the late Subbamma, naming it after her. She was a great soul.

No matter where you go, always know that I will be there, inside you, guiding you every step of the way. In the years to come you will experience Me in My different manifestations of My form. You are My very own, dearer than dear to Me. I will protect you like the eyelids that protect the eyes. -BABA,

HOW MOTHER TERESA LIVED

Fr. Joseph Langford

One day in the mother house in Calcutta there were about three hundred novices and they were all out for the morning. One of the novice working in the kiotchen came up to Mother Teresa and said, "We've planned poorly; we have no flour to bake these chapatis for lunch."

Chapatis are little flour and water pancakes. The situation looked bleak - three hundred plus mouths are coming to be fed in about an hour

and a half and there is nothing to cook with, there was no food.

What I would expect Mother Teresa to do was that Mother would pick up the 'phone and call some of her benefactors and mobilize them to find some way to feed her daughters. Instead, her reaction, her spontaneous reaction, was to say to this little one, "Sister, you're in charge of the kitchen this week? Well then, go to the chapel and tell Jesus we have no food. That's settled. Now let's move on. What's next?"

Lo and behold, ten minutes later there was a ring at the door and Mother Teresa was called downstairs. A man she had never seen before was standing there with a clipboard. He addressed her saying, "Mother, we were just informed that the teachers at the city schools are going on strike. Classes have been dismissed and we have 7,000 lunches we don't know what to do with. Can you help us use them?" God provided for the needs of His children. Mother's sanctity was built on a very simple foundation of deep faith and trust in God.

Mother Teresa turned to Him in prayer, not only in need, but also to rest in the arms of the Father - body and spirit. That is how Mother Teresa lived each day of her life. Source: "Sai International" magazine.
