

2012

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
MAY-JUN 2012**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

It was my great delight and privilege to have recently attended the "National Sai Remembrance Day - Celebrating the 'Religion of Universal Love'", in Leicester, UK.

The Satsang was referred to as "a tide of new beginning", with the youth choir singing the Beatle's songs, "Love" and "My Sweet Lord", before an attendance of about 1,500 happy devotees.

Representatives of all the world Religious groups and Faiths, each gave prayers, before being presented with honoured gifts for their presence. This was followed by an address of Welcome by Dr. Kiran Patel, Chairman of the UK Organisation, and by Dr. Sanjay Sahni, Director of the SSS Institute of Higher Learning, Brindavan Campus, Bangalore.

As an aside, video presentations of Swami, which included, "Love Is My Message", and others, were screened during this blessed occasion.

An enjoyable day was concluded with the Valedictory address was given by Mrs. Manjula Sood, MBE., Deputy Lord Mayor, Leicester City Council & Chairperson, Leicester Interfaith Council. And finally Bhajans and Arati concluded a perfect day. I am personally grateful for the many kindnesses I received during my visit there.

My grateful thanks to all concerned.

Sai Ram, Ed.

Just like the cabinet that the Prime Minister has, Swami too has His own

cabinet. I have entrusted different tasks to the different ministers.

I do not interfere with their work. If I get a prayer in a letter, "Swami we want rains," I will redirect the letter to Varuna, the Lord of water. He will deal with it appropriately. Only three departments come directly under Me: Love, Selfless Service and Spiritual Sadhana. Whoever loves Me, I too love them.

I do not look into the other qualities or eligibility. Whoever performs service without expecting rewards,

I shall take care of them. Whoever or whenever any person pursues spiritual sadhana, he/she will come under My protective umbrella. Other departments are all looked after by My other ministers.

- BABA.

Virgin Mary statue in Heritage Museum

The account of the Virgin Mary appearing to three peasant children in the small town of Sabana Grande, in the south western corner of Puerto Rico, on Thursday, April 23, 1953, is not that well-known, but it has similarities to Lourdes and Fatima.

The Virgin Mary appeared to three humble children who saw her standing on a cloud, five or six feet above a hillock, near a spring, by the local school. She was dressed in a white tunic fastened at the neck by a brooch, holding a rosary in her hands, and wore a crown of seven stars about her head. After appearing for a number of days, a multitude of people began to visit

the site, and teaching became impossible. The children were not allowed to go to the well. So, from then on Our Lady began walking from the well to the school, where she assumed the role of teacher.

The three children were named Juan Angel Collado, and sisters Isidra and Ramonita Belen, aged from seven to nine years, and were students at this school.

She taught them by the use of words, images and symbols, and a great number of miracles and healings took place. As the school itself symbolises education, she assumed the role and behaviour of a teacher of a new generation.

The story now moves from Puerto Rico to the Divine Abode of Bhagavan Baba, in Prasanthi Nilayam. On the Hilltop near the University Headquarters, one finds the structure like a temple with tall towers above them. This is the Religious Heritage complex, built by Swami, where a special church-like altar had been created. It was Swami's wish to exhibit an idol of Mother Mary in this altar.

Mr. Jose from Puerto Rico, received a letter informing him of Swami's request to bring to His Divine presence, the Divine Mother Mary statue to exhibit in the religion Museum, as an example of Latin American devotions and cultures. His only condition was that it had to be examined by Swami first and approved by Him to confirm it was authentic.

Mr. Jose managed to obtain a description of: *1. The true story of miracles of Mother Mary from Puerto Rico in a book with pictures. 2. The*

prophecies of the Divine Mother and, 3. The building project that She asked for.

Mrs. Mercedes, an ardent Sai devotee, and her friend Mrs. Marissa, were the chosen devotees to carry these items to Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami visited the Museum and looked on all the items brought by these devotees and approved the authenticity of the story of Mother Mary appearing in Puerto Rico. A replica of the statue of Mother Mary as she appeared there, was duly installed in the Heritage Museum.

As is often the case, the Church does not recognise this miraculous event in Puerto Rico, but Swami recognised the authenticity of the events and gave due representation in the Heritage Museum.

Rama learnt from Vasisha the method of conquering desire and demonstrated by His equanimity that He could go into long exile, with as much exaltation as He could go towards the throne for His coronation.

"Rama" means "Joy that comes of Love." He loved bird and beast, demon and sage, to prove to the world that God saves those who love His children. -BABA, (1974)

Meat Eating v. Non-Meat Eating

It is a contradiction to be a meat-eater and also be a follower of Swami's teachings.

John Hislop wrote extensively on this subject, and he quoted from the

following Sai discourse on 21st November 1995.

"You take this meat eating. Many people have to kill animals because of your non-vegetarianism. You are responsible for the death of those animals. They are killed because you eat them. That is a sin. What a sin to kill innocent animals and eat them."

Hislop continues, "Cows for example, are very emotional creatures though outwardly placid. They truly suffer when their babies are torn away from them at only a few days old. Pigs are known to be highly intelligent, sensitive and very affectionate. They are easily trainable. Who remembers the lovely (film) BABE?"

As for sheep, goats, chickens and turkeys, they are just as interesting though some may find this hard to believe.

Even fish have pain receptors and a nervous system akin to humans and where it was once believed that they don't suffer pain, it is now known that it is excruciatingly painful for them when they are hauled out of the deep and left to die in the open air... Fishermen have reported that the mothers of (tuna & dolphins) can be heard singing to their babies as they both slowly die.

The factory farming of animals causes suffering enough and their eventual violent demise in the slaughterhouse is too horrible and heartrending to describe. As long as one eats animals, one is instrumental in causing their suffering, so must bear some of the burden of that karma.

It would also help to remember that animals feel the very same emotions as we do and to take to heart the following true story recorded in "Kill Cow", by Dr. Sahadeva Dasa, of the Hare Krishna movement:

A Buddhist monk who taught meditation at a prison in Australia was surprised when one day a fearsome-looking prisoner with a violent record arrived to learn meditation. He seemed like a most unlikely candidate... However his life had just been completely changed while working in the prison slaughterhouse and daily killed lots of cows, sheep and pigs. These creatures would cry, moan and scream in their own ways and desperately try to escape from the moment they arrived at the slaughterhouse. They knew what was coming and it was hard to aim accurately at them because their terror and anxiety would not allow them to keep still.

One day, however, a certain cow walked slowly, purposefully and voluntarily to the slaughter point with her head down without trying to escape in any way. She stood silently, then lifted her head and stared fixedly at her executioner without moving. The slaughterer, totally disconcerted, stared back, unable to act... the cow's gaze did not waver and as he stared back at her, he noticed that her left eye was filling with water. As the water increased, it overflowed and trickled down her cheek, forming a shining stream of tears. Then, he noticed the same thing happening with the right eye and tears started to trickle from there. The cow was crying. The man broke down and cried himself. He

could not kill the cow and to cut a long story short, he became a vegetarian from then on. The cow that cried totally changed his life.

Sai Baba said: *"Anything that has life tries to stay alive. No living creature would give itself up as food for another living being. Animals, birds and fish also feel the desire to live just as humans do. They too would struggle, cry and feel the desire in being hurt, just like the way we would if we were captured and threatened to be killed. The only difference is that animals cannot verbally express to us the agony that they feel. It has been reported that pigs that are being slaughtered cry in a manner similar to the way humans scream."* Summer Showers, May 1996

"Violence in any form is evil and to kill innocent animals is tantamount to blatant savagery." Sai Baba, Divine Discourse, 1994.

Sourced from article by; MERCINI SHERRATT

Everyone seeks benefits, but is not prepared to make any sacrifice.

What is the sacrifice that is to be made to God?

First of all, your bad qualities.

Acquire good qualities. Shed your narrow outlook. Cultivate a broad vision. Today the foremost need is to develop the spirit of sacrifice.

You are not expected to give away all your wealth and possessions. What is required is a sense of

compassion at the sight of a suffering being.

When the heart melts, that itself becomes a sacrifice.

-BABA. 1989

VIBUTHI PRASADAM

Swami has stated; *"What I materialise is a manifestation of the Divinity with a potent significance as well as symbolisation. It is symbolic of the cosmic immortal and infinite nature of all forms of God. Atma or the spirit is what is left when everything worldly and transient has burnt away. In first place, it is symbolic of the life-death cycle in which everything ultimately reduces itself as ash. 'For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou returnest.'*

Ash or dust is the final condition. It can undergo no further change. In the spiritual context, it constitutes a warning to the recipient to give up desires, burn all passions, attachments and temptation in the fires of worship, which makes one pure in thought, word and deed. It is a symbol of Divinity."

Once an advocate arrived at P.N., he was a chronic smoker. Cancer afflicted his throat. Doctors advised surgery, along with radiation and chemotherapy. He desired to obtain Swami's permission before the commencement of the treatment. On arrival, the ever-merciful Bhagavan invited him into the interview room. Asking him to hold his palms together to form a bowl, He materialised and poured a large quantity of vibhuthi into them and asked him to eat it all. It was dark in

colour and tasted like bitter gourd. Swami affectionately cajoled and persuaded and helped him to finish it. After the interview, the man walked out and went into the canteen for a cup of coffee. As he was at it, his eyes fell on nearby pakodas, and unable to resist, he ate a plateful. Due to pain in his throat, he had not been able to eat properly for a long time, despite his keen desire and strong taste for food. But now, he noticed that he could eat comfortably and relish it. He was surprised. With his finger, he probed inside his mouth at the cancer-affected spot. He felt no pain at all. He realised that the cancer had gone. He was overwhelmed. Tears flooded his eyes as he remembered Bhagavan's mercy.

The next day Swami called him again into the interview room, he expressed his gratitude to Swami and fell at His feet. He told Swami that he was proficient in Sindi and begged to be permitted to translate and publish the Sindi edition of *Sanathana Sarathi*. Swami replied, *"It is only for that purpose that I have made you to come to Puttaparthi."*

From then on, the blessed person has been translating and publishing *Sanathana Sarathi*, in Sindi.

Whenever people cry out in agony:

"Oh God", there God will be.

About Atheists

Swami made an interesting comment during a discourse back in 1967, relating to those we call

themselves atheists, He said; *"Any person with a spark of Love in him is a theist, whether he goes to a temple, or church, or not."*

What a divine revelation!

It is a sign of indolence to think that you won't suffer from grief or loss; they are inevitable.

Earn the Grace of the Lord every minute; then even mountains of sin can be reduced to dust.

The Enigma of Islam

...Enlightened By Sai

This article was published by Radio Sai's

Heart2Heart, March 2008.

Who is a Muslim? The term "Surrender" is the hallmark of Islamism. The word Islam is derived from the Arabic verb *Aslama*, which means to surrender. It means that a Muslim is one who has totally surrendered his entire mind to God. Anyone who has been able to realise this state of being with God is a Muslim, irrespective of the person's creed, country, caste or colour. The Qur'an gave examples of such Holy Ones - Abraham, Noah,

Moses, Jesus, etc., who reached the state of complete surrender to God and referred to them as Muslims.

"Behold! Allah said: "Oh Jesus! Verily I will cause thee to die and I will take thee up to Muself and deliver thee from those who believe not." (Qur'an 3:55)

Thus, Islam is a word which denotes not a particular religion but a state of mind, the state of total surrender to the Will of God. The Prophet, therefore, did not see himself as founding a new religion, but as restoring the foundations of Islam which has been there from time immemorial. The Qur'an declares: *"Nay, whoever submits himself whole-heartedly to Allah, and he is a doer of good to others, he shall have his reward from the Lord. And there is no fear for such people nor do they grieve."* (2:112)

The True Meaning of "Surrender"

How then do we come to this state of 'total surrender to God' which makes one a true Muslim? The Qur'an declares that to Allah belongs the whole of Creation. What can one give to Allah that does not originally belong to Him? The Heavens and the Earth, and all that is contained therein are His! Time and the Life, which it holds in its womb, belong to Allah; Eternity and the Death, which it holds in its tomb, belong to Allah. So what is this object that we must surrender, that is not Allah in the first place? How can you surrender that which does not belong to you?

"Allah said: 'The son of Adam hurts Me by abusing Time, for I am Time; in My Hands are all things and I cause the revolution of night and day.'" (Hadith No. 351, Vol. 6)

The true essence of surrender, therefore, is to lose this false idea that anything belongs to you. And it is the little "I" that is responsible for this false claim. When one succeeds in destroying this sense of "I" and "mine" which, according to the Qur'an, separates "gods from God" one feels one's primordial oneness

with the One. The little illusory will of man dissolves completely in the Universal Omnipotent Will of Allah. When this happens, one attains Islam. This is a type of death - death of the ego - which is known in Islam as *"Fana"* (annihilation).

"In Islam, the expression salaam is used as a form of greeting. 'Sa' in this term signifies the combined expression of Saalokyam, Saameepyam and Saayujyam (seeing the Divine, being near the Divine and Merging in the Divine). When these three expressions are combined and merged into one - "La" signifying merger - you have Salaam (the merging of the many in the One)" - Swami's Discourse on 25th December 1991.

Our Beloved Sathya Sai Baba has drawn so many Muslim devotees from different countries to His Lotus Feet. With the Power of His Divine Love, He transforms them and makes them realise the very essence of Islam. Natalya Kandaurove is one of these such privileged souls. She is a devout Muslim now from Kazakhstan and a member of 'The International Association of Healers', and an 'Honourable Healer' of Kazakhstan. Having been saved four times from the clutches of physical death, Natalya narrates to us her transformative experiences with Sathya Sai Baba as she journeys on the path of Islam. She relates the following; "I had not heard anything about Sai Baba before. One night He came in my dream and told me, *"Come to Me soon. Don't be late. You will come to Me in two weeks with six more people."*

"The next day, one of my patients came to see me and casually

mentioned about her who had been arranging trips from Alma-Aty to India, Prasanthi Nilayam in particular. I took her phone number. In three days I bought my ticket to India. I went there with a group of seven others. I asked the organiser to show me the picture of Sai Baba. You will not be surprised - He was the same person who came in my dream.

"Ever since then, Swami is my heart and life, and for all my family. Swami assured me that He will always be with me, giving healing energies as a column of bright orange light in the centre of my room where I see my patients. I always request my patients to stand in the middle of the room. I seldom tell my patients about this Divine Phenomena since only a few can see this column of orange light; but invariably the healing has very positive results.

"On my first pilgrimage to Swami I came here for a month. After three weeks, Swami came again to my dream and said, "*Now you can go*". So we decided to spend the last week visiting some other sacred places in India. On our last day Swami went out around the ashram in His car. As the car was passing us, Swami looked at me and lifted His hand in His benevolent gesture of Blessings. I felt very happy to receive His bountiful blessings and benedictions. Swami's Love is so dear to my heart.

"Truly speaking, my spiritual awakening happened five years before I came to Swami. At the age of 33, I had nearly died four times and had undergone three cancer operations. Then my doctors said I had only one or two months to live.

Needless to say, I was shocked to hear this medical verdict and was crestfallen when I went to sleep that day. That night I had a prophetic dream that changed my whole life.

"The late Kazakh poet, Abbay, came to my dream and said, "You will read the Holy Book Qur'an. You will heal people. Your path is Islam'. In the morning I started spontaneously reciting prayers from the Qur'an in Arabic!

"I had never learnt Arabic and when I asked people what I was saying, they remarked that these are recitations of the *Fatihai and Ihlas*, which are prayers from the Qur'an."

She went on to explain that she was Christian by birth and was baptised. All these incidents troubled her, till Jesus Christ came to her in an incredible dream and said, "We all come from Love. We have the same ancestors - Adam and Eve. It does not matter which path you choose as long as you are on the way to God."

When she was 33, she accepted Islam in her heart and soul. So, her spiritual life encompasses Christianity, Islam and the teachings of Sai Baba. She now sees all religions without contradictions; love all, hurt none, forgive others!

(I propose to have further quotes from the article "The Enigma of Islam... Enlightened by Sai," in the next issue. Ed.)

**Remember your duty is to
Love All, Serve All.**

The Open Heart...

It was in 1985, when a student in Swami's Primary School in Prasanthi Nilayam, approached his school Warden and requested Darshan with Bhagavan Baba. The Warden was naturally helpless in granting this request, and said that he could have Darshan only on Thursday and Sunday, as the Primary School Boys go to the Mandir only on those days, and it was now Monday. The student went back to his class in tears, and with a heavy heart.

At that very moment there was a commotion at the school gate - which was always closed. But now Swami's car was waiting to come in, so the Warden rushed to receive Swami.

Swami went from classroom to classroom and upon reaching 5th Class room, He called the young boy who wanted to see Swami, and said most wonderfully, *"Today is neither Thursday nor Sunday, but your heart was open and wanted to see Me, so I came."*

It appears that when you open your heart, Swami will surely come!

Recognise the truth that Sai is in all.

When you inflict pain on another, remember that the other is yourself in another form, with another name.

Give up this vice; be happy when another is happy.

That is more pleasing to the Lord than the prayers you recite or the

flowers you heap on His picture or image.

Be simple in your method of living, have Saathwik (pure) food and moderate recreation.

Let your mind be fixed on the ideals of service. Let your thoughts be guided by Sathya, Dharma, Shaanthy, Prema.

RAMA'S NECKLACE

We are frequently advised by Swami not to be fascinated by the miraculous manifestations of material objects, but to concentrate on the spiritual power behind the creation.

While in Kodaikanal, relating the glorious story of Hanuman's devotion, Swami materialised a most dazzling necklace of 108 large shining pearls and stated that it was the necklace that mother Sita gifted to Hanuman at the Coronation of Sri Rama. But Hanuman's devotion and concentration was on the Lord, and was so one-pointed that he bit the pearls to see if Lord Rama's image was in them. Failing to find any, Hanuman threw them away as useless. His attention was not on the necklace but on his Lord and Master.

Swami held aloft the necklace and showed it around and one could see the teeth-marks on some of the pearls and even the image of Hanuman's face in the pearls!

Swami's miraculous powers are the most natural and spontaneous manifestations of His Love and grace to His devotees. He referred to His powers as Sankalpa Siddha,

signifying "mere WILLING IS FULFILLING."

**The Grace of God is like insurance.
It will help you in your time of
need without limit.**

The Divine Guardian

In 1943, Mrs. Bhat developed cancer of the uterus, and on medical advice an operation was recommended without the possibility of success. Her husband's mother, who had been staying with them, said to her son, "Lord Subramanian cured your father of cancer without any operation; in the same way he will cure your wife."

Pujas to Lord Subramanian were intensified by Mr. Bhat's mother, while the young wife was growing thinner and weaker. This went on for about six months! Then one night, while in a semi-sleep state, the patient saw in the dim light from the moon, a large cobra circling her bed. Alarmed, she switched on the light and woke the mother-in-law who was sleeping in the same room, while her husband was away on a business trip.

No snake was found, but as soon as Mrs. Bhat switched off the light, she once again saw the cobra again, going around the bed. Immediately the snake took the form of Subramanian, Who seemed to be floating above her. Piercing her bosom with His spear, He seemed to draw her away with Him.

Soon she found herself standing before Him on the peak of a high

rock. She knelt and touched His feet with her hands and forehead, as He asked her if she wanted to stay with Him or go back to the world. But thinking of her husband and young children, and their need for her, she said she wished to go back.

After further conversation, Subramanian said, "*You are cured of your illness, and will soon grow strong. Throughout your life I will protect you; whenever you think of Me, I'll be there. Now go back.*"

"How?" she asked. He pointed to a long winding, narrow staircase that had opened near their feet and led downward. As she descended, she found herself back in her bed, awake. She immediately woke her mother-in-law and told her all that had happened.

Soon she was up carrying on her normal duties, as well as now she devoted herself to social work among the poor and needy. God had given back her life and she was determined to use it fully in His service as best she could.

However, it was twenty years before she and her husband heard of Sathya Sai Baba, and went to visit P.N.

Swami spoke to her saying, "*I spoke to you long ago - twenty years ago.*"

Greatly puzzled, she replied; "No Swamiji, this is my first visit."

"*Yes, yes, but I came to you when you were living in Mysore.*"

Swami mentioned the street name and the city where she was living at the time of her cancer illness, and her vision of Subramanian. Then He took her up the narrow winding

stairs, which led to His quarters above and told her to look down. Immediately she remembered the staircase leading down from the heights, in fact the stairway seemed identical. She was now more bewildered than ever.

To help her understand, Swami produced a photograph of Himself in the somasutra (chariot) of Subramanian with a cobra circling around Him. Now she understood - God can take any form!

She fell at His feet weeping tears of joy.

Source: "Sai Baba: Man of Miracles" by Howard Murphet."

Chanting of the Lord's Name is the only way to liberation in the Kali Age.

God's name only will redeem us.

Any mighty task can be achieved by chanting the Divine Name.

The Planetarium

When the Planetarium at P.N. was under construction, the firm in Delhi, where I worked, received the order for Acoustic Treatment on the inner surface of the Planetarium. This was to be ready in the short period of seven days, so that Swami could inaugurate it on His Birthday.

After two days it became known that the machine that was to be installed simply didn't work. Sri Udayakumar, the General Manager Technical of the firm, flew from

Delhi to P.N., and struggled with the machine till 2.0 a.m. but to no avail.

In the morning Swami came out for Darshan. Udayakumar called to Swami that he had come for the Auditorium work. *"Very happy!"* Swami said. *"Oh, I was waiting for you here yesterday evening and you went straight to the work. Still the machine is not working? Very bad!"* Swami applied Vibhuti to his forehead and said, *"Don't worry. I have set it alright, Work will be over well in time and you will be rewarded,"* and walked away. The time was 8:23 a.m.

Later the site manager confirmed that the machine started working exactly at 8:20 a.m., though nobody could make out how it happened.

While all the crew sat around talking about Swami's Leelas, there was a sudden crash, and before they could react, Swami's car braked in front of us. He put down the window and called the Construction Manager, and said, *"You people are enjoying the sunshine and Swami had to save all your labourers."* and with a wink Swami's car drove away!

Running to check on the noise, they discovered the whole scaffolding had collapsed and the eight labourers, who were working 13 metres high... but nobody was hurt, not even a scratch! The following day, all attended Darshan and were given passes to attend the Inauguration of the Planetarium, by Swami.

The reward that Swami promised? He looked at them and said, *"Past Karmas of your entire team has brought all of you together today here, to be seated close to the Lord of All the Planets you have just seen, and*

the entire Universe. Any other reward?"

Can anyone ask for any other reward than His Grace and Love?

I shall take all the trouble to keep My property safe in My custody!

That is to say, in the custody of the Lord, by whichever name you may be calling upon Him.

All the powers I have are for you: I am just the store, keeping them ready to be given to you, whenever you ask for them.

I shall give Prema even if you do not ask, for it is your right to share in it.

-BABA, (1960)

Major Charity Project

The Sathya Sai Seva Organisation has announced a seven pronged programme to undertake charity projects in Maharashtra and Goa. "We plan to spend Rs 25 crores annually (Rs 250,000,000) for the next five years to eradicate malnutrition, provide healthcare to mothers and children, increase our mobile medical vans and set up a wellness centre," said spokesperson Nimish Pandya. The Trust has tied up with a baker to prepare a protein-rich brand of biscuits named, 'Sai Shakti', for the children of Jalgaon and Melghat, where malnutrition is rife.

(Times of India, 28.04.2012)

Life is a pilgrimage to God; the holy spot is there, afar!

The road lies before you; but unless you take the first step forward and follow that step with others, how can you reach it?

Start with courage, faith, joy and steadiness. You are bound to succeed.

-BABA, 1958

Divine Miracles have started manifesting

The day was 24th April 2011, a day when the world seemed to stand still. A day Sai devotees were engulfed in deep sorrow upon hearing the news that their Beloved Swami had left His mortal Body.

The news was flashed around the world and television OB vans started to line up outside Mumbai's Dharmakshethra complex - cameramen and TV crews patiently awaited briefing by the representatives of Sai Organisers. Mr. Srinivasan, related the following: "During an overcharged situation, news came from across the road that divine miracles had started manifesting immediately after Swami had left His physical body.

"There is a very vast colony of improvised hutments opposite Dharmakshethra, where thousands of poor people are living. Passing through a few narrow lanes, we reached the small dwelling of a couple. On the shelf fitted on the wall was a small photo of Bhagavan Baba, and heaps of sacred Ash (vibhuti), many manifested objects are taken out, such as idols of God and

goddesses, a pair of wooden Padhuga and Shiv Lingams, etc.

"With this Aradhana Day, it is ONE full year and lo! What glorious manifestations had been happening in this humble dwelling, almost on every festival days. Hundreds of devotees are thronging in this small home, to see for themselves the Divine manifestations. They offer prayers and sing bhajans. This little hutment dwelling is fast becoming a pilgrim centre, *very near to Dharmahshethra!*

"The manifested items are very large in quantity, and it is very difficult to create and post such large Album. I am putting them in a video form and shall post them separately, very soon."

"Where there is Krishna, the supreme Yogi, and where also there is Arjuna bearing his bow, there victory for truth and justice is assured."

This verse assures victory not only when the Mahaabhaaratha Arjuna wields the bow in the presence of Krishna. Everyone of you can be Arjuna and wield the bow and achieve victory. For the bow is but the symbol of courage and faith, of high resolve and undaunted calibre.

Arjuna means white, pure, unsullied, without blemish. As soon as you become that and hold the bow, Krishna is ready with His presence, for He is everywhere at every moment. There is no deed to invite Him or install Him.

He will answer from your very heart.

-BABA 1972

A Jaw-dropping Experience

Mr. Arun Mandalay holds bhajans in his home every Thursday, and many people join him, even strangers call to attend.

After one such bhajan session, he spoke to a 'stranger', who came for the first time. "Sairam, Sir. You seem to be coming here for the first time. May I help you in any way?"

"Ah! Yesterday evening there was a sadhu who came to me at the bus stand. He told me that if I wanted peace of mind, I should visit a certain address on Thursday. The address he gave me led me here!" Mandalay was pleasantly surprised upon hearing this, and discovered that everyone else there had a similar story of a sadhu guiding them to that house for bhajans! His curiosity drove him to investigate further.

In company with his daughter he went to the railway station in Indore where he spotted a sadhu seated silently in a corner. Mandalay told his daughter to fall at the feet of the sadhu in respect and she received the sadhu's blessing. But when Mandalay moved to get his blessing, he was told, "Stop!"

The sadhu said, "If you wish to come to me, you must not fall at my feet, but allow me to fall at your feet." After the *padanamaskar*, he sat with his daughter and the sadhu, who told him the following story; "I was barely aged 6 when my father submitted me in devotion to my Guru, Swami Sivananda. I joined his ashram and I totally submitted myself to him. My Guru was my everything. Then one day a young

lad with a thick black mop of hair arrived at our ashram at Rishikesh."

At that time Swami Sivananda was in a wheelchair, and this was Sathya Sai Baba's initial visit to Swami Sivananda's ashram on July 22nd, 1957. They spent time speaking together.

"When my Guru touched the feet of this orange-robed figure, much younger than him, I was shocked. How could my Master bow down to anyone else? It was then that the Guru revealed to us that the Krishna he had adored, finally presented Himself in his ashram!"

This young boy now began to have strange experiences in his meditation. "I would see this new yogi in my forehead, in between my eyebrows. This went on for years. In 1963, my peerless guruji gave up his body. We continued to stay at the hermitage, practicing our meditations and the Master's teachings."

They would move eventually to caves in the Himalayan mountains where he would spend the entire summer and spring months, but at the onset of winter they would return to the warmth and safety of the ashram to continue their penances, and it was during one of these sojourns in the cave that the sadhu met Sathya Sai Baba for a second time.

"One day in the cave I noticed there were no matches, which meant my going back to 'civilisation' for some, but suddenly the yogi, who I had seen long ago in my guru's ashram, walked into the cave with matches! After that day, he came to my cave and gave me things that I needed."

"When I made some enquiries in Rishikesh, I learnt that this yogi was not a resident of the Himalayas but stayed in some place in South India. I decided to make the journey to meet him. I was advised to take the train to the city of Madras and this I did," said the sadhu.

After wandering around lost in the city, he saw a photograph of Sathya Sai Baba and made enquiries and was told to take a train to Dharmavaram and from there get the regular bus service to Puttaparthi. "That is where Sathya Sai Baba resides."

The story now moves into the realms of the completely bizarre. It is only fair to allow the sadhu to complete his story in his own words.

"I took the train and reached Dharmavaram. It was late in the evening and the last bus to Puttaparthi had already left. I would be able to complete my journey only early the next morning. I slept on the platform and the next morning I woke up and it was still dark all around me. I was a bit confused. I waded my way in the darkness only to walk out of my cave in the Himalayas! I was shocked. I rushed back in and heard a voice from within, it said, *"Child! When your time comes, I shall call you to Parthi."*

"I was simply dumbstruck!" the sadhu said.

As Mr. Mandalay sat in silence, digesting the profundity and magnitude of the experience this sadhu at the Indore railway station had narrated to him, the sadhu continued, "I have never been to Puttaparthi to this day. You have been there, seen Him, talked to Him

and touched Him. Tell me, is it not right that I touch your feet and not the other way round?" Mandalhata was too overwhelmed to speak. "One thing I know for sure - there is only one way to come to Puttaparthi and that is - if He calls!"

**There are human crocodiles
hiding in the calm waters waiting
to pounce on their victims. I have
come to show them all that I am
here to protect whoever calls on
God.**

Experiencing the Divine from the Form to the Formless

by Dr. Samuel Sandweiss

One day as a young psychiatrist, I was called to see a patient in the locked unit of a psychiatric hospital. He was a middle-aged, wasted and weathered man who had been picked up on the street in a confused state. He had not bathed for days, was incoherent, dirty and reeked of an awful odour. What to do with such a man?

He had been burned over 70% of his body, with most of his ears, eyelids and nose burned off. You can see just the holes on the front of his face where his nose had been. Unsightly scars deformed his body and contracted his hands. I wondered how he could stand to be in such a body. I wanted to leave.

Then I remembered: "This must be Swami," reminding myself that if Swami were to come to me, He could do it to show me my weakness: my inability to see Him in everyone, "My

God, this must be Swami," I thought. Not only did I think that this tortured soul was Swami, I had a strange inner feeling, much deeper than thought, that this person actually *was* Swami. In an instant I experienced a wonderful transformation of my feelings and thinking. I liked this man! I wanted to be in his presence. I looked deeply into his eyes to see if I could see Swami looking back - and I thought that I could. I looked at his deformed lips, trying to make out Swami's smile - and I thought that I could. I wanted a smile from him. I wanted to do my best for him. Remembering Swami brought an instant awareness of His teachings about Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema, and Ahimsa. I wanted this patient to have peace. I didn't want to ignore him in any way. When I came to see him every day I felt I was having Darshan of Swami. Remembering Swami transformed me into my real Self.

How could this transformation come about? When mind turns to Master, do we align ourselves with mere mental memory or with an indescribable power beyond mind that is capable of turning bondage to freedom? This story is about the power of remembering the Master does not prove that we are actually connected, inspired to divine energy. But the achievements of Swami's devotees, inspired by His love, are of such a reach and radiance that this expanded expression of love is strong evidence that we are aligning ourselves with something all-powerful and beyond mind.

We are all aware of the temples of healing, providing free care - cardiac, neurologic, orthopaedic, eye and more - 11 million people in severe

drought-stricken areas on India receive free clean drinking water daily - wonderful Shri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, which provides a free education to thousands of sterling students. Not only here in India, but worldwide, institutions of Swami's love are blossoming. Award-winning projects like the "Miracle School" of Victor Kanu in Kambia, Africa, where disturbed children are transformed into shining examples of character and productivity... medical camps in Russia and beyond... disaster response teams dispatched to flood and earthquake areas... food and clothing distributed worldwide... values-based education programmes emerging around the globe.

Swami assures us that our connection with him is more than mortal and mental - it is a direct channel to divinity beyond time and death. We are His instruments of love. And there is no greater expression of Swami's divinity than the wisdom He has showered on us. In discourses and books Swami enlightens us about the lives of Avatars like Rama and Krishna and others, told in the first person: spiritual texts like the Gita, Mahabharata and Bhagavata, related in exciting detail and with new insights - the brilliant teachings of the vahinis, and much more. All bringing an understanding of unparalleled clarity and revealing Swami's Divinity.

Swami clarifies how Dharma purifies mind and uplifts society. The subtlest impurities of mind are exposed when we interact together in service with an attitude of detachment from the consequences. By turning inward, identifying and

then releasing selfishness, ego, lust, anger, etc., the mind enters the heart where it finds bliss and love. This is the path to perfecting culture and to world peace.

Today, miracles are still happening in abundance - and many of us sense Swami's intimate guidance while we do His work. I personally have experienced no greater example of His omnipresent guidance than the following event that began 29 years ago and is still continuing.

Early in our relationship, Sai Baba told me that He would come to me in my practice of psychiatry. I thought that perhaps He would help me understand more deeply how holding to virtues and values affects our emotional growth far more than is generally understood by Western psychiatry. Then shortly thereafter, in 1983, something very unusual occurred. A Caucasian patient on mind, a young woman with no prior knowledge of Sanskrit - who knew nothing about Hinduism - suddenly, began speaking Sanskrit out of the blue!

I had been treating Jackie for about ten years for severe headaches and a seizure disorder. She required social support, including food and financial assistance. One day she told me that Sai Baba had come to her with a message in a strange language, while she was in a dreamlike state. I initially thought this was her imagination and an attempt to gain my attention. I told her that if she was visiting again, and could remember the strange words, to call my answering machine and record them for me.

I was dumbfounded when, two days later, I heard my young patient

speaking Sanskrit like a scholar on my answering machine. What was the meaning of this occurrence, outside the understanding of modern science? Jackie said that it was Sai Baba who was visiting her with messages for believers. Not only was she able to recall the Sanskrit, Jackie was able to write it down phonetically - and, even more surprisingly, to translate it. As the event unfolded, vibhuti and amrita began appearing on her Christian Bible, and on her body. I picked up a video camera and began playing.

Years later, when I had time to deal with the video material, student of Sanskrit helped me decipher the "messages". Jackie identified Swami as the speaker and said that He referred to Himself as Parabrahman: the Boundless, the Imperishable, Profound insights of Vedanta flowed from the mouth of a disabled naive Western patient - a leela of the highest order! A refrain in almost all the messages was: *"Whatever form a divine being wills to be, that form the divine being becomes."*

Swami had literally and concretely appeared in my practice of psychiatry. One of the messages was for all believers.

"Believer, I am the Boundless - a non-beating sound: anahata sabda - I am Sai Baba."

What you see and feel in a dream has some basis in what you have seen and felt in the waking stage;

So, too, what you see and feel in the present life has as its basis, what you have seen and felt in other lives, previous lives.

**An Excerpt from an Interview
with R.K.Karanjia**

(From "Divine Grace")

Karanjia: India has been described as a rich country of poor people. We have the wealth of the whole world locked up in the bosom of our good earth. And yet the people remain economically poor and backward. Have You any solution to rehabilitate our economy?

Sathya Sai Baba: *Your analysis is correct. The solution to the problem you have posed lies in hard work and increased production on a cooperative basis. To achieve this, one has to rid people of the disease of individuality, greed and selfishness. Every individual must be taught to think and work in the broader concept of society and its needs. Once that is done, there will be less talk and more work.*

"Here again, it is the spiritual path that can save this country and the world from the wrongs of a materialistic order. What we need is a synthesis of the spiritual and material aspects of life. That will provide man with the social conscience and cooperative spirit imperative to the creation of national wealth and prosperity, through selfless and cooperative labour."

Take failure, if it comes, as a challenge to further effort, analyse the reason for your failure and profit by your experience.

Learn, as students of Truth, how to succeed in the turmoil of life

and how to live without causing pain to others and without suffering pain yourself.

The Unbelievable Prophecy

(Read on as Pujari Lakshmaiah narrates his initial encounter with The Lord)

Is it true? Can it be true? A boy calling himself Sai Baba! And consoling the dispirited, curing the ill, exorcising ghosts and teaching the old! I heard of this sixteen-year-old prodigy and entered Puttaparthi, with a woman, mad since two years, and her husband.

That was in 1943. At Bukkapatnam, people laughed at us; they thought all of us were mad to believe in the miraculous powers of that boy. We decided to complete the journey instead of turning back. We engaged a bullock cart for twelve annas and came to the riverbed. I left them there and moved into the little haggard group of houses, along narrow tracks. I peeped into a Brahmin house (Karnam Subbamma's). Inside I found a charming young boy, with a bright, intelligent face, talking with the labourers. I accosted Him and asked, "I heard there is a boy in this village who has become Sai Baba; it seems he cures madness. Which is His house, can you tell me?"

The boy looked at me very lovingly and replied, *"Poor fellow! The mad woman you brought with you is giving terrible trouble to her husband in the river! Go and take bath; and bring them also after the bath is over. I shall then show you the boy you are after."*

The woman ran wildly, and it was a job to bring her to the Brahmin's house. Sai Baba (for it was none other than He) told me, *"I'll call you one by one,"* and took me in first. He created Vibhuti and applied it to my forehead. Then He called in the couple. They had bought some bananas for Sai Baba. He gave the woman to eat one banana out of the number. He also gave them both the materialised Vibhuti.

It was six in the evening, by then. Coming out on the road, the wife told her husband, "Well, what about a meal? Get some rice from the shop, and ask for vessels. I shall cook food for us, pretty quick." The husband was overjoyed; her madness had gone! But Baba called us in and we sat with Him for the night meal. Baba mixed all the items served by Subbamma, into tolerably big balls, and He gave one to each of us. It was tasty beyond words! That night we slept on the verandah of that house, but were disturbed often by the howling of jackals, and the braying of donkeys. Some woman shrieked, "I am dying!" having been stung by a scorpion! Moments later someone cried, "Kill, Kill" and many ran in that direction. It was a cobra, this time.

Next morning we touched Baba's Feet and stood before Him. *"No sleep? Too many snakes in this place. This is a very holy place, but under a curse! Sai will save it!"* He said and added, *"The Sai Praveś (Advent) will make it the Prasanthi Pradesh (Region). Upon that hill, I shall have a grand Bhavan. By that time, hundreds, (why hundreds?) thousands, (why thousands?) lakhs. All India will be here. The whole world will come and wait for Sai Darshan."* On hearing this, I said,

"What? I cannot believe this will happen." He laughed and said, "*You will have to believe it when you will be standing at a great distance, trying to catch a glimpse of Me!*"

Now, in 1972, I stand at a great distance and yearn for Sai Darshan. I now believe in the Prophecy He made in 1943!
