

**2011**

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER  
MAR - APR 2011**

## Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

On and from April 2011, all Bhajans held at the Unitarian Church venue in Dublin, will have a new day, and times will be as follows:

**1st Sunday meeting, 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.**

**3rd Thursday (as present) 8-9 p.m.**

This Sunday meeting and timing may be more convenient for some devotees who, at present, are unable to attend, whereas, the third Thursday will continue as at present.

PLEASE make a note of this change.

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### NAMASMARANA:

Swami has stated in reply to the question, "If we want to be with You always, what should we do?"

He replied as follows: *"Namasmarana, Namasmarana! It can be achieved only by chanting God's Name. Wherever Bhakthi dwells, God resides there.*

*"Let the mind wander as it likes. Namasmarana alone is enough... The fire called Namasmarana will burn away your Karma... remembering the Name of the Lord is enough."* (Swami in the book, "Sathya Sai Anandadayi")

I will publish a complete article on this subject, in the next issue of the Newsletter. In the meantime one should commence reciting the Name of the Lord, (e.g. Sathya Sai Baba, Jesus, or the name of any deity of your choice. This, Swami said, will give you liberation (Moksha). An interesting remark explaining the

Power of the Name: - "All the fourteen Lokas cannot commit as much sin as what a single Name of God can destroy." *Ed.*

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**One who is only concerned about his creed (religion) will never discover the Divine. You must seek the Divine within you. Seek the Supreme in your Inner Consciousness. – BABA.**

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### Swami's Message

#### re. the Aims of the Organisation.

*"Again, people aspire only for the fruits of authority, they shirk the responsibility that authority involves. Do not think that this is so only in India; it is the attitude of aspirants all over the world today. Power is sought but the burden that comes with power is not welcome. The chaos and misery of the world today are the creation of persons who have climbed to positions of authority but, do not discharge the responsibilities of those positions. No one is entitled to such positions who is unable or unwilling to shoulder the responsibility inherent in it and who does not discharge them sincerely. Whatever their status, however deep their scholarship, however rich they may be, they do not deserve the position they crave for, or hold.*

*"In the Units of this Organisation too, the same rule applies. No one has a place who does not possess the skill, the capacity and the willingness to carry out the responsibility. Before you enter the Organisation or seek any office therein, consider well whether you have the yearning and*

*the capacity; else, if you join, or complain against some person or some programme, you are only revealing your own smallness or weakness. Make due inquiry, give full consideration, before you join the Organisation. Having joined, you have to cooperate with others vigorously and carry out all your duties conscientiously.*

*"For, in the Spiritual path, the first step is 'Selfless Service'. Through selfless service, man can realise the divinity that is all this Creation."*

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**When one's look is centred on the Lord, nothing untoward can happen. - BABA.**

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#### God Is Our Witness

The subject of 'Hell and Heaven', has held mankind captive for centuries, binding them to a belief that God doles out 'Punishment and Reward' in equal measure, to His children. Indeed, this has always been used by Christian Churches as a stick to keep its subjects in check, while Limbo, Purgatory, Hell, were the 'sticks' used, that sent shivers through the minds and hearts of young students. The memory of those days at the seminary to which I attended for a time, was further high-lighted by the 'missions' that came around annually with "pulpit-pounding Redemptionists", holding sway.

How grateful we now are to have the comforting words of Our Beloved Lord, to counter the assaults by those men in black.

My own study of Sathya Sai Baba's discourses counters those dark days

and banishes them forever into the wilderness of the past. Swami shone a light on our future pathway when He said, "God is the witness of our actions", clearly stating that He is not the Judge!

*"God is not involved in either reward or punishment," Swami added.*

*"He only reflects resounds and reacts. He is the eternal unaffected Witness. You decide your own fate. Do good, be good, you get good in return; be bad, do bad deeds, you receive bad results. Do not thank or blame God. He does not even will that creation, protection and destruction shall take place. They follow the same law, it is the innate law of the Maya-ridden (illusory) universe. Electric current, for example, can be used by us to power fans to get a cool breeze, light bulbs for light, to magnify human speech, to make many copies of a printed sheet, etc. In all these cases, it creates, but if you grasp a bare wire which comes with current, you are killed. The current creates, it protects, it destroys; it all depends on how we utilize it."*

He recently said that 'Heaven and Hell' exists only on this earth and not on the 'other side'. Like the oceans of the world, we have our peaks and our troughs; our Heavens and our Hells.

This must be a comfort to those who are ill and whose last emotion in life is their fear of death, and the 'judgment' that they presumed awaits them. May they now have peace instead of fear. I pray so. Ed.

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The power of faith is illustrated in an incident from the life of Christ. Once

a blind man approached Jesus and prayed, "Lord! Restore my sight." Jesus asked him, "Do you believe that I can restore your sight unhesitatingly." "Yes, Lord!"

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

Likewise, people pray to Swami, asking to give something or other. Do you believe that I have the power to give what you seek? My response is dependent on your faith... Men today are like a man on the ground who wishes to see the pilot of a plane moving in the sky. The only way he can see the pilot is to get into the plane himself.

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

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### ***Centrally Held***

(Translated from a German text of unknown origin)

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

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

rim of a wheel, each person is like a spoke and God is the hub at the centre of all."

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

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

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

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### **Show your gratitude by serving society. - BABA.**

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### **How I Got To Know About Swami**

The first information about Sri Sathya Sai Baba, I got from TV. The Czech Television broadcasted a very good documentary serial called 'Souls of the East'.

It was about gurus, sadhus, ashrams, spiritual traditions of India. The team visited the spiritual festivals Kumbha Mela, Himalayan caves and many places all over India. There were interviews with the Dalai Lama and different gurus and Swamis. One of the gurus mentioned in the film was also Sri Sathya Sai Baba. As it is known, Baba does not

give interviews to mass media and it is very difficult to film Him, but the team of the Czech Television was very lucky - they succeeded to film Baba and He even waved by His hand to the camera.

In the film there was an interview with a man from the Netherlands. Although I saw the film many years ago, I still remember the story. The man was addicted to drugs. His treatment was not successful and his life was in ruins. There was no hope. He heard about a holy man in India performing miracles and healing people, thus he decided to visit Him. After coming to Prashanti Nilayam he got an interview. Swami materialised an iron ring for him. The astonished man was looking at the ring and Baba said, *"You do not want an iron ring, you want a gold one, don't you?"* He took the ring and blew on it. The man described that he could see how the shape and material of the ring was changing before his eyes. Finally, he got the golden ring from Swami. The man said he would never believe it if he did not see it with his own eyes. Since this interview he was healed from his addiction. Never more he took any drugs. I was fascinated by the story.

I also liked Swami's teachings about love and unity of all religions. When I visited a bookstore I found a book by Samuel Sandweiss: 'Sai Baba - A Holy Man and Psychiatrist'. I liked the book very much and since then I recommended it to everyone who is interested in Sai Baba as the first introduction - it gives good basic information about Swami, His life, miracles and teachings. It was written by a psychiatrist, who started as a skeptic and finished as a

devotee of Swami. Afterwards, I started visiting meetings of Sai devotees in the Czech Republic.

Here my story could finish but I would like to share one more small story with you. I had a very busy job and it looked impossible to go to India, because I would not get such a long holiday. But I started to think about changing the job, then it would be possible to go - a group of Czech devotees was planning to visit Swami. The decision was extremely difficult for me. I prayed a lot for guidance. Once we had a national weekend meeting of Sai devotees and I knew I had to decide during the weekend. When bhajans were sung, I prayed for help. I wanted a clear and immediate answer. After the bhajans finished, a friend came to me and asked, "Do you want to fly with us to India? We have one person missing to get a discount for a group ticket." Could I get a clearer answer?

As many people confirm, meeting Swami brings experience of immense bliss and love. Those allowed to visit Him are very fortunate and blessed. But we should not forget, what Swami says, "One who receives a lot, a lot would also be expected from him/her."

I wish all be happy, blessed and successful on the pathway to the Lord and salvation.

Pranams to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

*Michael Gopal Blazej, Prague  
(Czech Republic)*

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**There are millions of people in this world, but only you, the fortunate few, have got the golden opportunity of coming here. Make the best use of this opportunity and share this joy with everybody. Serve the whole world. Understand the truth that you are born to serve society. It is not government service. It is the service of mankind.**

-BABA.

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### **Acquiring Knowledge**

Your entire scholarliness, your study on Shakespeare and Wordsworth, is wasted, if you do not cultivate your characters at the same time, and achieve mastery over your thoughts and behaviour.

- Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948

Acquiring knowledge during childhood is like an inscription chiselled on stone, but knowledge that one acquires at an older age is like it is written on water.

- Mohammed, 570-632

**Education is complete when one is:**

*Perfectly clean inwardly and outwardly.*

*Ignorance is the greatest curse in life.*

*Ignorance is the greatest burden in life.*

*Ignorance is the greatest darkness in disguise.*

*Ignorance causes misery in life.*

*"Blind" is not he who does not see;*

*"Blind" is one who is disinclined to see.*

*"Ego" is the root cause of all our troubles.*

*Let the ego go; gone are all our troubles.*

With Love, Baba.

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**The primary duty of every individual, as a messenger of God, is to practice and propagate the principles of truth, love, and peace and to experience the bliss and share it with others...**

**The one who loves God is the Messenger of God. The one whom God loves is the Son of God. The one who understands the principle of unity becomes one with God. - BABA.**

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### **The Paradox of Our Age**

In commemoration of the Dalai Lama's three-day Irish visit on April 12th. I thought I would reproduce here his words that I published in our Jan. 2005 issue.

*We have bigger houses, but smaller families; more convenience, but less time.*

*We have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgement; more experts, but more problems; more medicines, but less healthiness.*

*We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour.*

*We have more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication.*

*We have become long on quantity, but short on quality.*

*These are times of fast foods, but slow digestion; tall in height, but short in character; steep profits, but shallow relationships.*

*It's a time when there is more in the window, but nothing in the room.*

His Holiness - The XIV Dalai Lama.

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**Turn your mind to Me when you are possessed by jealousy, ego or grief. Open your heart to Me when it is shattered with deep depression and disappointments. I will take care of them. I will not abandon you. I am your Mother.**  
- BABA.

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### ***"No Place For God..."***

A gentle and well-respected old negro, one day decided he would like to become a member of the church near his home. He called on the pastor of the old-fashioned church and told him of his desire.

"My dear man, said the pastor with a touch of aloofness, I do not think you will be happy here though I appreciate your good intention. Really you would be most uncomfortable among my people and I am afraid it would be quite embarrassing to you and perhaps to them. I suggest you think it over and meditate and see if God does not give you some direction."

A week later the old negro met the pastor on the street, stopped him and said, "Reverend, I took your advice and prayed and meditated and finally God sent me a message. He said I should not bother any more trying to join your church. He said that He had been trying to get in there Himself for years without success."

*"You may ask where I am now and how I can meet you now. But I am within your heart and we can meet without effort. - God."*

- Ashvani Mathur.

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**You need not travel long distances to where I physically am. Plant the seeds of love in your hearts, let them grow into trees of service and shower the sweet fruits of Aanandha. Share the Aanandha with all.** - BABA.

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### **The Song of Bhagavan**

At the 1998 Christmas Discourse, Swami stated the following:

*Twenty years back when Christmas was celebrated for the first time in Prashanthi Nilayam, I sang the following:*

*Love is My form, Truth is My breath,  
Bliss is My Food;*

*My life is My message, expansion is My life,*

*No season for Love, no reason for Love;*

*No Birth; No Death.*

*If anyone asks you to tell about Sai Baba, sing this song. It will convey the whole message. Tell them, 'Love is His form and His life is His message'.*

*Develop the feeling of brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God.*

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**"Take everything that happens to you as the gift of grace. Of course, on your path, you must act with all the skill and devotion you are capable of. Do this with as much sincerity as you worship God. Then, leave the result to the all-knowing, all-merciful God. Let whatever ensue! Why do you hold yourself responsible? He prompted it, He got it done, through you; He will give whatever result He feels He must!" - BABA.**

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### ***The Great Changes***

The changes that are to come have been spoken of by Swami, repeatedly, but few do not seem to have ears to listen.

He spoke thus: *"The day of awakening is not far off and when it comes there will be Revelation of the true power of God. This will be the signal for a great move forward and for the weeding out of those who are not ready to accept the challenge of the moment. It will be just so, mark My words, but few will listen, very few.*

*After the storm, there will be a new beginning and a new atmosphere. It will be completely different, a new age, the age of Love, harmony and co-operation, replacing the age of war, fighting, hatred, jealousy, greed and*

*all the negative aspects of life. Everyone should prepare now for this change, for I promise you it will come and those who are ready will survive."*

Indeed changes in consciousness will accompany the topographical changes that we can expect. Now is a time to prepare for these momentous events, as we slip into the new age - the Golden Age!

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**"Once you surrender yourself fully to the Lord and offer up everything that is to be done, as well as when it is to be done and how it is to be done, at the Lord's feet, He will take care of everything. To achieve this level of surrender there can be no trace of ego left; there should be no sense of yourself remaining." - BABA.**

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### **Alexander's Last Three Wishes.**

Alexander, (the Great) after conquering many kingdoms, was returning home when he was taken ill. While lying in his death bed, with death staring him in the face, he realised how his many conquests, his great army, his sharp sword and all his wealth, were of no consequence. He longer to reach home and see his mother and say goodbye, but he had to accept that he would never reach his distant homeland.

So, the mighty conqueror lay prostrate and pale, helplessly waiting to breath his last. He called his generals and announced, "I shall depart from this world soon, and I have three wishes. Please carry them out without fail."

With tears, he asked his generals to fulfil his last three requests. "My first wish is that my physicians alone must carry my coffin." As he struggled for breath, he continued, "Secondly, I desire that when my coffin is being carried to the grave, the pathway be strewn with gold, silver and precious stones which I have collected in my treasury."

After a short rest, he continued, "My third and last wish is that both my hands be kept dangling out of the coffin."

Alexander's favourite general kissed his hand and said, "Oh King, we assure you all your wishes will be fulfilled. But tell us why do you make such wishes?"

He replied, "I would like the world to know of the three lessons I have learnt. I want my physicians to carry my coffin because people should realise that no doctor on this earth can really cure any body. They are powerless, and cannot save a person from the clutches of death. So let not people take life for granted.

"The second wish of strewing gold, silver and other riches on the path to the graveyard is to tell people that not even a fraction of gold will come with me. I spent all my life with greed for power, gaining riches but cannot take anything with me. Let people realise that it is futile to chase wealth. And the third wish of having my hands dangling out of the coffin, I wish people to know that I came empty handed into the world, and empty handed I go out of this world!"

Having spoken, he closed his eyes and breathed his last. Three lessons

can be learnt from this special story are...

1/ Remember, your health is in your own hands, look after it.

2/ Wealth is only meaningful if you can share it with the poor and the needy while you are still alive and healthy.

3/ What you do for yourself, dies with you, but what you do for others will live forever.

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**"When God comes down to earth in human form, it is very difficult to see the reality of God in the outward form.**

**Man compares the earthly, external appearance of the Avatar with His own body and mistakenly concludes that the two are the same level and type."**

- BABA.

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### **PRAYERS**

**NIGHT:** "God, I do not know whether my actions since this morning are good or bad. I offer all of them to You. I do not know whether I will be alive tomorrow morning. Protect me. My pranama to You."

**MORNING:** "God, by Your grace I am still alive. I do not know what I will be doing till tonight. Please give me the wisdom not to sin. My pranama to You."

*Prayers proposed by Sai Baba.*

**I am the Embodiment of all the Forms that men have imposed on the Godhead, in order to cherish it in their hearts. - BABA.**

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The following is an extract from an article by Dr. D.J. Gadhia, that appeared in the Hatfield Centre's, Sai magazine, in June 2006

### **MY DAYS WITH SWAMI**

On 5th May 1974, in Tanzania where I was practising medicine, I met with a serious car accident whilst driving in a remote part of the countryside. The car went underneath a big lorry, resulting in multiple injuries to my body. I felt my soul travelling in the Astral plane uttering "*Baba! Baba!*".

I was told later that I had no pulse, no heart beat and was declared dead! Apparently, as I came to know afterwards, two well-built Africans (complete strangers) appeared at the site of the accident as if from nowhere. One of them got hold of the car window, broke the glass and freed my head. As soon as he touched my head, there was new Life in my body. The other African smashed the front screen, jacked up the seat and released my legs. An ambulance arrived and I was taken to a hospital a few miles away on a stretcher.

Though partially recovered, my legs were still not alright as I was limping and walking with the aid of a stick.

As soon as I was able to travel, I went to see Swami. In the Interview Room, after I had touched HIS Feet, Swami said, "*Gadhia, your spinal cord was crushed to pieces, with the result*

*that you were dead. Swami had come in the form of two Africans to give you a new Life.*"

*"Thank you very much, Swami, but why did You prefer to give me a new Life?"* I humbly asked.

*"Swami wants to extract work out of this body, (pointing His finger towards me). The surgeons in U.K. could not help you. Is that not so?"*

*"Yes Swami! You are right!"*

Our Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba, then materialised pink coloured Vibhuti and asked me to swallow it immediately. He rubbed a little bit of the Vibhuti over the shin bone of my right leg, below the knee-joint and pressed His Hand till the 'click' was heard and the alignment of the bone took place with a sudden disappearance of the pain. There has been no pain or physical problem since then. He has charged the battery of my body so well that I can now move about normally.

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**Love is a tool that will disarm every opponent; Love begets Love. It will be reflected back; it will have only one reaction and that is Love. The path of Love is the only path to God. God is Love, live in Love. Let all humanity live in Love.**  
- BABA.

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### **Setting An Example To Others**

Extract from 'The Shift', by Owen Waters.

"The Hundredth Monkey Effect" was first introduced by biologist Lyall Watson in his 1980 book, "Lifetide",

whose study of Macaque monkeys in the wild, back in the 1950's, had stumbled upon a surprising phenomenon. He wrote, "The Hundredth Monkey Effect", observes that when a sufficient large number learns a new behaviour, there comes a point where the new behaviour spreads almost instantly to the majority of that culture.

"This means that there will come a point when New Reality consciousness will suddenly make sense to the majority of people within certain cultures."

This book was soon followed up with a work by Ken Keyes in 1981, called 'The Hundredth Monkey Effect'. I now quote from this;

"The Japanese monkey, *Macaca fuscata*, has been observed in the wild for a period of over 30 years. In 1952, on the island of Koshima, scientists were providing monkeys with sweet potatoes dropped in the sand. The monkeys liked the taste of the raw sweet potatoes, but they found the dirt unpleasant. An 18 month-old female named Imo found she could solve the problem by washing the potatoes in a nearby stream. She taught the trick to her mother. Her playmates also learned this new way and they taught their mothers too.

"This cultural innovation was gradually picked up by various monkeys before the eyes of the scientists. Between 1952 and 1958, all the young monkeys learned to wash the sandy sweet potatoes, to make them more palatable.

"Only the adults who imitated their children learned this social

improvement. Other adults kept eating the dirty sweet potatoes.

"Then something startling took place. In the autumn of 1958, a certain number of Koshima monkeys were washing sweet potatoes -the exact number is not known. The most surprising thing observed by these scientists was that the habit of washing the sweet potatoes then jumped over the sea. Colonies of monkeys on other islands and the mainland, troops of monkeys at Takasakiyama began washing their sweet potatoes! Thus, when a certain critical number achieves awareness, this new awareness may be communicated from mind to mind.

"Although the exact number may vary, this Hundredth Monkey Phenomenon means that when only a limited number of people know of a new way, it may remain the conscious property of these people. But, there is a point at which if only one more person, the hundredth, tunes in to a new awareness, a field is strengthened so that this awareness is picked up by almost everyone!"

A lot of research has been done into this animal thought transfer, as well as behaviour patterns jumping from 'island to island', site to site, etc., but it is only those most receptive to new ideas that are seen to pass the ideas along. Thus, they too begin their own path towards their eventual "hundredth monkey effect".

Humans, too, are prone to picking up thoughts and ideas as well, as can be seen when two scientists or inventors, come up with the same thoughts and discoveries, at almost the same point in time.

So perhaps - just perhaps - only a few individuals may be necessary to establish the coming new age, the Golden Age, and not the whole global population, for this age to be finally established. Just a thought!

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**I am in the heart of every living creature. I therefore love everyone, for in a sense I love Myself. If I do this and if the other person also responds to Me, then the negative and the positive meet and My love and his love flow into each other: there is a conjunction. And then there is a cure. When there is no response in love, there is no cure. - BABA.**

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### **The Body is the Temple of the Divine.**

Once a person came to Swami and argued that there was no God, and he was not prepared to believe in one, whereupon Swami asked him, *"Have you faith at least in yourself? Which is your real self? Your self is God! You have faith in your judgement, your intelligent, your ability, because God within you tells you not to falter or fear. That assurance wells from within, from your basic truth, which is otherwise called God. It does not matter if you do not call it God; it is enough if you believe in Yourself; that is the real test of atheism,"* He told him.

During His discourse in Udumalpet, on 27th Feb. 1961, He addressed all those present, saying, *"I say the same thing to you also. The body is the temple of God; in every body, God is installed, whether the owner of the body recognises it or not. It is God*

*that inspires you to good acts, that warns you against the bad. Listen to that voice. Obey that voice and you will not come to any harm."*

Swami went on to say, *"A lady wept that her necklace was lost or stolen; she searched everywhere and became inconsolably sad. Then, when she passed across a mirror, she found the lost necklace around her neck. It was there all the time. Similarly, God is there, as the inner dweller whether you know it or not."*

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**Every Avatar is an amazing phenomenon. Not to recognise the Avatar is equally a matter for amazement. Even more astonishing is the incapacity to experience the presence of the Avatar. Most astonishing of all is to be in the presence of the Lord and feel miserable. To be in the proximity of the Avatar, to move about with the Avatar, to sing and sport with the Avatar and yet fail to understand the truth of the Avatar, is indeed a remarkable phenomenon! When the Avatar principle is understood, you experience real bliss. When you have faith in the Divine, life becomes a victorious journey.**

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### **Valmiki's Ramayana**

The sage Valmiki, regarded as India's first poets, is known for his ancient Sanskrit epic poem, "The Ramayana", the other great Indian epic, being "The Mahabharata". This former epic depicts "Rama's Journey", and is considered to contain not just an ordinary story, but the teachings of ancient Hindu

sages, presenting them in a narrative allegory with philosophical and devotional elements.

Rama's birth date has been confirmed at 7323 B.C.

Rama had strong links with land of Lanka (Sri Lanka), on the south east corner of India. Our Lord Sai Baba stated, *"Lanka was hundreds of miles away from the tip of India and at Rama's time, it was at the equator, As time went on, and as we moved from the Thretha Yuga to the Kali Yuga, this particular island, which was on the equator, drifted hundreds of miles northwards. When we look at this island, which we now call Lanka, we find it has shifted to the north of the equator."*

One calculation performed estimated that the drift from the equator to its present position, *took about 18 million years.*

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**When Love illumines thought, Truth is revealed.**

**When Love motivates action, it is transformed into Right Conduct.**

**When Love saturates feelings, it becomes calm and serene and ensures Peace.**

**When anger, envy, greed and hatred are cast away, Love dawns in understanding, and Non-Violence reigns supreme. - BABA.**

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**The very purpose of human life is to serve our fellow brothers. -BABA.**

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## ***The Life of Mother Theresa***

### **"Love in Action"**

*(Hatfield Centre, Sai Magazine, June 2006)*

Mother Theresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhui, in Skopje, Albania, on 26th August 1910, the youngest of three children. At the age of 18 she went to Loretto Abbey, Rathfarnham, Dublin, in 1928 and from there to India, where she began her noviciate. She taught geography in St. Mary's High School in Calcutta, from 1929 - 1948. Then, in 1950 she started her own Order, the Missionaries of Charity, to minister exclusively to the poorest of the poor. She won numerous awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, and created hundreds of homes throughout the world.

Mother Theresa emphasised that it is only when the love in our hearts is released that we are able to care for others with true joyfulness and peace. Over the past decades of materialism, she quietly and effectively helped the disadvantaged of 123 countries. Her houses and centres now include refuges for the homeless in Europe, and AIDS clinics in the United States, as well as homes for the destitute in the slums of India.

Mother Theresa said; "God is everywhere and in everything, and without Him we cannot exist. I have never for one moment doubted the existence of God, but I know some people do. If you don't believe in God, you can help others by doing works of love and the fruits of these works are the extra graces that come into your soul. Then you will begin to slowly open up, and want the joy

of loving God. There are so many religions, and each one has its different ways of following God. I follow Christ. Because this I am never afraid. I am doing it for Jesus, and therefore the results are His, not mine. If you need a guide, you only have to look to Jesus. You have to surrender to Him, and rely on Him completely. When you do this, all doubt is dispelled and you are filled with conviction.

Jesus said, *"Unless you become a child, you cannot come to Me."*

Mother Theresa, who left this earth in September 1997, is a fine example to us all of selfless service to humanity. May she rest in Peace.

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**FAITH... is to believe what you do not see, and the reward of that faith is to see what you believe.**  
-St. Augustine.

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### **Shirdi Sai & Sathya Sai Connection**

by Sri G.V. Subba Rao

That Baba knows our thoughts - indeed our past as well as future, has been repeatedly attested to by a large number of devotees. Just one such example from this writer's own experience is recounted here.

For many years, I developed a deep yearning to visit Shirdi. I made several attempts to pay my respects at Shirdi Sai shrine itself but to no avail. The closest I could come to the point of realising this dream was in 1983, when I planned on my home-leave trip from New York to India, to visit Shirdi after our landing in Bombay. Unfortunately, the whole

family developed a stomach virus after our first meal in India at a Santa Cruz airport five -star hotel - precluding any extensive surface travel all the way to Shirdi. It was once again a great disappointment.

I was thinking of this escapade while intensely gazing at Shirdi Sai's shining silver idol and His giant-size picture in the background of the Prashanti Mandir Bhajan Hall, and also wondering about the connection of Shirdi Baba and Parthi Baba, about which I found numerous references in the Sai Literature. I closed my eyes, with Shirdi Baba in my mind, when to my utter amazement Parthi Baba stood right in front of me while I continued in my reverie. Swami waited till I fully opened my eyes, when with a burst of bliss I clasped His soft lotus feet and hung on to them like a child. Swami beckoned me inside the interview room and materialised a rather large silver ring with an inlaid multi-coloured enamel picture of Shirdi Sai - saying that 'I am He'. I was stunned and electrified and I blurted out that at long last my long-cherished desire was fulfilled now! The shining large Shirdi ring on my finger used to attract the attention of my diplomatic acquaintances during my frequent elevator rides in the forty-story UN headquarters building in New York, leading to many inquisitive queries on the strange-looking personality on the ring-face. One thing led to another and before long I found myself presenting Sathya Sai literature to the UN Secretary General in his office!

Sensing the growing interest in the story of the glory of Baba, we had founded, with Baba's blessings, a

Study Circle at the United Nations headquarters, with regular Thursday gatherings in delegates' meeting rooms situated right underneath the UN General Assembly Hall, and sometimes under the Security Council Chamber. Before long, Sai Bhajans began to reverberate in the after-office hours in the United Nations!

The annual celebrations of the Study Circle attracted a large number of UN staff members and country delegates. I remember the occasion when the president of the International Court came rushing along with a couple of delegates seeking Sai Vibhuthi (sacred ash). He proudly showed me a picture of Baba in his wallet!

A few years after Baba gave me the Shirdi Baba ring, Swami called me again for a brief interview, and suddenly inquired of me whether I still wanted the old man or was now ready for the younger man! I then replied that having lived with the old man till then, I would welcome the change into the company of the younger man! Swami graciously took out the somewhat worn-out big Shirdi ring which then disappeared right in front of my eyes and, then and there, materialised a well-fitting similar silver enamelled ring with a picture of Swami showing His **Abbaya Hastham** - a raised palm assuring protection. This creative gesture and gift signified to me my spiritual (mental) journey from Shirdi to Parthi guided by Bhagavan Sathya Sai Himself. As a result, I found myself and family settling at Baba's Lotus Feet in Prashanthi Nilayam - indeed the very abode of Peace.

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**A true Guru is one who enjoys and confers changeless supreme happiness. He is beyond space and time; and there is nothing higher than Him. He is the very form of truth and infinite. He has neither birth nor death, neither beginning nor end. He is God Himself.**

-BABA.

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### **Swami's Journey to Africa.**

In 1968, Guru Poornima was purely exceptional as Baba was, for the only time in history, out of India. Yielding to the yearnings of African devotees, Swami changed His plan of returning to Mumbai on Guru Poornima Day and spent the whole day showering them with His loving benediction and grace. "More than 25,000 persons gathered that morning for the Bhajan," Prof. Kasturi writes.

"The Africans joined the chorus led by a Tanzanian, Mr. Zoodoo. For over two hours, Baba walked slowly among the lines of lonely, love-seeking eager hearts, giving each person a handful of sweets and a packet of Vibhuti. To the amazement of the recipients, most of them discovered inside the packet, lying ensconced in the midst of the holy ash, enamel or metal portraits of Christ, the Cross, Krishna or Sai Baba Himself.

"The 'Uganda Argus' published an article, announcing that Baba had brought the message of Unity and Service, to the people of that Continent. Baba's discourses as well as activities were also televised and broadcast, so that the entire

population could share the inspiration of the Gospel.”

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**Whatever a man sees in the world arouses fear in him. Detachment alone can free him from fear. Failing to grasp this profound truth, man is allowing his desires to multiply, without realising that desires promote attachment instead of detachment. As long as man is attached to the body, he cannot get over the desire to possess the objects that attract him. A man afflicted with the acquisitive impulse can never get rid of worries. Control of the senses is absolutely essential for achieving humility, and education must promote such control.**  
-BABA.

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**“Let Us Do Our Part Now.”**

by Adeline Teh

During times of disaster, men come together with joint hands in prayer, in service contribution, in giving assistance to whoever is in need. All pettiness and differences are set aside immediately when there are more urgent matters at hand, i.e., saving the lives of human beings. How many times have we looked at pictures of disaster-stricken areas and wished we could be there to wipe a tear, feed the hungry, or attend to a wound?

The presence of God is prevalent in every heart that feels compassion for others and some would even reach out to help, however small is the deed. This is Selfless Love which lies deep within each and every one of

us, regardless of our colour or creed. When our eyes see beyond the physical form, our hearts are one and the same.

No one knows when or where the next disaster will strike... thus, all are at risk. Today, it could be our neighbour who cries out in distress... tomorrow, it could be our turn.

Let us do our part now and give our love generously. Let us pray for the sick and the despair. Let us feed the hungry. Let us comfort those who are in pain. Let us lend our shoulder for others to rest upon.

It is His Love that radiates through us... Love All, Serve All.

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**I have been keeping back from you all these years one secret about Me; the time has come when I can reveal it to you for this is a sacred day.**

**I am Siva-Sakti, born in the *Gothra* (lineage) of (sage) Bharadwaja, according to a boon won by that sage from Lord Siva and Mother Sakthi.**

**Siva Himself was born in the *Gothra* of that sage as Sai Baba of Shirdi; Siva and Sakthi have incarnated as Myself in his *Gothra* now; Sakthi alone will incarnate as the third Sai in the same *Gothra* in Mysore State. - BABA.**

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### **Questions & Answers**

**Q.** Swami, why was I born?

**Sai.** For what purpose were you born? Man has been sent into the world... to realise the truth that he is

not man, but God. The wave dances with the wind, basks in the sun, frisks in the rain, imagining it is playing on the beats of the sea; it does not know that it is the sea itself. Until it realises the truth, it will be tossed up and down; when it knows it, it can lie calm and collected, at peace with itself.

**Q.** How am I God, Swami? I am a human being with a human body.

**Sai.** You are in the this body, in this receptacle, to realise the God you really are. This body is the cocoon that you have spun around [yourself], by means of your impulses and desires. Use it to grow wings so that you can escape from it!

**Q.** Do I have to reach God?

**Sai.** All creatures have to reach God. -It is the destiny of man to journey from human-ness to divinity, as he has already journeyed from animal-ness. Some may ascend a plane, others may travel by car or board a bus, some may prefer a train journey, others may like to trudge along - but all must reach the goal, some day or other.

**Q.** But, Swami, where will I find Him?

**Sai.** [The] Divine Principle is the very core of man... It is the source of strength which is unailing and irresistible... The Divine is here before you, behind you, inside you, outside you; the intelligence through which you can recognise.

**Q.** I'm sure I could find God if I lived here in Prasanthi Nilayam, with You.

**Sai.** The community in which you find yourself is the arena where you can win the victory, the gymnasium where you develop the skill to win.

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**Whoever you are; you are Mine**

**I will not give you up**

**Wherever you are, you are near Me**

**You cannot go beyond My reach.**

- BABA.

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**Scientists & God  
sourced "Message Of The Lord"**

It is fashionable these days to blame science for much of the evil that one sees in Society. This is a mistake, because science *per se* merely represents knowledge of the Universe. And since the Universe is a creation of God, knowledge about the Universe cannot obviously be evil. However, like the proverbial knife which in the hands of a murderer can kill and in the hands of a surgeon can save a life, scientific knowledge too could either be used properly or misused. Misuse is the domain of the misguided, and the evils that one complains about must really be attributed to misguided scientists rather than to science.

Great has been the havoc caused by scientists impervious to spirituality, the greatest damage being to shake man's age-old faith in God. Somehow the feeling has been created that belief in God is tantamount to being irrational. The eminent Indian physicist Chandrasekhar (who won the Nobel Prize for his spectacular discoveries in astrophysics) went so far as to declare that man invented God to explain his failures and successes. When charismatic figures like Chandra propagate such views, is it any wonder that the masses follow like sheep?

Science today is largely dominated by the West and the cultural attitude of scientists therefore is essentially that of Western culture, having its roots in Greek and Roman civilisations of the past. Understandably the views of modern scientists about God are considerably influenced by the picture of God as it has evolved in Western society, and their (current) hostility to spirituality might in a sense be traced to the persecution of Galileo by the Roman Catholic Church about five hundred years ago.

Interestingly, the persecution of Galileo notwithstanding, scientists of the Renaissance period or even the post-Renaissance period were not altogether agnostic or atheistic; that feeling arose mostly in this century, and to understand the gradual change of view it is helpful to briefly trace the concept of God in Western culture... Early Christian theologians were faced with the task of combining Christian religion as "imported" from the Middle East, with the Greek methods of rational philosophy.

Skipping centuries, we come now to about five hundred years ago. The Establishment or the Church was now beginning to be questioned but that, however, did not immediately bring about a lack of faith in God. On the contrary, scientists of this period saw in their discoveries the handiwork of God. Thus, after giving shape to what we now call Newtonian mechanics, Issac Newton wrote:

*This most beautiful system of the Sun, planets and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and*

*dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.*

Science carefully avoids the issue of consciousness, and even if it concedes it, would perhaps assert that consciousness exists only where living beings are to be found. In turn, this implies that there was no consciousness in the Universe before life evolved. As is well known, in the Vedantic picture, Creation is associated with *OM* and about which Swami has this to say:

*Every little movement results in a sound; only, you may not be able to hear, because the range of the ear is limited. The falling of the eyelid over the eye makes a sound and the dropping of dew on a petal makes a sound. The sound caused by primal movement that resulted in enveloping Brahman by self-evolved Maya (illusion) is the Pranavaa or Om.*

(In conclusion) *Om* is the word that symbolises the disturbance to the cosmic uniformity, which subsequently resulted in the birth of the Universe.

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**Do not confine Me to the few acres of land around Prashanti Nilayam. Whenever a person prays earnestly for Prashanti, the spot from where the person prays will become a Prashanti Nilayam.**

-BABA.

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**Q:** How do we get close to You Baba?

**Swami:** *Distance is only in your imagination! You are always close to Me when you realise that I'm in your heart. But, until that happens, I*

*remain here and you remain there, thousands of miles apart. No connection is made. Practice what I want you to do and then I'm yours automatically. Eliminate your anger and jealousy; sublimate your ego and purify your heart... I'm there. Have you ever thought of practicing at least one idea, one teaching from Me? Do it, do it, do it! Then surely success will come and grace will flow.*

**Q:** Swami, how do we get Your Grace?

**Swami:** *Grace is always there like the ever-shining Sun. When you open the windows of your house to the Sun, light floods in removing all darkness. The amount of light depends on how much wide you open the window. In the same way, My Grace will depend on how broad your heart is, how expansive your love is. You have too much anger in you! Remove all the evil qualities, then all will be Divine.*

(Interview with devotee from New Zealand, 2009)

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**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.

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