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Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
MAR-APR 2013**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

From the first Sathya Sai Newsletter I produced back in 1994, when the issues consisted of just four pages, I have enjoyed researching and typing-up the many articles, recording Swami's discourses, miracles and devotee's experiences, and I am grateful to the many Sai devotees who continue to subscribe to the Newsletter. This helps to spread the message of Sai Love to "the four corners of the world".

It is particularly gratifying to see the readership abroad grow in leaps and bounds in the UK, Canada, United States, and with smaller pockets in Italy, Australia and India. It is only with your help that this Sai Newsletter continues to exist.

Thank you for showing your love for Swami by continuing to subscribe your support.

I am particularly delighted with support from Tom and Astrid Brown, of Vancouver, Canada, who sent me petals from flowers that had been placed on Swami's tomb in Prasanthi Nilayam, and a picture of padukas covered in Kumkum and Vibhuti. More recently they sent me small packets of Vibuthi and Kumkum from a blessed house that Swami once visited in Mumbai.

To receive all these is deeply touching and I shall treasure these precious gifts as symbols of their love for Swami and their kindness to me.

Thank you, Tom and Astrid. Ed.

Articles such as the following give one so much hope, so much love, all from our Dear Lord Sai.

Goddess Gayathri Visits Swami

"Mumbai" Srinivasan issued this article with his love and regards.

During the long period of seva, in gold fixing job in Sai Kulwant Hall, I witnessed several amazing events. Here is yet another Divine manifestation, witnessed by me. Bhagavan used to inspect the work of fixing of gold fixing, almost every day. (This is the gold leaf application to the building edifice, Ed.)

The entire team worked very hard in two shifts to match up with Bhagavan's enthusiasm.

Everyone worked two shifts every day, with little time for them to have a nice sleep; from morning, 8.00 am till 2.00 am next day.

I had been living in the Round No. 5 Building, just behind the temple of Mother Gayathri. That particular day I was returning back to my room at about 3.00 am. When I was reaching the premises near Gayathri Mandir, I saw a small crowd of Seva Dals looking at the Gayathri Mandir very intensely. The Seva Dals, I understand were from the State of Orissa. What I saw there was astonishing.

We could hear the shrilling noise of the iron gate of the Mandir being opened, and a brilliant-looking lady was getting inside. Once inside, she simply vanished and the gates automatically closed.

The Seva Dals, who witnessed this event, were very jubilant and were

all talking about this Divine experience.

They told me that a few hours ago, they had seen the gate of the Mandir opening and the Lady coming out and then vanishing.

It seemed this was the return trip, of which I was also a fortunate witness.

Naturally, this matter was taken up with Bhagavan Himself, the very next day. Bhagavan had a hearty laugh, and told, "Hey, Dwannapothu (meaning male buffalo) it was Mother Gayathri herself was coming out, and then returning back. She was coming to have My Darshan. For your information, it is not Gayathri alone; all Devathas come every day to Prashanthi Nilayam for Dharshan."

To another question, why (do) they come only during night hours, Swami laughed off and said, 'Because in daytime, you are all surrounding Me!'

Do you know why I have taken this human birth? It is only to make you realise that there is no difference between you and Me. I and you are one and the same.

- BABA

His Message from "Who is Sai Baba"

by Mohan Seepersad

Sathya Sai Baba encourages us to recognise who we are. We are not these physical bodies. We are the eternal spirit that temporarily occupies these minds and bodies. We

can appreciate and become who we really are by turning inward with faith in God and in intense yearning to know Him. Our conscience is a reflection of the eternal spirit. Sathya Sai Baba tells that our conscience is our master. When we follow our conscience, our thoughts, words and deeds will be noble and consistent.

Spirituality is having the courage and the determination to follow our conscience in all things and at all times. In doing so, we recognise that we are all united in God. We are bound together by divine love.

Let the different faiths exist, let them flourish, and let the glory of God be sung in all languages and in a variety of tunes.

That should be the ideal. Respect the differences between the faiths and recognise them as valid as long as they do not extinguish the flame of unity.

This Sai has come in order to achieve the supreme task of uniting the entire mankind as one family through the bond of brotherhood, of affirming and illumining the Atmic Reality (Reality of the Spirit) of each being in order to reveal the Divinity which is the basis on which the entire Cosmos rests, and of instructing all to recognise the common Divine Heritage that binds man to man, so that man can rid himself of the animal in him, and rise into the Divine, which is his goal.

- BABA (1974)

Sai Baba directs through Dream

It was in July 2011 that Swami appeared in a dream to Narasimha Murthi Sir, Warden of Sri Sathya Sai University, and gave him clear directions to establish a permanent residence for Him in Muddenahalli, in the Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka state.

“Get the hill-top building ready for My stay before I arrive on this Guru Purnima day (15th July, 2011). On Guru Purnima day I will enter there and stay there permanently. I will go from here to different places and come back. But I will stay here permanently,” Swami advised.

He later directed that the mansion should be called SATHYA SAI ANANDAM, and further gave advice for the colour of His room, which should have the colour combination of pink, blue and ivory. He went on to request that a statue of Him be placed on the ground floor hall - standing on a Lotus, with hand raised in Abhaya Hastam, and made of marble. He also requested that an idol of Ganesha should also be there, most important. And concluded that one of His cars should also be kept there for Him. He then said, “I will come there and also I will be seen there.”

After directing Narasimha Murthi further, He concluded by directing him to choose ten boys to translate the literary works of Narayana Bhat into English and Hindi so that people all over the world shall read them.

Swami said, “I am going to select two big boys for doing service in the building and to sleep here. Big boys, both are in music.”

For the entire length, He was standing, there was no wheelchair. Finally He told him, “In Prashanthi Nilayam there are people to carry on the programme, you don’t worry about it, you be here.”

Living with God is Education.

Living for God is Service.

Living in God is Realisation.

Unity is Divinity.

Love should be like ice cream:

soft, cool and sweet. - BABA

Sai Love

It was the winter of 1994 at the Sai Baba Ashram, in Brindavan, Whitefield. One morning as I was doing seva in the western canteen peeling vegetables in the verandah along with other male devotees, a new devotee joined us. He seemed unsure about what to be doing so we all helped him with which knife to use, which basket to put in the cut vegetables, etc. I noticed that he was hesitant to speak in English, and had a German accent. Since I had lived in Germany, I spoke to him in his native tongue, albeit not perfect.

He suddenly lit up and we had a friendly conversation. His name was Michael. This was Michael’s first visit to Sai Baba Ashram.

Following that, we happened to meet several times in canteen, bookshop, store, etc. In fact, it seemed every time Michael had problems of

language or a question about the workings of the Ashram I coincidentally seemed to be there to assist him.

One evening Michael approached me informing that where he lived outside the Ashram, he had been approached by a young boy promising to introduce him to a holy lady who had all the powers Swami had. In this lady's house the sacred ashes and red kumkum powder poured out of Baba's pictures. We were warned by the Ashram security about this boy and the woman, just days ago. The lady was not supposed to be a good influence, and devotees were advised not to visit that house. I reiterated this to Michael, to be careful and not to visit anyone's home outside the Ashram.

That evening when we met, Michael was very appreciative of the information. We bumped into each other many more times over the next three-four days.

On that visit, members of our group from Central London Sai Centre received Swami's grace through many padnamaskarams and vibuthi materialisations. I had to leave Brindavan earlier than rest of the group. I was praying to Baba to give some sign as He always does of His Omnipresence and Omnipotence before I left. As after finishing my last meal at the Ashram canteen I was about to get up, I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder. It was our devotee friend Michael holding a beautiful rose flower in his hand which he said he wanted to give to me to express his grateful thanks, and also a letter which he asked not to open and read until I reached London.

I was moved by his kind sentiment. On my way out, I gave the rose to our group leader from the Sai Centre as he, more than anyone else, deserved that rose for bringing us mish-mash bunch to Whitefield. I went to Sai Ramesh Mandir for last time and prayed to Baba thanking Him for His Grace and on whatever had happened.

On reaching home a few days later, I opened the letter at my altar. It read:

Dear Balwant/Bill,

How can anyone ever tell you,

You were anything less than
beautiful,

How can anyone ever tell you,

You were less than whole,

How can anyone fail to notice,

That your loving is a miracle,

How deeply you're connected to my
soul.

OM SAI RAM

I read the letter a couple of times and did not know what to make of it. No one had ever sent me such a letter full of love: neither my mother, nor my father, nor any girl friend when I was young, or even my wife... With tears welling my eyes, I prayed at the altar and thanked Baba for His loving message. Then I put the letter away with my other Sai memorabilia.

It was only many years later one morning while I was tidying up the altar, I came across the letter, and read it. What became obvious when going through it again was that what I thought addressed to me, has little

to do with me - in fact, all those words of Michael, were written for Swami. I was mere an instrument.

I wondered why it took me so long to recognise such an obvious thing?

Everything happens because Swami wills it. Thy Will, Not Mine, as the devotee says to the Lord. Baba wants us all the time to scrutinize our each and every action: scrutinize our attachments to money, affections, and even the state of our faith. He wants us to come to Him to be tested and examined as to how far we have reached in our spiritual quest - is our transformation real or fake?

Unlike us, Baba is not an actor; He does not do things for appearances. As the Director with one penetrating glance, He can see through our hearts to gauge the depth of our devotion, and the lesson to be given for taking us to the next step. His scrutiny is not to make us fear Him, but for us to see within ourselves the amount of dirt, distortion, and darkness we have accumulated, that veils our minds and Atma. In Swami through Michael, Baba's message was that the divine Atmic love united us all. Michael had perhaps recognised this when giving this letter, while it took me many more years to comprehend its real significance.

Swami chuckled when once someone asked: Who is Sai Baba? "He is love, love, love..." We have problems with love because our love, unlike His, has wrong focus. When we say love, we want to be loved (instead of loving others). Our world, and then God. Baba says to loving this order must be completely reversed to: first God, then the world, and last I. Swami says: "The

Teacher knows how to test the student. The eyes see everything but they cannot see themselves. You need a mirror. You come to see Me to get that. I am the mirror in which to see your own eyes. Inner view, not Interview."

Our self-scrutiny unlike Swami, is imperfect because it is driven by Ahamkara, the ego. It is often a play-acting seeking to impress others - that's the reason that most often it takes us so long to recognise what Baba has been trying to tell us.

As Baba has said: "You don't have to come here to see My little body. I want you to find Me in your heart wherever you are... Many gurus tell you that you are weak, but I don't say that. I say you have power. You are God! Follow the Master within you. Fight to the end. I will never disappoint anyone who has full faith in Me."

Jai Sai Ram.

(Balwant Bhaneja, Ottawa - Carleton
Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre)

The world is suffering today from too much of knowledge; virtue is not increased in proportion to the advance of knowledge. That is the root cause of misery in the human society. - BABA

The Most Precious Object

Vibhuti is the most precious object in a truly spiritual sense. (It represents the burning of desires that agitate the mind and cause confusion). When there is no desire to warp the mind, love will be true

and full. What greater offering can you give to God to glorify Him than the ash signifying your triumph over desire? Ash, or vibhuti, is the ultimate condition of things; it cannot undergo any further change... It should inspire you to give up desire and offer to God the ashes of destruction of tantalising desires as the most valuable of all the articles you have earned. Ash cannot fade as do flowers in a day or two; it does not dry and disappear; it will not lose its colour as leaves do in just a few hours; it does not rot as fruits after a few days. Ash is ash forever and ever.

So burn your vile tendencies, your vices, your bad habits.

Worship God, rendering yourself pure in thought, word and deed.

(A Compendium of TSSB p. 612)

**Children are precious treasures;
Our task is to rear them to
become devoted servants of God.**

- BABA

Meat Eating

Once again I feel it necessary to reproduce an article on vegetarianism, and this is particularly relevant to Sai Devotees.

"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 is it 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, (or Jesus, Ed.) they fatten on 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... those who aspire to become true devotees of God have to give up meat, liquor and smoking."

The violence and anger in society today, stems from these animal tendencies. It is time to move away from them, and finally embrace our true humanness. - Ed.

**True education consists of
sanctifying everything you utter
and every action and thought of
yours.** - BABA

Do Not Propagate My Name

"I do not have the slightest intention to utilise the Seva Samithis (Service Organisation) for propagating My Name. No! I am content only when spiritual endeavours and disciplines to elevate and purify man progress everywhere. It is only through these practices that My universal reality will be revealed. So, do not limit Me

to the boundaries of any one name and form”.

“Your aim should be to see the same God in all the Forms that are worshipped, to adore Him in all the Names, to be conscious of His presence as the inner motivator of every living being, in every particle of matter. Do not fall into the error of considering some to be men worthy of reverence and some unworthy. Sai is in everyone; so, all deserve your reverence and service. Propagate this truth; that is the function I assign to the Seva Samithis (Service Organisation).”

-BABA (17th May, 1968, Mumbai)

Just as Krishna lifted the Goverdhan Giri peaks, I will lift a range of mountains, just be patient. - BABA

Baba's Leela and His Humour!

The following humorous account was received from Brother Ben Too recently.

The incident began when his wife and himself, joined a group of Kent devotees and travelled to P.N. to see Swami. In the group were two middle aged Asians, one quiet (A), and the other very talkative (B)... indeed 'B' never stopped talking!

Also, they were obliged to share the accommodation. During the course of the stay 'A' made every attempt to avoid his roommate, but without success. On returning to the room one day 'A' discovered the floor littered with pieces of biscuits, peanut shells and partly eaten fruits.

This enraged him and when his roommate returned, he challenged him about the mess, telling him his behaviour was disgraceful and uncalled for from an adult! 'B' swore that he had done nothing of the sort and was innocent of the charges. But 'A' insisted that since only the two of them had the keys to the room, no one else could get in. Both proceeded to clean up the room.

Days later it was the turn of 'B' to return to the room to discover the mess once again. 'B' assumed that it was a tit-for-tat by 'A', a form of revenge, and it was his turn for abuse, and personal insults. The argument became heated and turned ugly resulting in 'A' thinking of moving out of the room. Three days later, as 'A' was returning to the room, he saw his roommate unlocking the door to get in. The scene that presented itself to them was once again the same mess of littered food stuff, biscuits and nut shells, but now they also saw, sitting on the table, the culprit - a monkey munching a banana in its hand! Startled, the culprit darted through a gap in the window and was gone!

The two men, now at a loss for words, laughed and hugged each other with tears of joy. “Thank You very much, Baba,” was what they said. It shows how Swami solves problems, albeit in a humorous way!

**Prayer is for the mind, what
food is for the body.**

- BABA

Sai's Message

My dear children,

Life is so complicated. I can see that all of you are going through various stages. The awakenings are there. Remember something. Enjoy every single second, yet know your priorities. You can do everything in life. With good time management and love you can achieve great feats.

Make the most of your time. Do the things you want, but also share the worlds of your friends, brothers and sisters.

There are no such things such as my or your world. Know how each of you are and try to be one with each other. I am your Guru, Father and Protection. I love you and I will guide you. Remember, that life is like a highway. There are all kinds of signs and indications which show you the ways.

Many roads can lead to the same destination, but when the roads cross, this is where the minds and the worlds meet. Life is like the slopes of a mountain, you always climb up, but sometimes you may fall, but always remember, that you have got the power to stand up on your feet again.

Towards destination God's Guidance, Love and Protection, Sai.

(Sai's Message to Aust-NZ-Fiji Youth Conference, July 2005. Copyright Sathya Sai Org. of Australia and PNG)

Gayatri means "that which saves, when repeated." It is the torch of Spiritual Wisdom. - BABA

Swami Explains Karma

The principal of Karma was explained by Swami to a journalist of American magazine, "Newsweek", in 1968.

"In a vast lush green field a cow is tied to a peg, with a rope of about 100-meter long. The fate of the cow is now fixed. It can choose to graze in a circular area of 100-meter diameter. By a foolish act, if the cow chooses to go round, round very often of the rope gets reduced, and it cannot even enjoy the allotted area of grazing. On the contrary, if the cow uses its own strength to uproot the very peg to which it is tied down, it can reach out a much larger area without any limitation. Thus many options are available for the cow. The cow's specific choice of the options and the effects of such option becomes its fate.

By using its intelligence and making efforts, it can overcome the so-called fate, or the limitations enforced upon it.

Likewise, man can also overcome the effects of the fate destined for him. He can either choose and determine to live a pure life which helps to retain what is allotted to him or opt for an easy and impure life, and further slip down. By leading a pure spiritual life, he can cleanse his chitha, his intellect. He will then engage himself in "Nishkama Karma" Seva activities, which will go beyond his self-interests and benefit people beyond him or his family. The rewards of those good activities will start accruing to his account, which will slowly erase the effects of past misdeeds.

If on the contrary, resulting from pride and ego, the man indulges in Dushkarmas or bad deeds, he stands to lose the opportunities available to him to bring a purification of his thought, word and deed.

(Thrikarama Sudhi) and thereby getting over his destiny or fate in the present birth. This is the lesson one should learn.

Always engage in 'Sath' karmas, engage in service activities, live a life useful to the humanity at large, and then pray to Him. In such cases, God will definitely hear your prayers and will show compassion and reward you with His merciful Grace to mitigate or overcome the so called fate, to which the human beings are bound in bondage."

Dharma destroys the one who violates it. Dharma also protects the one who practices it. - BABA

The Ever-Merciful Swami

(Sathya Narayana Katha)

Once, Swami visited a home in Bangalore and many people had assembled there to have His Darshan. Some of them had brought flowers and fruits to offer to Swami. Others were talking of Swami's miracles and compassion.

A poor cobbler overheard their talk. A beautiful thought suddenly came into his mind. He wished to have a glimpse of the Avatar. He lovingly plucked a rose from the garden and squeezed his way through the crowd, slowly walking towards where Swami was seated. He peeped

inside and at the same time, Swami also peeped out.

Their eyes met, and at that very instant, for the cobbler, an irresistible love overflowed through him for Swami.

Lovingly, Swami called out to him to come closer. The cobbler went near and offered Him the rose. Swami graciously accepted the rose from him and asked in Tamil, the cobbler's mother tongue, "My dear, what do you want?" The cobbler was not prepared for the question. He replied, "Swami, please visit my hut."

Swami responded, "Definitely, I will visit."

Tears of joy overflowed from the cobbler's eyes. With reverence, he fell at the Lotus Feet of Swami. In his excitement, he had forgotten to ask when He would grace his hut. After Swami left the residence, all these questions came into the cobbler's mind. Days passed but there was no sign of the Lord's visit to the cobbler's hut.

One day, as the cobbler was stitching some torn and broken chappals (sandals), a car stopped at the roadside in front of him. Thinking it to be a police car, the cobbler hurriedly collected his things and prepared to run. He thought that policemen had come to chase him away. Swami stepped out of the car and told the cobbler not to be afraid. Instead, He made him sit in the car. The cobbler was too stunned to speak. The car sped on with Swami and the cobbler inside, with Swami guiding His driver straight to the cobbler's hut.

The cobbler got out of the car and went inside and asked his wife to spread a mattress and rushed out to welcome Swami.

Swami sat on the mattress. The cobbler realised there was nothing in his house, which he could offer to the Lord. He was in a great fix, and began squeezing his hands in agony.

Looking at his plight, Swami said not to worry. He told the cobbler that He had come to give and not to take from him anything, except love. With a wave of His hand, Swami created sweets and fruits and distributed them to all the people who were present. He then created Holy Vibhuthi and applied it to the cobbler's forehead.

Before leaving, Swami said, "I shall take leave of you now. Do not worry. I am always with you." Before the cobbler could say anything, Swami got into His car and left.

Swami transformed the hut of the simple cobbler into a temple!

When a poor person dies of hunger it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her, it has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed. - Mother Theresa

Science and God

Throughout the recent history of mankind there existed a conflict between Godmen, and intellectuals who called themselves scientists, particularly in the realms of miracles.

Baba once explained the phenomenon of miracles in a clear-cut, emphatic manner.

He stated, "There is no mesmerism, miracle or magic in what I do. Mine is genuine Divine Power. Small minds and limited intellects are too weak to perceive the Divine. The Divine magnificence is too encompassing and too overwhelming for their Maya-filled eyes. And so they ridicule it and call it the result of Yoga, Siddhi, mesmerism or magic. But the Divine can do anything. He had all the power in the palm of His Hand. His powers are not such as would abide for a time and then fade away."

Great beings can never be totally understood as they exist on totally different levels of consciousness, with different principles. The new science of Physics will, in time, take scientific thinking closer to the spiritual understanding, thus proving the existence of God.

For a true devotee there should be no evil traits such as hatred, jealousy, anger or greed. These are the main obstacles to devotion which enter your being. You must develop a sense of unity with everyone. If you develop hatred towards anyone, you will be hating the very Lord whom you worship. It is because of your inflated ego that you take action against another, in the course of which, hatred, jealousy and anger arise.

Therefore, the primary warning given in the Gita says, "Show no hatred towards any being."

-BABA (Birthday Discourse, 1973)

Shirdi Sai Baba's Birthday

Sathya Sai Baba revealed, during a discourse in P.N. in 1991, a hitherto unknown fact about Shirdi Baba's birth.

It was September 28th 1991, when Swami made the following interesting details about the Trinity of Sai Avatars: "In the former Nizam's dominions, there was a remote village called Pathri. In that village there were a couple named Gangabhavadya and Devagiramma. They were grieving over the lack of children. In answer to their prayers a son was born on September 28th, 1835.

Today is the anniversary of that day. The child was Sai Baba. "His Samadhi (death) occurred on Vijayadasami Day in 1918. September 28th, 1835 was His date of birth. On Vijayadasami Day, He gave up His body.

Although this year Vijayadasami falls on September 29th, in the year of Baba's Samadhi the date was different.

"The first advent of Sai was in Maharashtra. The second advent will be in Madras," Shirdi Baba said. It should be noted that when this form (Sathya Sai) made its advent, Andhra Pradesh was part of Madras Presidency. When He was asked, in what form the next advent would take place, Shirdi Baba told Abdul Baba alone: "I will give darshan in the name of Sathya for upholding Truth." This is the present advent. The two bodies are different, but the Divinity is one. The first advent was revealing Divinity. The second

advent is to awaken the Divinity (in human beings). The next advent is for propagating Divinity. The three Sai's are: Shirdi Sai, Sathya Sai and Prema Sai".

"The reason for relating all this is that today happens to be the birthday of Shirdi Baba (September 28th, 1835). He attained Samadhi in 1918. Bodies are transient. These vestures are assumed only for the sake of devotees. Unless the Divine comes with a form, no one can develop faith in the Formless. The Divine in human form is the preparation for comprehending the Formless Absolute."

God will decide what to give, when to give, and where. Hence, all actions should be dedicated to God, and He will decide what the devotee is fit to receive. When everything is left to God out of pure love and total faith, God will take care of the devotee.

People today lack such firm faith. In the path of devotion, many ordeals have to be overcome. Great devotees in the past faced ordeals with faith and fortitude.

Ultimately they secured the grace of the Divine and experienced bliss. For achieving anything in life, two things are essential: firm faith and pure love. - BABA

AUM NAMAH SHIVAYA

As an explanation of the manifestation of the Shiva Lingam, Swami explains the magnificent event that has been witnessed by many thousands of devotees over the years.

"The manifestation of the Lingam is a part of My Nature. Spiritual Scholars explain it as reminiscent of an epochal event in the past when Shiva challenged Brahma and Vishnu to gauge the height and depth of the Lingam Form he assumed. The two Gods failed and had to accept defeat - that is the usual folklore. Truly speaking, however, the Lingam emerges as a result of prayer by devotees and Divine Grace. You have to recognise in this event a glimpse of Divinity and a sign of Infinite Grace. Just as Om is the sound symbol of God, the Lingam is the Form symbol or the visible symbol of God, the most meaningful, the simplest and the least endowed with the appendages of attributes".

"Lingam means That in which this merges or dissolves. Eventually, all Forms have to merge in the Formless. Shiva is the Principle of the Dissolution of all Names and Forms, of all entities and individuals. Thus, the Lingam is the simplest sign or symbol of Emergence and Mergence." - BABA

Your life must be based on the principle of surrender to the Divine. - BABA

Leaders and Leadership

Kasturi reports a visit by disconsolate Maha-Rajas and Princes who had lost their kingdoms in the unification of Indian States. They had come to Puttaparthi and sought an audience with Baba. After some days, Baba told them to prepare for a great meal, and so tents were put up,

food was cooked and a feast was laid out.

When Baba came, he told the Kings, Maha-Rajas and Princes to get up and then told their clerks, servants and slaves to sit down, and the Kings and Maha- Rajas were to serve them.

The Kings were dismayed, but Baba would not relent. "Love all, serve all" is what He told them. There was a new order, and the people came first, and the task was to serve the people. So the Kingly task, the ruling task, the leadership task is always to put the welfare of the people first.

"A good leader has to possess what may be called individual (or personal) character and national character. Only such persons can become ideal leaders. Giving up selfish interests, eschewing totally ideals of mine and thine, the true leader should be dedicated to the welfare of all and uphold the reputation of his country. On all occasions he should march from the front rather than issue orders from the rear. He should set the example by his actions."

Touch My feet and I will crown your head (with knowledge).

- Shirdi Baba

Be devoted to the Universal; be eager to become that; when you pray to God for a job, a son, or a prize, you are devoted not to God, but to the job, son and to the prize. Pray to God for God. Love, because it is your nature to Love, because you know nothing else and because you cannot act

otherwise than Love. Expand yourself, take in all! Grow in Love!

- BABA

Swami Transcends Science

In 1983, students of the SSCollege arranged a science exhibition in the Kalana Mandapam (wedding hall) in Brindavan. Sri Govind Narayan, then Governor of Karnataka, was visiting Brindavan for Swami's darshan. Baba brought him along to see the exhibition.

On show were several models, scientific devices and artifacts made by students. One of the students had made an alarm equipment, which had a ray of light proceeding from one end to the other, and if a hand is placed in between, an alarm rings. As Swami went round and reached that equipment, the student, who had devised it, asked Him, "Swami, put Your hand here and the alarm rings." Swami did so but there was no sound. The student got perplexed. He said, "Just a minute, Swami. Something seems to have gone wrong. I will set it right." He tinkered with it a little, put his hand between the two ends and sure enough the alarm rang. Confident now, the student invited Swami to again insert His hand. He did so but again the alarm did not ring. The student got thoroughly confused by now and mumbled something about the equipment needing another repair. But Swami told him, "It needs no repair. I am not that kind of thief for whom you have designed this; so quite rightly the alarm did not ring!" Swami moved on.

Science is not capable of reaching Swami; He transcends science!

To whom much is given, much is expected. - BABA

The Prophet of the Children of Israel

Much has been written about Jesus' life prior to His crucifixion, but it is not readily believed, particularly by Christians, that He survives the ordeal and travelled east to Bharath (India) with His mother, sister, and Mary of Magdalena. He travelled through Nisibis, arriving in Kashmir in 78 ad (or for Muslims, year 54) during the reign of Gopadatta. The journey to Kashmir had taken them seven years, and it was there that mother Mary passed away and was buried in a place called after her - Murree.

Jesus was in India in quest of the "lost tribes of Israel", and on one occasion Swami stated that Jesus travelled as far as Malaysia in His effort to link up with them.

Jesus had lived into His eighties, having worked diligently for the people, healing, teaching and uplifting the downcast, and was laid to rest in a tomb that was constructed by St. Thomas. To this day, the tomb in Rosabal, Srinagar, is called the Tomb of Isa, or the Tomb of Nabi, meaning prophet.

Thomas was later speared to death on a mount near Madras, and in more recent times, a Basilica was built there and was consecrated by Cardinal Conway of Ireland.

The one who realises his identity with the Divine will not cause harm or hurt to anyone. - BABA

The First All-India Conference

At the First All-India Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, in 1967, the Committee responsible for framing Rules and Regulations met with Baba.

There were five persons in all, including Shri Ramakrishna Rao, who was once Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and later Governor of Kerala and also Uttar Pradesh.

At such meetings Baba always explains important points in the talks given by Him at public meetings, to His devotees, after the meeting is over. On this occasion He spoke in Telegu which Indulal Shah, one of the Committee did not understand. Sri Ramakrishna Rao offered to translate the talk into English.

"No, there is no time, he understands Telugu," Swami said, patting Indulal Shah on the head. To Indulal Shah's great surprise he was able to understand every word of the discussion that went on in the Telugu language!

You as body, mind or soul are a dream. But what you really are is pure Existence, Knowledge, Bliss. You are the God of this Universe.

- BABA

The Wealth That Only God Can Give

from "Mesmerising Moments with the Divine Master" interview with Mrs. Rani Subramanian.

Once we were reading the Bhagavad Geeta; the two-fold path, He said: "Because you are a good devotee, and you are devoted to Me, and you are doing prayers and sadhana; I will grant you whatever you want in the world! But then, you can't get Me! You will get everything in the world, but not God! God is Peace!

He is Truth, Righteousness, Peace and Love! I am Love and Peace and Compassion! These you will not get!

"But you will get everything else in the world - money, position and power too - I will give it because you want it! But with all that, you will become more peaceless! You will have more problems; so don't ask for that! If you are a wise person, a good devotee, ask for gold! Peace is gold; if you have that, you can get anything out of it. So ask for gold - Pure Gold! This Peace is pure, solid gold! That is what I have come to give you all - Supreme Peace!"

Lord Krishna says the same thing in the Bhagavata Geeta when Arjuna asks Him the same question: "Swami, what will I get if I obey You?" He replied, "Arjuna, I will give you Supreme Peace; undisturbed by anything external; gain or loss, praise or blame, victory or defeat; everything will be the same. All are pairs of opposites; you will transcend all of them."

Also, we will not feel any problems with heat or cold - because when it is hot, if we keep saying, "Oh! It's so

hot!" that's a disqualification too! Or when it is cold, if we keep saying, "Oh! It's so cold! I wish it was warmer!" that means we are reacting to things! Small things should not matter!

We should not even comment! So, even if it is the Truth, no doubt, but that comment will make our state of consciousness - which can give us peace - not available to us. We cannot capture that state of consciousness, which is available.

Swami says, "When a problem comes, don't think of the problem. Just think; 'All this is anityam (not true); it belongs to the nityaloka (worldly plane); I am going to transcend all this.' And keep on chanting My Name, and I will give you the strength to face it."

Swami once asked me: "Rani Maa, do you have domestic problems? Do you know how to transcend those problems." I said: "Yes, Swami." He asked: "Do you know how to transcend those problems? When you have a dream, when do you realise you are dreaming?" I said, "Swami, when I wake up, I realise that I was dreaming." He said: "Until you wake up, do you not identify with the dream as yourself?" I said: "Yes!"

You see, what He meant was that when we are sleeping, we are not aware that we are having a dream. In the dream, you feel that you are real; you are not aware that there's another 'I' sleeping on the bed and dreaming! There's no two 'I' - only one! He said: "Simply, now you are dreaming. All these problems come under the realm of dream. So do you know what you must tell yourself?"

'Swami, it's all a day-dream!' If you say that, it will not touch you! But if you identify yourself with whatever is happening, you will suffer. So, you just have to play your role."

He said we should detach ourselves from the identification. He said: You see, you are all only playing a role! Role is like jeeva - the soul - 'I am so and so!' that is ego - the false identification. That is not the real you. You have to tell yourself: 'I am playing a role; but my real nature is atma. I am above all this, Swami.' Constantly, you must meditate on that thought! Otherwise you will go down with your problem; you will suffer; you will be anxious; you will be worried. But you have to help yourself - like an antidote - and keep saying: 'This is all a dream, Swami!' if in spite of saying that, you don't get that awareness, then ask Me: 'Swami, please give me that awareness!'

I am always ready to give you whatever you ask! But you have to ask! I will not give it to you by Myself! "If you ask for the right things, I will surely help you. If you ask for worldly things, I will give it to you; but again, you will be caught up in maya (illusion), in delusion. But if you ask, I will give you the experience that it is all a dream, and it will not touch you."

Once, after many years have passed, He called my sister and me for an interview. He said, "You see, you people have done a lot of sadhana (spiritual practice)! And for all the sadhana that you have done, you must have reached a very high stage!"

Your days were packed with spiritual activities - chanting, doing

bhajans and reading. But, in spite of all that, you have not reached the stage that you should have reached. Why? Do you know? We said: "No Swami. We thought that sadhana would take us there."

He said: "Sadhana by itself cannot take you there. It should be a combination of self-analysis and sadhana, spiritual practices must be combined with self-analysis; because only self-analysis will tell you, as a human being, where you are going wrong."

Even regarding the possessions, He told us: "Simplicity is a must for this path! Make your journey comfortable with light luggage! Too many possessions are not needed; make them minimum. Don't add more and more to your life because it is like an obstacle to your spiritual path. Keep it to minimum so that you don't give your mind to various things."

If we are on the spiritual path but are giving priority to the wrong thing, His Grace will always be there, because we are all His children; but it will depend on the percentage of our performance. Just like if you are a student, you will get 40% or 80% or 100%, according to your performance, so it is the same with Swami. Swami has said; "Give up shreera ahaara (food for the body) but not atmaahaara (food for the spirit), unless you feed the atma (spirit), it will not awaken. That is your spirit; which is Bhagavan (God); which will not be available if you are feeding your sharaara (body) all the time when your atma has been starving!"

He told a businessman: "By not

following Swami's instruction, your atma will starve. You have given priority to food for the body and no importance to the soul; how can I help you? If you want My help, you have to do what I tell you. That should be your priority."

You see, in a way, it is a general thing; but He also wanted me to realise that. Instead of calling me and telling me directly to do this and do that regularly;

He quoted that gentleman like an example. That's all. I told my sister it was a teaching for all of us.

Let Me draw your attention to a fact. On previous occasions when God incarnated on earth, the bliss of recognising His Divine nature was vouchsafed only after the Avatar had left the world, in spite of plenty of patent evidence of His Grace.

And the loyalty and devotion they commanded from men arose through fear and awe, at their superhuman powers and skills, or at their imperial and penal authority.

But, ponder a moment on this Sathya Sai Manifestation; in this age of rampant materialism, aggressive disbelief and irreverence, what is it that brings to It the adoration of millions from all over the world?

You will be convinced that the basic reason for this is the fact that this is Super-worldly Divinity in Human form.

- BABA (1968 in Mumbai)

Diamond Ear-Tops in Cookie

Indulal Shah once invited Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to dinner in his house in Mumbai. Swami was seated on one side of the dining table, opposite Shah and his daughter. Mrs. Shah brought a plate of freshly cooked hot vadas (savoury cookies made with soaked black gram pasta, deep fried in oil) and placed it before Swami. He picked up one of them and placed it on the plate of Shah's daughter and told her to break it into two before eating. When she did so, she found a diamond - studded ear-top in each piece.

Everybody was thrilled, and Swami Himself put them one each on the girl's ears. In every such event, the issue is not what has been created out of what; it is Swami's Will that matters. That alone is the central factor, the cause as well as the effect. "What I will, happens; what I order, materialises."
