

2010

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
MAY - JUN 2010**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

Swami demonstrates His love constantly towards His devotees, but particularly towards His students, and this is evident day-by-day.

So, when He suggested the sporting event should not be held that year (1999), one would expect His students in particular, to adhere to His request with discipline, instead of persistence. To emphasise the seriousness of His request to cancel, Swami refused to accept written requests from the students, sending them back to the hostel with His message of not raising the issue again. But they persisted and Swami relented.

Our Beloved Swami does not make such requests lightly. He can see the whole picture of events and could also see a disastrous incident unfolding, of a student who was performing a dangerous stunt in which he would have fallen from a height that would have resulted in very serious injury.

Seeing this, Swami was obliged to transfer the injury to Himself, to save the student from serious harm. Taking the injury upon Himself resulted in a fall on to the steel casing of the vehicle He was travelling in, injuring His spine, head and hands. He managed to hide the fact that He was bleeding profusely, an injury that He carried for three days! Most of you know the details of this incident already, so I won't elaborate. I just wish to state that I never cease to be amazed and horrified that these privileged Sai students could have persisted in countering Swami's instructions.

Swami later disclosed, *"You were not ready to listen to Me. You all were praying so hard. Even after repeatedly telling you not to go ahead with the programme...I had no alternative but to let you perform. But there was no way I could let My own children get hurt. So I transferred his Karmic effect on to Me. I can bear it but you cannot."*

When the students later apologised, Swami said, *"Protecting you is My responsibility. You are My children. Can I ever let you high and dry?"*

He has said that parents hand their children into His care and as such, because of this, He takes His responsibility, as a surrogate parent, very seriously, stepping in to prevent any harm to His students.

This is a lesson we all have to heed, whether we are students or mature devotees. We should all listen to Swami's requests and instructions at all times. *Ed.*

When one reaches the stage of meditation, there is no scope for any wavering, and one's faith in Divinity becomes steady. You have to attain that stage. You may study a number of books and pass your examination in the school or college, but, it is only one who reached the meditation stage that passes the test prescribed by God.
- BABA.

"The Lost Son"

This is a story by Gautama Buddha, who taught, that we should not cling to the untruth, as we may fall pay to

ignorance, then we will not see things clearly and ultimately it will harm our lives.

"A young widower, who loved his five year old son very much, was away on business when bandits came, burned down the whole village, and took his son away. When the man returned, he saw the ruins and panicked. He took the burnt corpse of an infant to be his son and cried uncontrollably. He organised a cremation ceremony, collected the ashes and put them in a beautiful little bag which he always kept with him.

Soon afterwards, his real son escaped from the bandits and found his way home. He arrived at his father's new cottage at midnight and knocked at the door.

The father, still grieving, asked: 'Who is it?' The child answered, 'It is me, papa. Open the door!' But in his agitated state of mind, convinced his son was dead, the father thought that some young boy was making fun of him. He shouted: 'Go away!' and continued to cry. He shouted time and again. 'Go away...Go away!'

After some time the child left. Father and son never saw each other again."

After this story, the Buddha said: "Sometime, somewhere, you take something to be the truth. If you cling to it so much, even when the truth comes in person and knocks on your door, you will not open it."

Bhagwat Gita also tells us that in this whole creation, unreal has no existence, and the real (God) never ceases to be. So, we should always

turn our mind towards the God Who is the only reality and truth.

Karma is verily God. God exists in the form of Karma in everything 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

OBITUARY

In company with many other Sai devotees, I have lost a very dear friend in Dr. Jal Fanibunda.

Jal was beloved by everybody and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. For me he was synonymous with our Lord, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It was, indeed, through our respective interest and devotion to Swami, that we both met and later co-operated in establishing the Dublin Sathya Sai Study Group, in June 7th 1988, and later the Sathya Sai Organisation in Ireland, in June 2nd 1990.

He now carries with him the love he had for Swami and that Love Swami has for him! He takes it across the boundaries of life and beyond the power of death - into the Light¹

Our love and sympathy now goes to his dear wife, Dhun, and to his extended family.

Till we meet again, Jal, may I say, "Sai Ram, dear friend, Sai Ram." P.G.

I want you to be leaders to protect the world. Leaders like lions - self-reliant, courageous, majestic and just. Lion is the king of animals and I want you to be king among men. - BABA.

Swami's Miracle Children

(Sourced: Canadian Sathya Sai Newsletter)

Following on from the 'Golden Age' article in the last issue, an interesting article has come to hand. Swami has reported to have told a Sai devotee, that there will be thirteen 'Sai miracle children' born in different parts of the world.

Prominent Sai devotee and writer, Howard Murphet, made reference to this in his book 'Lights Of Home', that five of these children have already incarnated into the world. "One of the five is in Holland, another in India, a further in Australia, and two in countries not known", Howard Murphet (H.M.) stated.

H.M. felt he had met the mother of one of the children and she referred to seeing a vision, while she was having a meal in a restaurant with her husband and friends. This vision was of a group of monkeys standing in front of her excitedly, with the 'leader' coming close to her and speaking in a language she did not understand. She did not understand the vision until H.M. reminded her of Lord Rama and His army of monkeys, led by the great devotee, Hanuman. To H.M. he felt the child in the mother's womb, had a close connection to Lord Rama.

The following day, she was rushed to hospital and a child was delivered. It is customary to write the name of the religion on a label on the child's wrist. The mother wrote 'Sai Baba'. She was amazed when a number of religious leaders, visiting the hospital that day, came and blessed the newborn baby boy.

"On this first day of his life, something else surprised her when going to look at him lying in the crib, she saw a gold cross lying on his forehead. It had just appeared there as he lay asleep so she took it off and hung it around his neck."

The mother was from Sri Lanka, while the father came from Greece, they named the child Alexander Saisha. Vibhuti manifested on his skin, while still a babe in arms. Later, Amrita -called 'the nectar of the Gods'- began to flow, intermittently, from the child's forehead and there were reports of it having cured cancer.

Another phenomenon associated with him was the production of Shiva Lingams, that manifested in his hand as he lies asleep in his bed. These were the size of duck eggs, and made of beautiful crystal, of glorious colours. Equally, the little miracle boy would produce items of jewellery; medallions, rings, etc. Once or twice the little boy himself would hand the ring to some lady among the daily visitors.

"So it may well be, I think, that this team of thirteen miracle children are meant as a strong weapon in the building of the critical mass and thus help to bring about on time, the greatest miracle ever. That is, raising the mighty loaf of human

consciousness and thereby bring about that new world of peace, contentment and joy for which we are all longing. At least that is my opinion and my great hope," said H.M.

Now I must tell you that during this Sai Avatar, there is no place for even such 'drama' with scenes of failure and defeats: what I will must take place; what I plan must succeed. I am Truth; and Truth has no need to hesitate, or fear or bend. -BABA.

Swami's Will Be Done!

Prof. Anantharaman worked as an adjunct professor in several business schools including Harvard Business School and is currently a faculty member in the School of Business Management at Puttaparthi.

He recounts an experience in a totalitarian military state made up of Muslims and Christians, and various tribal leaders, "who had their own axe to grind!" There was a distrust of foreigners, especially Asians. There was complete anarchy! Many of his friends, taken during the night, were never to be heard of again, with summary executions being the order of the day!

Introducing Swami's concept of EHV was organised and a conference for secondary school teachers also.

A big black limousine would follow the professor for several days before the meeting and he was concerned that it may have been the fearsome secret service. As there was religious strike in the area, he became the

target of an investigation, so he consulted the Indian Ambassador before the conference and was strongly advised to leave the country.

The occasion arose to speak on EHV and introduce the speaker Victor Kanu. Because of religious sensitivity, he was advised not to make mention of Sai Baba and the schools He heads. As the professor climbed the steps to the stage, he noticed the same secret service agents, who had been following him, were seated in the front row!

Starting with a silent prayer, he went on to speak on everything he was advised not to speak on. He said, "I had decided that if I was to go down, I would go down with the name of the Lord on my lips."

That evening, at home, he was fearful of being picked up by the secret service, when the 'phone rang and a friend asked him to watch the television. "Why should I watch the TV when I'm waiting to be picked up?"

In that country, television was totally controlled by the government, but turning it on anyway, he couldn't believe his eyes. There was a full coverage of his programme, with his whole speech telecast with his name and occupation mentioned. No more anonymity!

But there was no mention of EHV but it was all about Swami, Who was presented as an Eastern Messiah! All this happening in a country that was very much opposed to all religious activities! The entire prime time news was only about that morning's

conference and covered all that he was advised not to speak about.

The professor's friend in Government rang him next morning, to tell him that something strange had happened. There was a hand-written ledger on the report that said the professor should be investigated and was serially numbered. Checking the ledger that morning it was found that the particular instruction, that the professor must be investigated - was completely missing, but the ledger number continuity was maintained! Only this particular instruction entry had completely vanished from the page!

Days later the Secretary of Education, in the country, rang to ask him to give a write-up on EHV, and the very militant Teachers Union also asked him to talk and set-up a conference with the focus being EHV in the secondary school system!

"Swami was conveying that His work will always be done and that His Will, will always be supreme," said Prof. Anantharam.

Source: Canadian Sathya Sai Newsletter, 2009.

Be confident that you will be liberated. Know that you are saved. Go and tell all, that you had gone to Puttaparthi and got there the secret of liberation. - BABA.

BABA - OUR ONLY REFUGE!

Group Captain Bose was driving with his wife and father-in-law, from Ambala to Gauhati in a high-

powered car with low clearance, was unable to move on the slushy road near Hariharangi. The entire area was dangerously flooded by heavy rains and the road was like a lake. The back wheels of the car sank completely into the mud, while upfront, one wheel was stuck in a ditch! At that late hour of 11.30 p.m. no help was available.

The occupants were able to procure shelter in a nearby school and slept on bare benches at night, but Bose was determined to reach Gauhati where he had to preside over a Court Martial. "Duty is God. Work is worship," he quoted Baba.

When dawn broke, no passing car or truck would agree to help, nor would the small crowd of amused villagers lift a finger! Their enjoyment of the pitiable spectacle only fanned the flames of despair.

Bose decided to rely on horse power rather than "Sai power"! Ropes were procured, but the car would not move: the engine was restarted, but the car just sank further into the slush.

An exhausted Bose flopped to the ground, saying, "The Lotus Feet of Baba is our only refuge." Almost immediately a gentle looking man, with a strong physique, came towards them. No one seemed to recognise him. Handing his umbrella to Mrs. Bose, he became master of the situation. Bose was asked to get into the car and take the wheel. A sweet fragrance flooded the interior, but before the engine could be switched on, or the gaping crowd could offer assistance, Mrs. Bose saw the man put his right hand under the bumper, and with one lift, he placed

the car forward on hard ground, with all wheels safe out of the awful mire.

Then all the occupants were requested to get into the car! Puzzled, they tried to thank him, and to ask who or what he was. "Oh, I am a chowkidar (watchman)", he said and walked away.

Disengaging itself from the now vociferous crowd, the car moved away, and soon caught up with the man, walking briskly down the road. Bose begged the man to accept something but he refused. Then he spoke one sentence, "Why did you not call for me last night itself?"

The Lotus Feet had indeed come to assist them!

Sow the seed of love in your hearts and it will grow in due course into a big tree. God is one. Do not entertain any differences of creed or caste. Carry the message of unity to every home.

-BABA.

Swami Shows

The Power Of His Will

Swami takes many of His students to Kodaihanal with Him, and on one occasion He was discussing the secrets of nature with students assembled at His feet. He was talking about the start of creation from the primordial sound OMKAR the emergence of the Milky Way, planets, etc. He was describing in detail as to how the clouds got

formed and the emergence of the Sun, the Moon, etc.

Soon Swami kept looking at the moon and describing the different features of the moon - that there were so many craters on it, He even mentioned that there were rivers on the moon.

"Swami, rivers on the moon?" one student asked. "Yes, *why not? Don't you know rivers existed on the moon?*" He asked. "But, Swami, something of this sort has never been mentioned in any documentaries recorded by astronauts who have visited the moon."

"Oh, that...How can they see...They saw with physical eyes...Can their eyes see all that divinity has created? They did not see...but it is there." So saying Swami was silent. "Would you all like to see all all that I mentioned were present on the moon?" He asked.

"Yes Swami!" replied the students with one voice. Swami stood up, and pointed to the moon, waved His hand, and the moon disappeared from the sky, and they saw a circular object appear in His hands. Swami said, "This is the moon!...now clear your doubts about the feature of the moon." So saying, He showed them the craters and the rivers on the moon's surface. As long as the 'moon' was in Swami's hand there was no 'moon' in the sky. When asked what would happen when anyone looked up and did not find the moon present as usual, Swami said, "Nothing happens without My will. As long as the moon, which I have reduced to this size enough to fit into My palms, is in My hand, no one

on the world will dare look up in the sky. I have willed that!"

There was silence for a while as the students tried to grasp the phenomenon they had just witnessed. Swami then asked, *"Has everyone seen it. OK, come closer and see. Ask for doubts if any. They are all there, - the craters, the rivers, the mountains..."* All in the miniature form of the moon in Swami's hand.

Swami then said, *"OK, now I shall send it back."*

So saying, Swami let go the 'moon' from His hand by thrusting it upwards. In a moment it was there again, resplendent as before. Everything in this universe is functioning in full awareness of Swami as per His will. All we see is His will.

The Cosmic is controlled by the Divine. The Divine is governed by Truth. Truth is governed by noble beings. The noble are the Divine Itself.

(translater from a Sanskrit Sloka)

The Ring

That Kept Changing Form

In her home, "Enchanted Acres", Wilma Bronkey, has been taking care of crippled and disadvantaged people, for several years. The people range from geriatrics to children; as many as 280 foster children have shared her home.

One day Wilma answered a long distance 'phone call, from a woman who said, "Dr. Bronkey, would you send, as soon as possible, the \$200

deposit on your fare to India. Arrangements must be finalised for all those going in Indra Devi's party to see Sai Baba."

Wilma replied, "There must be some mistake. I have no plan to go to India. And who is Sai Baba?"

The line seemed to go dead, so she hung up, and why did the voice call her "Dr. Bronkey"? While she had no doctorate, she was generally known as "Reverend Bronkey".

While she had heard of Indra Devi, a well-known teacher of yoga, she now had a strong desire to find out about Sa Baba. After enquiries she bought the book, "Sai Baba: Man of Miracles", by Howard Murphet. The more she read the book, the more she felt the desire to go to India to see this "remarkable" man. But she pushed the desire aside, as the journey was quite impossible for a number of reasons.

Not long after the mysterious telephone call, and while she was finding out about Sai Baba, she received an honorary doctorate! She thought, "If Sai Baba wants me to go to India, He would have to give me an unmistakable sign, and remove some difficult obstacles."

Wilma had a great longing for rings and always wore several on her fingers, and one in particular was a favourite of hers. A cheap ring with a navy blue stone made of glass and badly scratched from constant wear. It was a Christmas present from some of her foster children.

She had the habit of taking off all her rings, putting them into a pocket of her handbag, while doing domestic chores. So if she went out

in a hurry, she could put them on at some convenient moment later.

One afternoon, Wilma and a friend went to see a film, on the care of handicapped people. When the film had started she realised that she had seen it before and her interest waned. At this time that she noticed that she had not put her rings on, and feeling inside her bag noticed that the dark blue ring, with the badly scratched stone, was missing. She was distressed that she might have lost it. Then, from the corner of her eye she saw a stream of coloured sparks flying from the handbag. At the same time a strange wind seemed to blow through the cinema and a voice inside of her said, quite clearly, *"You asked for a sign!"*

Feeling inside her bag, she felt the missing ring but now it felt quite hot. In the dim light of the cinema it glittered so brightly that her friend exclaimed, "Wow! Where did you get that?" They both immediately left the cinema to examine the ring, it was the same ring, but it was now a sparkling light blue in colour! They were curious to know what kind of stone that had taken the place of the dark blue glass, so they called into a jeweller on the way home. "What a lovely aquamarine!" the jeweller exclaimed, and valued it at \$1,000.

On their way home, Wilma's friend protested that glass cannot turn into aquamarine. We should ask another jeweller." They did, and his response was that it was a sapphire worth between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

Wilma thought, no one but Sai Baba could be causing the changes in the ring to confound the jewellers in

this way and suggested trying yet another jeweller!

"Oh, a diamond - a nicely cut one," he replied without hesitation, but by the time they returned home the stone had turned back to its former dark blue colour!

The problem now was how would she get the money for her fare, but this was answered when two ladies called to her and said, "We know you never take money for healing work, but we feel you specially need a sum of money right now, so we want to lend you \$2,000. You can take as long as you like to pay it back!"

The day came when Wilma was sitting with the crowd in P.N. and Swami appeared and 'floated' towards her, smiled and with a twinkle in His eyes, asked softly, *"How did you like your ring?"*

Since then, she has returned many times, and with parties of sick people to be blessed by the Great Healer.

Source:

"Sai Baba: Invitation to Glory" by Howard Murphet.

A Moral on

Achieving Enlightenment

A young man went to Gautama Buddha and sought the Master's guidance to achieve enlightenment.

Young man: Master, how long will it take for me to achieve enlightenment.

Buddha: It all depends on you...

Young man: If I put in ten hours of meditation everyday, how long will it take?

Buddha: Maybe ten years.

Young man: What if I put in fifteen hours of meditation?

Buddha: Maybe fifteen years.

Young man: (getting irritated) What if I meditate for twenty hours?

Buddha: Maybe twenty-five years.

(The young man was almost infuriated)

Young man: I cannot understand your logic, the more effort I put in, the more time it will take - this is ridiculous. Please explain.

Buddha: As long as you are fixated and obsessed about your goal you will not achieve it. Just do spiritual practice without one eye on the goal. Let events take their shape.

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So, it does not matter what you do in life. Aspire to be the very best in terms of excellence in whatever you do.

Serve man, until you see God in all men. -BABA.

The Divine Surgery Miracle

A man suffering from numerous ailments, had his heart examined at the Super Speciality Hospital and was found to be seriously unwell. However, the doctors were reluctant to operate on him, fearing complications, so the patient prayed

to Swami for help, and He heard his prayers.

Swami spoke to the doctors, enquiring after the patient but was told that the patient was unfit for surgery.

Swami said, *"Go ahead and perform the operation. Nothing untoward will happen. I will oversee it."*

The operation was duly performed and to the utter disbelief of the doctors, it was successful. Later Swami asked how it went only to be told that the operation was very successful and that the patient was in excellent condition.

It is a usual practice at this hospital to have video recordings made of complicated operations. Swami asked the doctors to view this particular operation and to their surprise found, around the operation table, Swami in several forms and resembling each one of them. Relieved of their pride and ego they realised that it was Swami, and Swami alone, Who was performing the operation, and that they were only incidental -- were just tools in His Divine Hands!

Source: "Tapovanum" by J. V. Sastry, P.214-5

Prayer is not the pronouncing of words. Prayer is the yearning one experiences to awaken the divinity latent in the heart...The individual self has to yearn for the Supreme Self. Prayer must issue not from the lips but from the heart. Prayers from the lips are like a telephone number call. They will not reach the person

you want. Prayers from the heart are like a 'particular person call.' They will go straight to God. Prayers, again, are used for seeking fulfillment of material desires. Out of the millions who offer prayers, very few seek God Himself with pure hearts. – BABA.

Raising Human Consciousness

Sai Baba is elevating human consciousness, slowly and imperceptibly the world is turning into a golden age, Prof. Anantharaman (whose other article appears on p.3-4 in this Newsletter) stated the following in recent article in 'Canadian Sathya Sai Newsletter'.

Swami told Howard Murphet that the Golden Age was coming. Murphet then asked what work would Prema Sai do? Swami said, *"He will have plenty of work. Prema Sai will elevate human consciousness to Divine heights. Not only will there be a lot of work, but He will also need a lot of help."*

What kind of help, wondered Howard Murphet; then he remembered the story of how in a time of great flooding, a man stood on top of his roof to escape the waters. When the water was rising higher the man prayed to God to save him. Soon a man came in a boat and asked him to get in. The man said, 'No, I have prayed to God and He will come and help me.'

Soon the waters rose nearly to his feet. Then another man came in a helicopter and dropped a rope. The man said, "No, I will not come with

you; I have prayed to God and He will help me."

The laws of nature soon took their course and the man drowned. He went to heaven and asked God why He did not help him in his time of need. God said, *"I sent you a man with a boat and later, when you refused him, another man in a helicopter...but you did not accept that help."* Now the man understood; God is in everybody and He needs a million hands to help Him.

In establishing this, Swami has been saying that His Life is His message. He has been living that message particularly in the last 15 months, ever since the drama of His fall, He has been living one particular message - that He is not the body.

Prof. Anantharaman.

Your physical mother is only with you for some years. She is your temporary mother. Your physical father is also only temporary. The real relationship is different. Truth is the real father. Truth is permanent. Truth has no birth; it has no death. Prema, divine love, is the real mother. Devotion is the real brother. Wisdom is the real son. Peace is the real daughter. For all of these relationships there is no change; there is no birth, there is no death. They make up your permanent relationship, your relationship with God.

Swami Comforts the Bereaved

A elderly lady, grieving her husband's passing, received a

surprise letter of comform from Swami;

“Wedding binds two persons together as husband and wife. What were they to each other minutes before? The one would not have worried for the other if the wedding had not happened!

“Where were the son, and the brother before they were conceived and born? Life is an interlude between what was and what will be. This interlude should be used not to lament over what cannot be helped or set right, but to seek God, see Him and take refuge in Him. Your husband lived such a life in the light of Truth he had glimpsed. He did no wrong to anyone; he loved and served the suffering and the illiterate. He salvaged many families from penury and infamy. He helped many young people to go through college. Many sick persons were saved by his timely donations. He was ever cheerful and spread cheer wherever he went. And, at last, God willed that he cast away the body that limited him. Of what profit is it now to calculate what might have happened, had he not gone to Madras that day?

“Your duty from now on is to sustain the fame he earned, to follow the ideals he had placed before himself. Your husband is here, in My presence now, and he will be there forever as he had wished to be when alive. Swami will not allow him to be separated from the Presence. He is now free from bonds and boundaries.

“You are indeed fortunate that destiny drew you to him and gave you so many years of loving companionship with such a fine person. His thoughts were pure; there

was no blemish of envy, hatred, or greed in him. So his place is with Me, forever. I am writing this letter to you in order to shower on you the cool rain of love. That rain will scotch the flames of grief that are now raging in you. Your husband is at Prasanthi Nilayam, in the presence of Sairam, having attained that climax by his spiritual attainments. – BABA.

DO NOT WASTE

The following were taken from talks by Dr. Anil Kumar:

Once Swami started reading letters in front of us. He opened an envelope and took out the letter. A boy had written two lines on a long white sheet of paper. There were only two lines on the top. The rest of it was blank. What did He say?

He tore it there and gave that remaining white paper to a boy saying, *“You use it. I don’t want you to waste anything, not even white paper.”* Further, Baba said, *“Don’t waste food. Food is God. Don’t waste time. Time waste is Life waste. Time is God. Don’t waste energy. Don’t waste water. Don’t waste money. Waste of money is evil.”* He taught these wonderful lessons to the boys who were assembled that afternoon.

I recall one of Bhagavan’s visits to the boys’ hostel. He got out of the car and immediately He said, *“Hey, come here! On the third floor, a fellow has not turned off the water tap there in the bathroom. Go and close the tap! After using it, you should turn the water off. You should not let the tap run and waste water.”* That’s what Bhagavan said.

You must have also noticed that when He calls for an interview, Bhagavan goes into the room first. As you all go in and sit down, He switches on the fan Himself and the moment you leave, He will turn it off. Why? *"Don't waste energy. Don't waste electricity."*

Bhagavan sets the finest example for all of us to learn from His own life. That is why Bhagavan has every authority to say, *"My life is My message. My life is My message."*

As He does not waste anything, we should follow His example and not waste anything either.

What I do is quite a different act of creation. It is neither magic, nor is it siddhi power either. For one thing, I seek no return. For another, I do not cheat people by transferring objects, but I create them. Again, I do so not because of any need or desire of exhibition of My powers. For Me this is a kind of calling card to convince people of My love for them and secure their devotion in return. Since love is formless, I do materialisation as evidence of My love. It is merely a symbol.

Most people desire talismans as symbolic of My protection. So I provide them. When they are in trouble they feel the grip of the ring, bracelet or watch to remember Me and call Me to their rescue so that I can help them. On the other hand, if I give them something they cannot wear, they are likely to store it and forget about it.

The main thing is that these trinkets or talismans, by whatever name you call them, give people a sense of security and protection they need in times of troubles or crises and create a symbolic link covering the long distances between them and Myself. When the devotees need Me, these objects flash the messages as if by wireless and I instantly come to their rescue.

From Swami's interview to Sri R.K. Karanjia, of Blitz News Magazine, in September of 1976.

Q. and A.

Devotee: Swami, You say that everything is God, but isn't the body also God?

Swami: You are asking about the body. you are thinking about the body, not of God. If you only think God, then, for you there will be only God. But now you are thinking of the body. The body is an instrument; it is made of matter; and matter is always changing. The world also is always changing, but God is never changing. God is the one unchanging spirit.

Devotee: Swami, if Divinity is my permanent relationship and all these others are only temporary relationships, then do I still have to take care of my family at home?

Swami (very firmly): You must! That is your duty. Do your duty. Take care of your family.

Devotee: Even if it takes me away from God?

Swami: No! No! No! No! Do not abandon your family. You must take care of your husband and your children. Do your duty. Duty is God. Work is worship. Do not forsake your duty.

Devotee: But Swami, not even when God calls?

Swami (laughingly): God is in you. He is with you. He is above you. He is below you. He is around you. He is not calling you or sending for you. He is always with you. He is you. You, yourself, are God. Always think like that. "I am God. I am God. I am Atma. I am everything." Think like that and do your duty at home. God is not sending for you or asking you to come from somewhere. You are God. He is always with you.

Devotee: Swami, shall we go out and tell these things to other people?

Swami: Do not talk so much. Do some spiritual practice. First do. Then be. Then you can talk, but only a little. Do some meditation. Do everything with love. Be good, see good and do good. After you develop self-confidence and love for God, you can share with others, but it is a good rule not to talk too much. Talk very little, even about God. In spiritual practice there will always be internal talk with God. You will give up all attachments and attach only to God. For this, purity of the heart is very important. Where there is no purity, there is no unity. Without unity, you cannot attain Divinity. Then your whole life is just a waste. First, next unity. Then you realise Divinity.

It is essential to recite the Gaayathree Mantra at least three times during the morning, noon and evening, This will serve to reduce the effects of the wrong acts one does every day. It is like buying goods for cash, instead of getting them on credit. There is no accumulation of karma (result of action) debt, as each day's karma (action) is atoned for that day itself by reciting the Gaayathree Mantra. - BABA.

Reincarnation of Saints

Indranil Chowdhury

The concept of incarnation is now well accepted after various findings by the modern scientists. The cases of reincarnation of saints are of special nature in this context and need further clarification. Most of the average souls are reborn as a normal process of evolution. But the higher souls, those who are already liberated, take rebirth on their own volition to accelerate human evolution. Here, we will take one such case.

Swami Vivekkananda has remained in the memory of spiritual seekers as one of the most famous and influential saints of the Hindu religion of the nearest past.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the swami with us again to take up the leadership? Well, it seems that we are lucky to have him back in a new avatar.

The story about the rebirth of Swami Vivekananda and his future involvement in the Sai Mission is well documented in the book "Sai

Inner Views & Insight” by Howard Murphet, the well-known and renowned author and devotee of Bhagavan Baba.

In March, 1987, a young man from Sri Lanka, whose name is Nalin Sedera, visited Prasanthi Nilayam along with a group. An Australian devotee, Elvin Gates, was in the interview room with this group of Lankan people. Elvin Gates told that Sathya Sai Baba made the revelation to the young man that he was Vivekananda reborn. This took place on two successive days during two interviews in the private interview room.

Two years later, in 1989, Howard Murphet had the opportunity to talk to Nalin himself regarding the two interviews that he had with Sai Baba.

Nalin said that before meeting Sathya Sai Baba, he had a dream in which Swami, wearing a white dress, showing him an old couple, saying that they were his parents in a previous incarnation. When Nalin asked Swami to speak about his parents, Swami replied: *“Forget about that. I am your father and mother.”* In the interview room Swami asked him: *“What is your name?”* Nalin replied: *“Nalin.”* Swami said: *“You are not Nalin, you are Naren.”* Narendra was the name of Swami Vivekananda, and Naren was the name that Ramakrishna always used for his favourite disciple, Narendra.

Then Swami said: *“In your previous birth you were a great saint. Do you know who Narendra was?”* Nalin replied: *“No, Swami, I don’t”* Sai Baba went on: *“Narendra was the name of Vivekananda.”*

“I have been waiting for you for eighty-five years,” Swami said. Vivekananda left his body in 1902, and the interview was in 1987, exactly eighty-five years later.

Swami said to Nalin that he will come to live at Prashanti Nilayam ashram in the year 2021. That is the year in which Sathya Sai Baba has announced he will leave His body.

(It is my understanding that he will act a caretaker until the advent of Prema Sai. *Ed.*)

After creating everything, God gave man complete freedom to do as he liked. But God has imposed a condition. You may do what you want and enjoy what you desire, but you cannot escape the consequences. You have to face the result. Therefore, you alone are responsible for what happens to you. The good and the bad that happen to you were brought about by you alone.

- BABA

Baba on Islam by Sujata Kishore

Islam, Baba says, is a word, which denotes not a particular religion but a state of mind, the state of total surrender to the Will of God. Islam means dedication, surrender, peace, tranquillity. Islam denotes the social community whose members have achieved supreme peace through surrender to the All Merciful, All Powerful God and who have vowed to live in peace with their fellowmen. Islam directed attention to the One in Many, the Unity in Diversity and led people to the Reality named God.

According to Baba, Islam gives importance to the moon, which regulates the months. The Quran lays down that all men should cultivate the sense of unity, of interdependence, of selfless love and of immanence of Divinity.

Islam prescribes prayer as the food for the spiritual nature of man and directs that it be taken five times a day.

Prayer in Islam is also a congregational activity. Islam promises a greater flow of ecstasy when God is adored by a huge concourse of yearning hearts. Islam teaches that God's grace can be won through justice and righteous living; wealth, scholarship and power cannot earn it. Holy love alone can please the Lord. Baba says that Islam insists on full co-operation between thought, word and deed. *Source: "Sai International" Mar/April 2008.*

Divinity is the same in everyone, be he/she a Hindu, a Muslim, a Sikh or a Christian. There is only one religion, the religion of love. There is only caste, the caste of humanity. So develop unity, chant the Divine Name. What an exalted position will the country attain if all its people were to chant the Divine Name unitedly!...One who cultivates the crop of love in the field of one's heart is a true Christian, a true Sikh, a true Hindu and a true Muslim.
- BABA.

A Letter from Swami to Devotees & Students

"These days we are unfortunately witnessing before our own eyes all the evils of the Kali age being very freely practiced by men and women everywhere, thus inviting the consequent inevitable sufferings upon themselves and others. To counteract the evil forces that are gaining ground, the only way prescribed is the chanting of Sai's name, the glory of which has been extolled again and again. All devotees and well wishers of humanity should now wholeheartedly take to the chanting of the name of Sai (their Mantra) for longer hours with faith and devotion, and thus contribute their mite towards bringing in peace and happiness, in this present day world of strife, turmoil and unhappiness.

*My Blessings to all, with love,
Baba." (13.3.1980)*

Sometimes you feel that disasters increase instead of diminishing! Don't get agitated. Close your eyes and tell Me with faith; Thy will be done. Thou think of it. And when you thus speak, I even accomplish a miracle when necessary. I only think of it when you trust Me totally. I always think of you, but I can only help you completely when you rely fully on Me.

-BABA.

THE PINK DRESS

There was a little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed her and never stopped to see why

she looked so sad. Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop.

The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday and still with the same sad look in her eyes. Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl, for as we all know a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone. As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress. It was grotesquely shaped. I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her.

Deformities are a low blow to our society and heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different. As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare. As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped-over form. I smiled to let her know it was okay; I was there to help, to talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple 'Hello'. The little girl acted shocked and stammered a 'Hi!'; after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled and she shyly smiled back. We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked her why she was so sad. She looked at me with a sad face and said, "Because, I'm different..." I immediately said, "That you are!" and smiled. She acted even sadder and said, "I know".

"Little girl," I said, "you remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent." She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet and said, "Really?"

"Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all the people walking by." She nodded her head 'yes' and smiled. With that she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread, then she said, "I am! I am your Guardian Angel," with a twinkle in her eye. I was speechless, sure I was seeing things. She said, "For once you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done."

I got to my feet and said, "Wait, why did no one stop to help an Angel?" She looked at me, smiled and said, "You're the only one that could see me." Then she was gone! And with that, my life was changed dramatically. So, when you think you're all you have, remember your Angel is always watching over you.

(Pass this to everyone that means anything at all to you. Let them know that you're glad they care about you. As the story says, we all need someone...and everyone of your friends is an Angel in his/her own way. The value of a friend is measured in the heart and I hope your Guardian Angel watches over you always.

- S. Bhimsingh.)

When hardships overwhelm you, know that it is the consequence of your own past deeds. Do not blame the Lord and develop a grouse against Him. Do not pay heed to trouble or take it as such. Rather engage yourself in the service of others and perform meritorious deeds. Continue

relying on the name of the Lord for support. That is the sign of wisdom.

- BABA.

(Just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He is not there. For we walk by faith, not by sight!)

"I See What You Do Not."

This incident relates to a trip made by 52 blind children to Swami several years ago. A Sathya Sai Centre in Chennai, had the good fortune to be blessed by a visit, five times, by Swami.

Swami inspired one of the devotees to bring the 52 students to His Divine Presence, despite many hardships. However, when they reached Parthi, they were given a special block at Darshan Hall and Swami spent several minutes with the group. He signalled one of His students to bring something from the Interview Room.

Only our Beloved Lord knows and cares for every being in this world. The student brought back 52 Braille watches, each being presented to the individuals by Swami. He also demonstrated the use of them.

How these watches appeared in the Interview Room, is a miracle, that only our Lord knows. This especially because there was no hint from Him about the arrival of these students.

For Me, all are good. There are no bad people. Those who develop negative feelings without enquiring into the good and bad of

things in this objective world, will only spoil their own life. So far as I am concerned, I love everybody. All are equally dear to Me.

-BABA.

A Dream That Became

Brooklyn Bridge

It was in 1883 that a creative engineer named John Roebling, was inspired by an idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting New York with Long Island. This was considered an impossible feat by leading bridge builders across the world, and told him to forget the idea. "It's not practical, it had never been done before", they said. But Roebling had a vision; he never stopped thinking about it, and knew in his heart that it could be done. Eventually, he shared this dream with his son, Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge could be built. Father and son worked together designing it and developed concepts as to how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could be overcome. Then they hired their crew and began to build their dream.

All started well, but several months into the project, an accident took the life of John Roebling! His son, Washington, was injured and left with some brain damage that resulted in him not being able to walk or talk, or even move! Others said, "We told them so! Crazy men and their crazy dreams! It's foolish to chase after wide visions!" However, since the Roedings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built, it was felt that

the project should be scrapped. Despite his handicap, Washington was never discouraged and his mind was as sharp as ever. From his hospital bed he could see the sky and the tops of the trees outside. This was like a message to him not to give up and developed a way of communicating with his wife with his finger, tapping her arm as they developed a code. He asked her to contact the engineers and the project was under way again.

For 13 years, Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally built!

Today the Brooklyn Bridge stands as a tribute to one man's indomitable spirit and determination not to be defeated by circumstances. It is also a tribute to the engineers and their team-work, and their faith in a man who was considered mad by half the world! Equally, it is a tribute to his wife who for 13 long years, patiently decoding the messages of her husband and conveying to the engineers what was to be do.

When we face obstacles in our daily lives, they are small in comparison to what many others have to face. The Brooklyn Bridge shows us that dreams that seem impossible can be realised with determination and persistence, no matter what the odds are.

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.

A letter to His students,

My Dears,

The time will come when the whole of this dream will vanish. To everyone of us there must come a time when the whole universe will be found to have been a mere dream, when we shall find that the soul is infinitely better than its surroundings. In this struggle through we call environment, there will come a time when we shall find that these environments are almost zero in comparison with the power of the soul. It is only a question of time, and time is nothing in the infinite. It is a drop in the ocean. We can afford to wait and be calm.

With Blessings,

Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
