

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

The Annual Satsang will, this year, take place on the 28th June, at the Clarion Hotel, (Dublin airport). Time: 1.30 to 5.00 approx.

I would appreciate full attendance, as I believe it is also a celebration of Swami's Grace and Blessings on each Sai devotee. To be present, once a year, at a satsang is not too much to ask of our members. Devotees will be asked to volunteer a short talk on the subject, "*What Sai Baba means to me*". I'm sure we all have special thoughts on this subject, so please, do this for Swami. Other contributions from our members, would also be appreciated.

Yours in the service of Sai, Patrick Gallivan.
Chair.

If anything bad happens to you, it is not something that anybody else has given to you. You are responsible for all the bad that comes to you. It is the result of your bad thoughts. God also does not give you anything bad. Even happiness is not given to you by God; it is the power of your own thoughts that is responsible for it. Therefore, you should purify your thoughts. Your life will be happy if your thoughts are pure. Where there is purity, there is divinity. - BABA.

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord! I am born from the womb of sleep, I am determined to carry out all tasks this day as offerings to You, with You ever present before my mind's eye. Make my words, thoughts and deeds sacred and pure. Let me not inflict pain on anyone. Let no one inflict pain on me. Direct me; guide me this day.

NIGHT PRAYER

O Lord! The tasks of this day (whose burden I placed on You this morning) are over. It was You Who made me walk, talk, think and act. I, therefore, place at Your Divine Feet all my thoughts, words and deeds. My tasks are done, receive me. I am coming back to You.

Oh, DIVINE MOTHER, our hearts are filled with darkness. Please make this darkness distant from us and promote Illumination within us.

SAI GAYATHRI

We know this Sai is Supreme Divinity Incarnate. We meditate on this God of Truth. May this Almighty Personality lead us on the Path of Total Liberation.

OM SAI RAM

It is always preferable to approach God for the fulfillment of wants, rather than cringe before men, who themselves are but tools in the hands of God. In His own silent way, God will transform the mind and turn it towards *sadhana* (spiritual practice) and successful spiritual pilgrimage. He cannot and will not allow His children to lose their way and suffer in the jungle. When you approach God and seek His help and guidance you have taken the first step to save yourself. You are then led to accept His Will as His own. Thus, you achieve *shanthi* (absolute peace).

-BABA.

Sathya Sai Baba Prophesised by Prophet Mohammed

The ancient Arabic book entitled "Mehdi Moud" in which the Prophet prophesised many centuries ago, the descent of God Himself on earth in human form, that included the following 'signs' by which He could be recognised: "His hair will be profuse. His front teeth will be spaced apart. He will have a mole on His cheek. He will not have a beard but will be clean shaven. His clothing will be like a flame. He will wear two robes. The colour of His face will sometimes be like copper, sometimes yellow like gold and sometimes like the moon. His legs will be those of a young girl. All teachings of all religions of the world will be in His heart from birth. All the science and knowledge of the world from the beginning of time will be in His head. He will give gifts that are light in weight. His devotees will crane their necks to see Him. He will live for 95 years on earth. In the last twenty years of His lifetime He will be the king of the whole world but at that time (A.D. 2000) only two-thirds of the world will believe Him. Muslims will only recognise Him nine years before His passing away from the world."

You are all *part-time devotees*, seeking always benefits and blessings from God for your own welfare and the welfare of your immediate families. Most of you ignore the needs of other living beings that starve and struggle. Hence your Devotion is 'Selfish'. Start serving others from this very minute and I shall reserve a seat for you in the Heavens. -BABA.

NEW SHIRDI SAI TEMPLE

A \$14 million, 15,000 sq. feet, Shirdi Sai Baba Temple has been opened at Suwanee, Atlanta, Georgia, US. Approx. 10,000 devotees attended the week-long celebrations of the temple, which is now called the North America Sri Shirdi Sai

Temple of Atlanta.

Life is like a train journey. Whichever stage you are in your life, you must make your journey comfortable and happy. Do not carry heavy unwanted luggage with you; that will make your journey miserable. Do not indulge in fault-finding and in picking quarrels with others. Anger, hatred, envy, jealousy - these are the heavy luggage you should avoid taking with you on your journey. Be calm under provocation. This will make your journey a pleasure. -BABA.

BROKEN HOMES & BROKEN HEARTS

On September 2008 over 50,000 homes were washed away by flood waters in Orissa, India, leaving an estimated 2 to 2.4 million people marooned by the fury of the raging waters.

Immediately the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Orissa, swung into action providing cooked food and medical relief to the affected people. Over 400,000 hectares of paddy crop were destroyed and 2,500 villages submerged under water, a total of 4,000,000 people left homeless. Swimming and wading through flood water up to seven feet deep, was the only way, initially, to get the aid to the people who had been without food and drinking water. This was carried out by the Youth Wing of the Organisation in Orissa, who formed a task force and toiled for 24 hours non-stop for 10 days to save the lives of thousands. "I smile because Sai Baba is taking care of us and our future will only get better," said Mrs. Sadore Bhol. A young and enthusiastic Sai worker Mr. Akshay, recalls, "We left early in the morning every day carrying the 'ready-to-eat' food packets made overnight by our Sai Youth sisters and went into the interior and isolated areas where no government or any other external aid had reached." Apart from delivering food and clothing, they also rescued a number of lives from the strong water currents. Mr. Akshay continued, "It became very difficult to find rice, sugar, etc., so we approached the factory owners/manufacturers for groceries and here we did see the unseen hand of God helping us. The proprietors stopped their routine production and redirected all their efforts to meet our request. Like this, somehow or other we were able to gather the required groceries.

Little did we know then that, by His Grace, we would soon be receiving truck loads of materials". It was Mr. Rishi Malik, a poor, old, bedraggled farmer, who summed it all up when he said, "It is only the 'Sai Baba people' who

treated us like human beings. Apart from giving us what we really need, they were really concerned about us. Even though life is still very difficult for us, as I only earn 50 rupees (US \$1) a day, and have five children to look after with only two broken walls as my home It's only because of Baba's blessings that we are carrying along." Friday April 3rd was the occasion for the handing over the first 200 homes of Swami's flood relief programme to the victims of the floods. At 9.20 a.m., Swami asked for the distribution to begin; utensils, mats and other household items, packed in bags, were handed over to each family, as Swami watched on lovingly. The construction of further concrete homes is now on-going for the victims in this flood-ravaged region.

When someone comes to Me and says that he is suffering great pain or sorrow, I very much want to feel and see what pain is like or what sorrow is like. But it has not been possible for Me to experience either pain or sorrow. But since such people have not understood this aspect of Mine, I pretend and look sorrowful, or as if I am suffering. I pretend, so that I may correct them, put them on the proper path and make them understand Me... 'My Life is My Message', has been said in this context and if you try to follow Me, you will also have an enormous amount of *shanti* and *ananda*. -BABA.

Drinking Water Centres

The importance of pure, clean drinking water in the world today has become a priority in just about every country in the world. Even in this country (Ireland) I never cease to be amazed at the number of people who are obliged to buy large quantities of bottled water at supermarkets every week. In countries where temperatures are much higher than in these islands, water is essential in preventing dehydration. This is especially so in India. To facilitate the need for water in towns and cities, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, all over the country, have opened drinking water centres near bus and railway stations, market places, cross roads, and so forth, to supply cool drinking water to thirsty people. The drinking water centres are being managed with the co-operation and help of local municipal authorities, who are always willing to assist the Organisation. One inspiring story is of a businessman Mr. Shahbaaz Khan, who has been providing a personal service to the public at his own expense, by employing people to provide water to thousand of visitors to the city of Hyderabad. He says he will continue this service till his last breath. He is not a wealthy man, but he is rich in compassion,

love and human values. He stands as an example to us all.

This Sathya Sai Incarnation is one where you see the full manifestation and exercise of all the sixteen attributes of a Poorna Avatar. This happened only once before, at the time of Krishna Avatar. I am the Embodiment of Shiva and Shakti, that is Universal Consciousness and Universal Energy. And I show evidences of both to the fullest and maximum extent. -BABA.

Anastasias - The Awesome Teacher

Anastasias was Abbot of a Christian monastery in Egypt, way back in the 8th century. He was a man of prayer who was renowned for his spiritual guidance in his time; in fact, so good were his virtues that he is remembered even to the present day. The monastery prospered under him as a religious centre of learning, and it contained a large collection of books, one among them being a rare volume, worth a great deal of money. One day, a visiting monk happened to visit this library and chanced upon this precious book. He was a holy man, more in dress rather than in action and despite his vow of poverty, succumbed to the temptation of riches and walked away quietly from the monastery with that valuable work. The theft was discovered the same day and it was not hard to guess who the culprit might be, as no one else had visited or left that day. But the old and wise Anastasias refused to send anyone after the monk, even though his disciples were ready to go out in hot pursuit. Instead, he explained to them the following, "You see my dears, if we make bold to catch up to him and gently persuade him to admit to his crime, he may begin weaving all sorts of lies. Then where will he be? - in a worse state of sin than before. Let's leave this incident to God's Will - I am sure that His angels will guide the poor monk to come back to his senses and keep this book safe from harm." Of course, the sagacious Anastasias was right, but how this happened is really interesting. The monk, meanwhile, was trying to sell the book in a nearby bustling town and eventually found a buyer, a rich merchant, who asked him to leave the book with him for a day so that he could get it evaluated. When the monk had gone, the man hastened to the monastery and showed the book to Anastasias, who neither withheld his kind advice to any one, nor countenanced any subject outside his purview. The Abbot recognised the book instantly, but was calm; he did not utter a word. "A monk wants to sell it to me," said the trader.

"He's asking for a gold sovereign. You are knowledgeable about books. Is this book worth that much?" "It's worth much, much more than a sovereign," said the Abbot. "It's a valuable book." And he let the merchant go a happy man. The merchant went back to his town, relishing that the book would soon by his and no one less than Abbot Anastasias had recommended it. The next day, when the monk returned, he informed him that he would like to buy the book and was prepared to pay the asked price. He added that he had appraised the value of the book. The monk was overjoyed. "Whom did you show it to?" he asked. "Anastasias, the Abbot." The customer now turned pale. "And what did he say?" "He said the book was worth a sovereign." "And what else?" "Nothing." The monk was shocked; he felt giddy. He looked around to check if this was a trap and if he was about to be seized. But it was the same sleepy room in this trader's house. He realised that the Abbot had refused to reclaim his lost treasure so that he, the thief, would not get into trouble. He was stunned...nobody had ever shown him such love...nobody had ever behaved so nobly towards him. "I've ch-ch-changed my mind. I d-don't want to sell it," he stammered, and took the precious book from the perplexed merchant. "I'll give you two sovereigns...well, three then," the bewildered merchant persisted. But the monk's senses had become dumb; the inner turmoil was too loud for him to hear any noise outside. He just walked away. He felt God Himself had weaved this incident to teach him a big lesson. He realised that Anastasias was God's instrument, and now he had to meet him and ask for his compassionate forgiveness - even if it meant being punished or thrown out of the order. But somehow, he doubted if any holy Abbot would do such a thing to him. He went directly to the monastery and handed the book to the Abbot, his eyes brimming with tears. "Keep it," said Anastasias. "When I learnt you had borrowed it, I decided to give it to you." "Please take it back," stammered and pleaded the monk, "but let me stay here and learn God's wisdom from you." Anastasias granted him his wish. The transformed monk spent the rest of his years in the monastery, modelling his life after that of the saintly Anastasias. And Anastasias - he wasn't too bothered about the book, or any book for that matter. His wealth lay in the souls under his care. He specially valued the soul of that transformed prodigal son, who returned to God's ways so sincerely, and who has consecrated his life anew to holiness. And he decided to leave the costly book in pride of place in the library...just in case. "*Heart2Heart - Radio Sai*"

God assumes human form to serve and sustain humanity. I am your servant not the Master. Understand this truth. I come to you, wherever you are seated, to give Darshan. I never say that you should come to Me. It is said, God always stands at the entrance of your Puja room ready to give whatever you ask for. God is always ready to grant the wishes of His devotees. God renders service to man, so that he may serve his fellow beings. -BABA.

Important Points Given By Swami ...

on the occasion of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Anniversary, Swami spoke beautifully on various issues, and the following are some important points given:

- 1. Everyone should come out of the feeling of I and mine. The Mind cannot be controlled easily, but once we are aware of our Divinity, mind can be diverted into Good thoughts and Actions.**
- 2. We are solely and fully responsible for every one of our thoughts and actions. No external influence is responsible as all these are within us.**
- 3. It is not ego to keep repeating that I AM GOD, as long as we understand what it means, because once we feel the oneness with the Divine Lord, we will always be careful and aware of our Actions and Deeds.**
- 4. Real meditation is doing God's work and Real happiness is having His Divine Darshan.**
- 5. Cultivate Love for all. Once we cultivate the feeling that God resides in all and everyone, the feeling of Hatred will not develop and there will be Peace and Harmony everywhere, and it will lead to establishment of Dharma.**
- 6. Any work we undertake is God's work. No work is Different. Everything is SAI'S WORK.**

World's Largest Statue Of Shirdi Sai Baba

A 54 feet high statue of Shirdi Sai Baba has been unveiled before thousands of Baba devotees, at the Sai Baba Mandir, at Machilipatnam, Krishna Dist., A.P. built at a cost of Rs 20 lakh and created by sculptor Manikyra Rao. It is an imposing and elaborate image of Shirdi Sai seated on a throne, and took three years to complete.

Do not walk in front of Me, I may not follow you. Do not walk behind Me, I may not lead you. Walk beside Me and be My friend.

-BABA

The School Principal.

Mr. Siva Rama Krishnaiah, Principal of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, experienced a miracle one night back in 1975, when Swami appeared suddenly in his room - physically- while he and his wife had retired for the night. Swami tried to wake him up, although his wife was awake as Swami sat on the bed and spoke a few words, then He suggested that she go to the library and check an advertisement in a particular newspaper. Then Swami disappeared! "Swami came," she exclaimed to her disbelieving husband. "Are you mad?" asked the husband. "Go to the mirror and check for yourself!" she replied. Upon checking, he discovered *Vibhuti* on his forehead, which Swami had placed there. They went to the library, checked the respective paper, and saw an ad. from a college seeking three chemistry teachers. The college was The Hindu College in Guntur - a college with a long tradition. Rama Krishnaiah, was a fresh graduate and without any work experience, nonetheless applied for the post and was called for an interview. There were three posts to be filled as the teachers had retired and each had a son who were also applying for the positions. Amazingly one of the 'sons' was overlooked, and Rama K. was given the job! Swami had guided him! After working there for four years and gained experience. In time he became aware of a vacancy in the junior college in Puttaparthi and they wanted someone to teach Telegu as well. Swami showed Dr. Bhagavantham Rama K's application and said, "*Why don't you call this boy?*" Later sitting in darshan line Swami walked straight to him and said, "*How are you? Take the demo class. I will see.*" Rama K. went to take the demo class and three other teachers were seated there. He started the lecture in English and then changed to Telegu. Just then Swami came in and sat at the back. "*Carry on!*" Swami said.

Rama K. started to write chemical equations on the board, and Swami asked one of the boys, "*What would happen if you consume more calcium?*" The boy didn't know. "*If you take more calcium than needed, you will loose your teeth.*" said Swami, and got up to leave, saying, "*Good! Write big letters on the blackboard so that they would be visable even to the people sitting at the back.*" Rama K. finished his lecture, went out, and while standing on the steps Swami suddenly appeared there and said, "*Oh, you are here! Take Namaskaram. Perform well.*" Rama K. then knew he had the job!

You must endeavor to become Divine, from where you have come. Lessen the attachment to the world, not by cutting yourself off, but

by being in it as an instrument in God's Hands. Subdue all tendencies towards egoism that raise their heads in you through singleminded attention to the dictates of God called Dharma (Righteousness). Edison, the scientist, concentrated so much on the solution of the problems that worried him such, that he left untouched for days together, the food and drink that was pushed in through the doors of his laboratory. You must have the same concentration and shradha (steady dedication) while engaged in sadhana (spiritual discipline).
-BABA.

What Swami Spoke...

on the occasion of Mahashivarathi back in February 1959, that is as relevant today as it was then:- **The ills of the country are due to under-nourishment; not so much under-nourishment of the body, but under-nourishment of the spirit, want of spiritual exercise, neglect of spiritual regimen. Allowing the malady the fullest scope, people are engaged in reciting the names of the drugs in the pharmacopoeia! They do not make any attempt to take the drug in. The means of conveying into every home and village the life-giving waters of the spirit have all dried up or got choked up. That is the reason why under-nourishment, with all its attendant symptoms of debility, nervous disorder and mania is so rampant today.**

Sai & The Irate Missionary

by Giri Naidu

One March evening I found myself dropped like a hot cake within the towering grey walls of a convent school run by foreign missionaries in a Himalayan town and the gates closed behind me. I found myself amidst sons of ministers, aristocrats, diplomats and what not. I found something missing in them. I could not help stealing away from their company. At times I felt lost in this big world, but slowly learnt to accept it as a part of my life. I kept myself at a safe distance from the stern-looking missionaries. Not a day passed without my hearing the "whoosh! woosh!" of a cane and uncontrollable sobs and cries of some unfortunate child. I was destined to spend a fraction of my life there. One day I received a rude shock. A photograph of Bhagawan Baba which I had with me, was taken away and was locked in a cupboard. In my loneliness I derived consolation from the book, "Sathya Sai Speaks" which was kept well hidden beneath my bed as I feared it would be confiscated too. One cold night, just before supper, the warden came in with a grim face and announced, "Henceforth

none shall keep any books beneath their beds. If books are found they shall be confiscated. Even if any religious books are found, they will be torn to bits. The boys found guilty shall be caned severely." My heart leaped on hearing this and it raced fast. The supper refused to pass down my gullets. I rose and walked out of the dining hall. I tucked my gloved hands into the pockets of my overcoat and went out into the open grounds behind the convent. An icy wind from the snow-covered mountains greeted me. I brooded, "What am I to do with that book of Swami. How could I give it away! It was my only source of joy and consolation, whose support and companionship I sought during those deserted moments." My mind was now determined that I would continue to keep it beneath my pillow and face the consequences. I knew it was a severe test, and my Lord would make me pass. A week passed and nothing happened. None had come to check. One night, it was round about ten. I was still wide awake in my bed. The cold wind from the Himalayas whistled outside my window and it made the glass window rattle loudly. All the boys in my dormitory were fast asleep, perhaps dreaming of angels and fairies, unaware of the terror that was to strike that night. The lights of the dormitory were suddenly put on. There stood the warden with another missionary with a thick cane in his hand, that knew no compassion. They pulled the sleeping boys out of the bed and the beds were checked. Many comics and fairy tale books were found beneath their beds. Blows rained upon them. The cane fell upon them terribly, its sound came rhythmically, and the cries for mercy, equally kept pace with it. While it was freezing outside, I was perspiring profusely. I covered myself and lay still and chanted the Gayatri Mantra frantically. I could hear the soft footsteps of the missionary approaching my bed. It was my turn now. I felt a light tap, my lips went dry. My tongue refused to chant any mantram. But I felt myself yelling within, "Baba! Baba! Baba!" I opened my eyes and tried to present an innocent look. I slowly got off my bed. The missionary gave me a sarcastic smile. I was afraid, surely not of the cane, as I was cocksure that my soul would jump out before the cane could land on me. I feared the dreadful fate that awaited the book. The missionary overturned my pillow with his cane and "Sathya Sai Speaks" showed itself lovingly. He looked at me ferociously. He hit the book with the cane. I felt the blow, a little cry escaped from my lips. He asked me, raising his gruff voice, "What is that I see?" I remained silent. The boys stood motionless in dreadful silence, while tears streamed down the cheeks of some. The angry missionary pounced on the

book, and took it in his big rough hands. The story of Prahlada and the saviour Lord Narasimha flashed back in my mind! I stood in terror expecting him to tear it into bits. But I found the book still safe in his hands. He was staring at it and kept muttering: "Sathya Sai Speaks! Sathya Sai Speaks! Sathya Sai Speaks!" He stared at it unceasingly and after a few minutes he opened the book. The picture of our benevolent Sai stared at him. He stared at the beautiful picture and it stared back at him. I wondered what had happened to him. A few minutes later the missionary asked me softly, "Who is He?" I was silent, and felt I had lost my voice. He repeated his question again, "Who is He?" Finding my voice, I said, "Sai Baba!" The cane fell from his hand. He stared at the picture with greater concentration. I did not know what was happening to him. Even now I am at a loss to know what happened in those few fleeting moments between the missionary and Bhagawan. It remains still a baffling mystery to me. The missionary placed the book gently on my bed, to the astonishment of all, and tip toed out of the room. Tears of joy and gratitude trickled down my cheeks, for my beloved Lord had made me feel the warmth of His Love even in the distant Himalayan region.

(Sanathana Sarathi, '85 - Sai Spiritual Showers)

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"Before They Call, I Will Answer"

(This story was written by a doctor who worked in South Africa.)

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive, as we had no incubator (no electricity to run an incubator). We also had no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the Equator, nights were often chilly and treacherous drafts. One student miswife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby could be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates). "And it is our last hot water bottle!" she exclaimed. As in the West, it was no good crying over spilt milk, in

Central Africa, you can say, it was no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees and there are no drugstores down forest pathways. "All right," I said, "Put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm." The following noon, as I did most days, I went for prayers with the orphanage children who used to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions on things to pray for and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that the baby could easily die if it got chills. I also told them to look after the baby's two-year-old sister, who was crying because she no more had her mother. During prayer, one ten-year old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "Please, God," she prayed, "Send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon." While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, "And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?" As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say, "Amen"? I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I knew that He can do everything, the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever received a parcel from home. Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot-water bottle? I lived on the Equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there, on the veranda, was a large twentytwo pound parcel. I felt tears covering my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. At least thirty or forty eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly coloured, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled. As I gave them out then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas - that would make a batch of buns for the weekend. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the...Could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out - yes, a brand-new, rubber hot-water bottle! I cried! I

had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly too!" Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted! Looking up at me, she asked, "Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she will know that Jesus really loves her?" That parcel had been on the way for five whole months. Packed up by my former Sunday-school class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot-water bottle, even to the Equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it "this afternoon"! God's ways are mysterious but more importantly, what prayer can do is unimaginable. Therefore, it is said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Let us pray as if everything depended on God, but works as if everything depended on us. For, with prayer in our hearts, we are the richest and most blessed.

The human birth is the final birth and dependent on the virtue of the life, it ends in the Divine, or is reborn again. -BABA.

Shirdi Baba & the Miracle in Simla

Shirdi Sai Baba lived for 80 years - Sept. 27, 1838, to Oct. 15, 1918.

After Baba left His body, a number of controversies arose - Mohomedans came to claim His body, as belonging to them, while the Hindus claimed that the body belonged to them. This arose because Baba used to declare from time-to-time, "Allah Malik! Allah Malik!" Because of this they felt authorised to have the body of Baba. Whereas, He used also say, "Rama Malik! Krishna Malik!" giving reason to the Hindus to claim the body as theirs! The local Collector, the Superintendent of Police and other officials, arrived there and eventually decided to have Baba interred in the present Samadhi shrine, in the Muralidhar Temple. It was at this time that a remarkable incident occurred in Simla. I quote now from the Nov. 1992 issue of the 'Sanathana Sarathi', where Sathya Sai said the following: "The garland given to Mathaji Krishna Priya, was placed on the idol of Krishna by her, in the presence of all in her residence. Many wondered why she was garlanding the Krishna idol when she was a devotee of Sai Baba, and there was a picture of Baba there. Bhajans were going on at that time.

The garland placed on the Krishna figure dropped on the picture of Baba. The garland placed on Baba's picture moved to the figure of Krishna. Everyone in Simla rejoiced in the discovery that Krishna and Sai Baba were one. "When all the people came there the next morning, they found that the garland given by Baba was no longer on the figure of Krishna. That garland was found on the Samadhi of Baba on the Booty Mandir. "Why did Baba manifest such miracles? In those days there were bitter differences between Hindus and Muslims. With a view to ending such communal differences, Baba wanted to show through His miracles the truth that Baba is the Supreme Master of all beings. He has no differences of caste or community. His religion is common to people of all faiths. It is good for everyone. It is observed by all godly persons. This is the creed for all mankind." Sathya Sai Baba has said, don't pray to Baba for changing your mind. It is your duty to change your mind. If you expect Baba to do everything, what is it you are doing? God has, Swami said, no use for such indolent persons. You must do your sadhana and go ahead. God's help will come when you do your part. Do your duty and leave the results to God.

My power is immeasurable; My Truth is inexplicable, unfathomable. I am announcing this about Me, for, the need has arisen. But, what I am giving you now is only the gift of a 'Visiting Card!' Let Me tell you that emphatic declarations of the Truth by Avatars were made so clearly and so unmistakably only by Krishna. In spite of the declaration, you will notice in the career of Krishna that He underwent defeat in His efforts and endeavours on a few occasions; you must also note that those defeats too were part of the drama which He had planned and which He Himself directed. For example, when many Kings pleaded with Him to avert the War with the Kauravas, He confessed that His Mission to the Kaurava Court for ensuring peace, had 'failed!' But, He had not willed that it should succeed! He had decided that war would be waged! His Mission was intended to punish the greed and iniquity of the Kauravas and to condemn them before the whole world. Now, I must tell you that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for such 'drama' with scenes of failures and defeats! What I will, must take place; what I plan must succeed. I am Truth; and Truth has no need to hesitate, or fear, or bend.

Swami's Discourse, 19th June 1974, Brindavan.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba: The Responding God

One day, while answering some questions posed to Him in the interview room by some devotees, Swami said, **“You are surprised that I can be in two bodies at the same time, or in a thousand different places...when I give you a ring or any other object materialised by Me, it instantly informs Me whenever you are in imminent danger. I can reach you immediately and render all necessary help. However, even if you have nothing on you that has been given by Me, if you have only have genuine Love and Devotion for Me, My response will still be immediate. I respond to every sincere prayer, no matter what form or name of God you may adore or worship.”**

A PRAYER WRITTEN BY SATHYA SAI BABA

**O, Lord, take my love, and let it flow in fullness of devotion to Thee;
O, Lord, take my hands and let them work incessantly for Thee;
O. Lord, take my soul and let it be merged in One with Thee;
O. Lord, take my mind and thoughts, and let them be in tune with Thee;
O. Lord, take my everything and let me be an instrument to work for Thee.**

Why do you think I give Vibuthi to you; Swami does not give Vibuthi only to make you happy. The Vibuthi I create and give you is a part of Me and when I give you Vibuthi, it means that I am giving some of Me to you. My Qualities are merging in you, that is why Swami says, distribute My Prasadam to all and let everyone be happy. -BABA.

EVERLASTING LOVE

An incredible love story has come out of China recently and managed to touch the world. It is a story of a man and an older woman who ran off to live and love each other in peace for over half a century. Over 50 years ago, Liu, a 19 year-old boy, fell in love with a 29 year-old widowed mother named Xu. At that time, it was unacceptable and immoral for a young man to love an older woman. To avoid the market gossip, the couple decided to elope and live in a cave in Jiangjin County in Southern Chong Qing area. In the beginning, they had nothing, no electricity or even food. They had to eat grass and roots they found in the mountain and Liu made a kerosene lamp that they used to light up their lives. In the second year of living

in the mountain, Liu began, and continued for over 50 years, to hand-carve the steps so that his wife could get down the mountain easily. Half a century later, in 2001, a group of adventurers were exploring the forest and were surprised to find the elderly couple and the over 6,000 hand-carved steps. The couple had lived in peace for over 50 years, until recently. Liu, now 72 years old, returned from his daily farm work and collapsed. Xu sat and prayed with her husband. He passed away in her arms. So in love with Xu was Liu, that no one was able to release the grip on his wife's hand even after he had passed away. In 2006, their story had become one of the top 10 love stories from China, collected by the Chinese Women Weekly. The local Government has decided to preserve the love ladder and the place, as a museum, so this love story can live forever. **It is not easy to correct the mind. A tree can be made to grow straight, a stone can be shorn of its roughness, but can one straighten the mind?** SS Vol. 37, April 1994

CHILDREN OF IMMORTALITY

by Sathya Sai Baba.

Children of Immortality! Remember that you are created in My image and likeness. Perfect! Live up to this image, in every way, in all planes. Live like Masters! Walk the earth with your heads held high, your spirits soaring...your hearts open to Love...and believe in yourself and God within you. Then all will go well! Earth is but a manifestation of My being, made out of My life! Wherever you look, I am there. Wherever you walk, I am there. Whomsoever you contact, I am that person. I am in each, in all My splendor...See Me everywhere, talk to Me and Love Me, Who am in each, then from each, I will respond and bring you into Glory. You cannot see Me in one place and not in another, for I fill all space...You cannot escape Me, or do anything in secret, for there are no secrets with Me. Live, Live, Live, in perfect accordance with My laws, and wonders will ensue. Think now...does error clog the free-flowing essence of My Being through you? Ask Me this moment to reveal to you your errors, in the silence of your meditation. Let old memories well up in you, from My subconscious in you, old patterns, old forgotten feelings and thoughts. Now plunged them into the Ocean of Light, burn them from the subconscious, so that you may be true emblems of My Being. Right now, visualise My burning flame, rising higher and higher as it burns through you. It is the flame that is cooling, cleansing and healing. That soothes the hidden sorrow, and leaves you calmed and quiet. Rest in My Love. Let all that you have

been through - in your many lives up to this day, melt away in My redeeming light. Children of My Being! Dissolve your sorrows and fears in Me. Let Me efface all your karma. Come back into My consciousness, which is your true consciousness. Let your petty human self, fade away, right now. As you come to Me, who am your Inner Self, you are now My radiant glorious Self, no longer separate from Me. Melt with Me - Merge into Me - Become Me!

As is the food, so is the mind; As is the mind, so are the thoughts; As are the thoughts, so is the conduct; As is the conduct, so is the health. -BABA.

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia, once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old, whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry!" (When there is nothing left, that is when you find out that love is all you need.)

Why should you have fear or sorrow, with the Lord installed in the altar of your heart?

Do you not know He is there, guarding you and guiding you? He is in all beings, at all times. Endeavour to remember this fact whatever you may be doing, whoever you may be contacting, in whatever manner. You will succeed in this, providing you do not give up the recitation of His Name. -BABA.

Explanation of God

(by 8-year old Danny Dutton)

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off! God sees everything and hears everything and

is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have. Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church! Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him, but He was good and kind, like His Father, and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them, and God said, "OK". His dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road any more. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God! Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway. If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And...that's why I believe in God!

Charity is the ornament for the hand, Truth is the adornment for the tongue, The scriptures are the ornament for the ears, Of what avail are other ornaments?

-BABA.

The following story has appeared some time ago in a previous issue of our Newsletter, and I'm happy to reproduce it once again, as an example of love.

Lizard Miracle

This is a true story that happened in Japan and Japanese houses normally have a hollow space between the wooden walls. In order to renovate the house, the builders break open the walls.

The builder found in the space, a lizard stuck there because a nail from outside had been hammered into one of its feet. The builder sees this, feels pity, and at the same time was curious, as when he checked the nail, it was placed there ten years ago, when the house was first built. What happened? The lizard has survived in such a position for ten years without moving, it is impossible! Mind boggling. Then the builder wondered how the lizard survived for ten years without moving a single step, since its foot was nailed. So he stopped his work and observed the lizard - what it had been doing, and what and how it had been eating. Later, not knowing from where it came, there appeared another lizard, with food in its mouth. The builder was stunned and touched deeply, for the lizard that was stuck by the nail, was being fed by the other lizard for the last ten years! Imagine! It had been doing this service untiringly for ten long years, without giving up hope on its partner. Think, would you do that for your partner? Would you do it for your mom, your father, friends, co-workers, brothers and sisters? Imagine what a small creature can do, that a creature blessed with a brilliant intellect, can't. Moral of this story; *never abandon your loved ones...*

Like oil in the dil seed, like butter in milk, fragrance in a flower, juice in a fruit, fire in wood - Divinity is everywhere. Just as the power of sight is present in the eye, the power of hearing in the ear, the sense of taste in the tongue, Divinity is present in a subtle form as Consciousness (Chaithanya). Remaining invisible in the phenomenal world, the form of the Supreme Self (Atma), which sustains everything like the thread in a garland of gems. -BABA.

Our website:

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