

2014

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
MAY - JUN 2014**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

It is now three years since Sathya Sai Baba has left His physical body to prepare the way for establishing the long awaited Golden Age, an Age of Spiritual advancement and material progress.

This will be an Age that has long been prophesised, by all the world's known cultures, and we have the Divine assurance of the Lord Krishna, when He stated, "For the protection of the good, for the destruction of evil forces and for the firm establishment of Dharma, I am born from age to age."

Also our Beloved Swami declared to us, "My mission is to raise the consciousness of man to a level, at which, he neither rejoices nor mourns over anything." Secondly, He exhorts to us, "Your mission has begun. These are My words to you, My devotees. Each one of you has a unique and valuable part to play in this lifetime... You are My instruments from whom My Love will pour forth. Only those whom I've called can serve Me. I have prepared you for this work through many incarnations..."

And finally, He simply makes this conclusion, "My mission is already accomplished. I'm only letting it unfold before your eyes." In 2005, Swami indicated the following at His Dassara discourse, "Within a few years, rivalry, hatred and misunderstanding between people will become a thing of the past in Bharat and in the world at large...The time is soon approaching when all humanity will live in harmony. It is beyond all comprehension. Its beauty is beyond all dreams." He

went on to say, "Before it arrives be prepared to reveal to every living being, the true purpose of existence." Swami Himself asserts that the role which each one of us will play is going to be unique and valuable.

We can only hope that the day dawns soon! Ed.

Do what you need to do. Do not fear. Keep the mind stable. Have confidence in Me. Keep seeing Me, and listening to Me. – BABA

Nonkilling in Indian Tradition

"He who knows that it is indestructible and eternal, uncreated and unchanging, how can such a person slay anyone or cause any one to slay?" - Bhagavad Gita

Nonviolence and nonkilling has been a salient feature in the history of Indian people for more than 2,500 years. For thousands of years, Ahimsa has been a starting doctrine for sages who strove to practice Dharma whether performing their worldly or spiritual duties.

From ancient Vedic period to the era of Mahatma Gandhi, the concept of Ahimsa has been a significant human value of Indian culture. The first written reference to Ahimsa is in Upanishads (circa 700 B.C.). It appears as one of the five ethical qualities that one must develop as personal sacrifice to discover the Divine within. Ahimsa is one of the five ethical qualities along with Truth, Righteousness, Love and Peace.

Hinduism does not profess or assert its claims of Truth in ways that would legitimate the use of violence to enforce these or punish those who do not profess its worldview. It is a religion that seeks achievement of peace through unity between material and spiritual, internal and external, and Atman and Brahman. The all-pervasive Reality when spoken in terms of its universal aspect is called Brahman and when as our innermost self, it is Atman. This mergence of two brings moksha, salvation.

The obstacles to such spiritual union are acts of violence and untruth that are motivated by greed, anger and self-interest; if these are not overcome they continue to bring pain and ignorance. Patanjali in his Yogasutra states that when a man becomes "steadfast in his abstentions from harming others, then all living creatures cease to feel enmity in his presence as there is no reciprocation."

The doctrine of Ahimsa in Hinduism is thus neither negative nor positive. The emphasis is on action, only right means can achieve right ends. Definition of courage in Hinduism comes from the conception of death; that is, living your life in a moment. If you live your life in each moment (fulfilling your Dharma), as it could be your last, then you fear nothing.

Gandhiji's expression that nonviolence is not for cowards was perhaps based on this implicit understanding of Ahimsa as he continued his experiments with truth. His active, nonviolent resistance emanated from such inner strength to confront the batons and bullets fearlessly, thus

arousing a nonviolent revolution in the conscience of the adversary.

The Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita is often described as a treatise about war. In fact, it is more about ways to prevent a war, telling its reader how to overcome inner and outer conflict through fulfilling of righteousness conduct, Dharma. The ultimate victory in the Bhagavad Gita is not a happy one. It shows that as aftermath of a war, even the victors are not contented. The winning clan ultimately in a drunken brawl annihilates each other. Those who survive, mainly the four virtuous brothers on the hearing of this news and the demise of their mentor Krishna, renounce everything to follow the eldest; they journey North till one by one they die walking towards Himalaya for their spiritual salvation.

It was in this context Gandhiji said that violence may seem to resolve conflicts but when it does, it is only temporary. Ultimately, in killing no one wins because the winner leaves behind a bitter enemy. Violence may end all conflicts but only after eliminating all humanity.

To seek peace outside, one has to have peace within. At the same time to be at peace internally, one has to play one's part in creating conditions of peace in the world. The two are intertwined.

In summary, the basic theological message of Hinduism stands out as one of unity of existence; it is fundamental in the Hindu search for love, truth, peace and non-violence.

Killing is an extreme form that results from the sense of otherness

we tend to create. Vision of Ahimsa is based on interdependence and interconnection among all beings (and even non-beings).

Ahimsa, non-violence, and nonkilling affirm the negation of otherness to ensure that one is not causing the other any injury in thought, word and deed. All Hindu prayers end with benediction of Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti, which means Peace to Body, Peace to Mind and Peace to Soul - That I am.

- Balwant Bhaneja,

{From "Global Nonkilling Leadership Forum Book of Proceedings" (2008) p. 33-34}

Sai Sannidhi

*The Holy place of Sai Saannidhyam,
(Sai Energy)*

The body is the temple, and the soul inside is the Deity. The sacred body of dear Sai is resting inside the Divine tomb. This eternal place of Divine Presence is a Temple. This resting place of Divinity cannot be equated as Samadhi.

Many great saints and sadhus lived in India. After they had left, their resting places are called Samadhi. In Puttaparthi, there are several known and unknown Samadhi. Take for example the Samadhis of Swami's parents, Swami's brother, Swami Karunyananda and many others. There was a Samadhi for Jack & Jill, also. How can we equate these Samadhis with Swami's resting place? The place where Swami is resting is a temple. In all temples, the spot where the main deity is

installed, is called Garghagrha, or Daiva Sannidhi, or Sannidhanam. The Divinity manifests itself, as Sannidhyam, and draw multitudes of devotees to its Sannidhi.

I appeal to each and every devotee of Bhagavan to avoid calling it Samadhi. Please call it as SAI SANNIDHANAM. Start using this sacred word in all possible discussions, and messages. We devotees of Bhagavan should take the lead and endeavour to create such awareness. I invite your suggestions and views in this matter, please.

With Love & Regards, Mumbai
Srinivasan

No worship can succeed unless the heart is pure and the senses are mastered. Ganesha is the God who helps overcome obstacles; but He will create obstacles when good endeavour is obstructed by bad influences. He will clear the path for the Sadhak (spiritual aspirant) - BABA

Mazzoleni's Spiritual Testament

"My life has been full of unforeseen events. That is why I would often tell my friends how in a single lifetime it seemed to me I was living many lives. Throughout the years, which have marked the unfolding of these experiences, I have always been struck by the need to find an answer to my many questions, and my thirst for knowledge has been fully quelled by meeting Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I can say that I have always been looking for Him, since the tender years of my

life, though I did not then know of His existence. In fact, the greatest regret of my life has been to have spent many years without knowing Him. But, God's Grace comes when deserved. "Sai Baba's divine presence is surely the biggest event to have occurred in the Cosmos for the past few thousand years, and I am happy to have sacrificed my career, my reputation and my own life for this cause. This event leads me to emphasise even more the sense of gratitude that I feel towards my parents, who I can now see, and who have been spared by the infinite Divine Compassion the great pain of seeing their priest son being rejected and condemned by the institute which had once received him and made him a minister".

"That which a human sentence has taken away from me is by far smaller than what I have gained by knowing Sai Baba and by dedicating to Him my energies. I am sorry if someone may have been hurt by this faith of mine. I humbly ask forgiveness from all those who may have been scandalised by my words or behaviour".

"But, my dear ones, who are now reading this, if you still have not understood the great value that is shining under your eyes, hurry to discover it, for, even an Avatar's time has its limit, and once the chance is lost, is lost forever".

"Encountering the Divine Person of Sai Baba has meant for me the understanding scriptures, and all religions. Do not think that I have lost my faith in and love for Jesus: now I love Him even more than before, as I love Buddha, Krishna, Ramakrishna, Ramana Maharshi,

etc., and, naturally, Sai Baba, above all".

"Those who have condemned me as an "infidel", have not understood that my efforts in life have not consisted of being faithful to one religion rather than another, but to the sole Force conveyed by all: the truth of Love".

"If ever you wish to make me happy, you still can: be full of joy when you bid me farewell, because your joy will speed up my journey towards the Light. Celebrate this day as a feast, not as a gloomy and sad one you would rather forget soon. If you send me your joy, I guarantee that you will feel an even more intense one, as a reflection of your own feelings. Light increases with mirrors, whilst darkness hides even the mirrors".

"Have all the Love that God showers on you, and be happy, as I was whilst living and as I am now even more".

Your brother, Mario

(This article was sent by Orsola Neri, and published in the Hatfield Centre, UK, monthly magazine, in Nov. 2001)

Living with God is the True Education. Living for God is the True Devotion. Living in God is the True Personality. - BABA

ILLNESS

"Hurry, Worry and Curry (food) causes ailments of the heart." -BABA

John Hislop once recalled Swami stating, "It is a man's mind that is

really responsible for his illness or health. So, when it comes to healing or curing, the necessary faith has to be created within his mind for the purpose. All I do is invest him with confidence, the Will Power, to cure himself. It is my abounding Love, reciprocated by the intensity of the devotee's Faith in Me that produces the desired result."

"Illness is caused more by malnutrition of the mind than of the body. Doctors often speak of vitamin deficiency; I will call it the deficiency of vitamin 'G', and I will recommend the repetition of the name of God. That is vitamin 'G'! That is the medicine; regulated life and habits are two-thirds of the treatment, while the medicine is just one-third only. Fear is the biggest cause of illness."

"In more serious matters, it is best that prayer be made to Swami." J. Hislop said. "This is important. Vibhuti may or may not be used, but there should be prayer."

The end of knowledge is love. The end of education is character.

-BABA

Will there be a nuclear holocaust?

...Swami was asked by a visitor. Swami replied, "No, not nuclear," adding that there will be wars and very dangerous situations, but no nuclear holocaust.

Sai Baba confirmed that there will be, "minor adjustments to the planet, physical repercussions, owing to

man's selfishness and certain clear-out."

"Man's inhumanity to man - and to the animal kingdom - expresses itself in the form of catastrophes, like earthquakes. The harm that is done to Dharma (right living, righteousness) or to those practising Dharma, can cause incalculable harm to a country. Today, the main ills from which most countries suffer could be traced to the assaults on Dharma or righteousness, by rulers, as well as the people."

He continued, "The calamity that has come upon mankind will be averted."

Also, "What I will must take place. It is not in the nature of Avatars to fail! Man is ill. Man is resorting to remedies that cannot cure. People admire the phenomenal advance of science. But the advance has been from fear to greater fear, from destruction to more destruction. The scientist cannot stop the rise of greed and hate in the human heart. He can only forge the weapons they require and improve their lethal efficiency. Man lives in daily dread of extinction as a result of discoveries of science, for at any moment, the storm of hate may rain bombs on their homes. Science has deprived man of self confidence. He is not sure even of himself. He is afraid of himself for, at the slightest provocation, he is transformed into a wild and vicious beast." Swami goes on to state, "May all of you realise that Love is God. Love is God and God can be approached, adored and attained only through Love. Love unites and establishes harmony, concord and peace. Hatred divides, distorts and destroys. What the

world needs today to save itself is unity based on this most spiritual of virtue - Love. Conflicts arise when unity is ignored. Competition, domination and exploitation will disappear when unity is discovered and experienced."

"I am infinite, I am immeasurable, I am unique, I am incomparable. Equal to Myself, I am My own measure, witness and authority."

-BABA

Supreme Divine Power

In the words of C. Balasingham, (10 Mar. 1917 - 15 Jul. 2001), "The Supreme Divine Power is present everywhere, very much like gravity, as the invisible supporter and controller of the manifested universe. The various shrines are like substations connected to a vast power grid and we can tap into the Divine station. The nature and extent of the use of that power depends on the individual, his preparedness and state of development. Where the devotee prays to the Supreme earnestly in a particular form for a direct vision, God manifests Himself in that particular form".

"Thus the idea of a personal God is very convenient and helpful for the purposes of pointed, intense and total concentration on God in a particular name and form".

"In addition to transient manifestations of the Eternal Absolute for brief periods, we also have Avatars or manifestations lasting several years, when God walks the earth in human form."

Balasingham continues, "The Avatar is only a convenient focus for the operation of the Divine Power in a human and tangible way. There have been several Avatars in the past. Krishna, Christ, Buddha are really a few that come readily to mind. In our times, we have Divinity living and moving with us in human form as Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba."

He goes on to state, "When we say God or Divinity is walking the earth in human form, what exactly do we mean? We have seen that Absolute or Divinity is vast power-grid then Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba is a substation from which that power flows and operates in a visible form. The physical body of Bhagawan Baba is only an instrument through which Divine Power operates. The real Sai Baba is this Power and this is the one to which He refers when He uses the word "I". Baba Himself made a distinction between His body and His Power on Christmas Day, in 1970: 'My Body, like all other bodies, is a temporary habitation; but My Power is eternal, all-pervasive and ever dominate.'

"The relationship between the general Divine power and this substation needs elucidation. In the first place, there is no exclusiveness; there were, are and will continue to be, other substations through which this vast power of the Absolute operates. Lourdes, for example, continues to be a place where miraculous cures occur even after Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba started His miraculous cures. The difference is that in Lourdes there is no visible source, no tangible output through which the power operates. On the other hand, Sai Baba is a visible, moving, talking substation. Everyone

of us, according to Hindu philosophy, is a focal point of this Absolute consciousness. It may be asked what the difference between us and Sai Baba is? In Him the power flows out unhindered and with full force and power. In us that power is almost completely muted”.

“This is a good and plausible explanation of the manifestation of the Divine in human form. Since each one of us is the spark of the same eternal Absolute, the Divine power which is muffled and snuffed out in oneself on account of the veil of Maya and ignorance of the real self, has to be realised through constant and continual sadhana”.

“Sri Sathya Sai, like Krishna, is a full Avatar with all the sixteen Kalas. He is also the Avatar of Love and Truth, Who has come in order to light the lamp of Love and Truth, a light from above, perfect in the triumphant symbol of Love. Baba prescribes the way in which the Avatar can be used by mankind, - the way in which an Avatar is used for one’s liberation and uplift is, - watch His every step, observe His actions and activities, follow the guiding principle of which His life is an elaboration. Mark His love, His compassion, His wisdom; try to bring them into your own life.”

Mankind and God are one. –BABA

Swami on Education

In the following article, Swami makes a hard-hitting statement on education, that’s worth bringing into our own lives.

“Students of today must act. They must realise that the moral strength in them is being sapped by Western culture and education. Western culture is the culture of the Metropolis, where the multiplication of individual desires has led human beings to misery and unhappiness. The present education system does little for enrichment and spiritual enfoldment. It has merely brought society to the brink of disaster. We therefore require today students with broad minds, people of action capable of selfless service. Simple living and high thinking should be the ideal, not high living and low thinking, which seems to be the maxim of modern education.”

Education without character is a great danger. Earn by your efficiency and enthusiasm, the right to play higher and higher roles. That is the meaning and purpose of life. –BABA

Mystery of the Missing Yogi Giri
Naidu, XII Standard, Vidyagiri

The Navarathi festival had begun in P.N., and I was at Madras with no hope of witnessing the grand celebrations at Parthi. One night, Bhagavan appeared in my dream. The next night too, He repeated His order, “Leave for Parthi immediately.” I pleaded with Him, “Oh, Baba! How can I come to You when I am caught in the coils of never-ending troubles.” Baba replied, “Nonsense! Come immediately!” I was worried, how could I leave, when my mother and sister were critically ill, and I not

much better. The day passed while I was in a dilemma.

On the third night my Lord appeared, but this time as Sai Siva, and looked at poor me with angry eyes, and lashed and trashed me verbally for not obeying His Divine command. Once again He summoned me to Parthi, without regard to my tearful pleadings. I woke up in the morning dazed. I was unable to make up my mind. However, the thought of Bhagavan again coming in my dream made me tremble. I dared not keep my head on the pillow, fearing I would fall asleep and He might again appear in my dream and give me another sound verbal thrashing. Somehow I decided to leave for Parthi that very night.

That day Madras seemed to have incurred the wrath of India for it rained incessantly. With the help of our sympathetic neighbour, my ailing mother, sister and I boarded the night bus for Anantapur. We were to reach Anantapur at dawn. We spent the night miserably waiting for the glorious day to dawn. As the bus sped through the dark night, I pined to see the golden rays of the sun. The bus was nearing Anantapur when it came to a halt with a sudden jolt. There was a bridge that it had to cross which was heavily flooded. All was a scene of destruction! The bus took an hour to cross the flooded bridge with great difficulty. After we had crossed the bridge, we found a bus going to Puttaparthi trying to cross the bridge. Our bus conductor advised us to board that bus. We hurriedly brought our luggage down and boarded the Puttaparthi bus.

"There is no place, so get off the bus," the conductor rudely told us. I pleaded with him, but he took our luggage and threw it off the bus. But now we found the Anantapur bus had gone and was nowhere in sight. We were now stranded, but to my great surprise, the bus could not move, the engine refused to start. Half of its chassis was in the water and half on dry land. It could neither proceed forward nor go back. It refused to move an inch.

My mother and sister were on the verge of collapse. I stood beside the raging river while my mother sat lost in prayer or despair, I did not know. Broken logs of timber rolled and came dashing against the bridge. The corpse of a goat was caught in the swift current of swirling waters. The grim situation cast a gloomy spell on me.

Something said within me that the Lord is my host and why should I give myself away to despair and frustration. Then I felt the pressure of a hand on my back, and whirling around I saw, 'a white long robed yogi with a white beard and matted hair,' smiling at me. He said, "Son! You seem to be troubled. Tell me, it may be that I could help you." I told him the trouble we were in and he said, "Is that all? OK. How many persons are you?" I replied, "There are three of us." I saw him dig into the side pocket of his robe and take out three pink tickets, saying, "I don't need them, you can take them." As I boarded the bus, I felt a pat on my back, and looking around, it was the smiling yogi saying, "You go to Puttaparthi and I shall meet you there," then he walked away.

I showed the conductor the tickets the yogi gave me, "From where did you get them," he asked. I told him about the yogi and he got down from the bus to look for the yogi, but he was nowhere to be seen. The conductor seemed shaken as he climber back on the bus, and timidly got three seats vacated and offered them to us. As soon as we took our seats, the engine that refused to start for two hours, miraculously started all of a sudden and the bus moved towards its destination. The happy passengers shouted with joy and the air was rent with shouts of JAI SAI RAM! (Sanathana Sarathi - March 1984).

Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you, they belong not to you.

- Khalil Gibran

KERALA PADRE AT ROME
SYMPOSIUM

"Sanathana Sarathi", Jan. 1984

Padre Anthony was born a Catholic in Southern India. Educated at Oxford, he became a Dominican priest in Italy, and later associated with the Theosophical Society, the Mahabodhi Society, the Quakers, the Ramakrishna Mission, and Mahatma Gandhi. In 1962, Pope John offered him an archdiocese. Inspired by Gandhi's example, he turned it down and instead chose to work in the idealism and voluntary poverty of Jesus, Buddha, and other prophets

that he loved. He went to Bombay and started collecting destitute children from the slums and cared for them under a few trees. Today, this social work has grown into an educational complex run by Carmelite Sisters and Brothers.

At the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Symposium in Rome, Padre Anthony spoke on the religious unity of mankind. "Behind Catholicism, Buddhism, Islam, is the same thirst; to find fulfilment in the infinite by reconquering the paradise lost, namely, ineffable peace, impenetrable calm, unflinching serenity and ever growing cosmic love. God is not outside you, He is not up in the skies, nor is He in shrines. He is in the depths of your consciousness as your true, eternal self. Serving the same God in every human being is a practical religion."

In Padre Anthony's view, Sai Baba, Christ and Buddha would embrace each other if they were to meet on this earth. It is their "pseudo-followers who would fight and kill each other," for religion is often based on "vested interest, property and position." The real religion is based on a unifying force, one which cements human solidarity, breaks down barriers, and builds bridges between nations, cultures and systems of thought.

He lives in the spirit of Pope John I, who, after "wonderful experiences with the Sufis in Turkey," said to Padre Anthony: "What difference is there between the life of our St. Francis of Assisi and these Sufis?"

Gandhi also saw the unity behind various religious teachings. One day when he was writing, his grand-

daughter told him that his pencil was too small, but Gandhi refused to throw away even a pencil. He said, "I can still write with this. Did not Christ say, 'Collect the fragments lest they be wasted?'"

The core of universal understanding within all religions, the complementary aspects between Catholicism and the spiritual teachings of Sai Baba, is that each seeks "knowledge, love of God, and service of God in fellow creatures."

"I am recognised by the Buddhists as a good Buddhist," said Padre Anthony, who has a meditation centre in Assisi, Italy, "by the Hindus as a good Hindu, and by the Catholics as a good Catholic. Wherever there is truth that is my home."

Service is worship, each act of service is a flower placed at the feet of the Lord. If an act is tainted by ego, it is as if the flower is infused with insects. -BABA

A Wise 6-year Old Boy

I remember one day some years ago at the Ashram, I was sitting on the veranda of the Mandir as Swami was calling into His presence a number of boys who had just joined His elementary school. He was standing, perhaps three metres away from where I was sitting. I remember He asked each boy two things - his name and where he was from. Each of them stated his name and address in India. Each one seemed overjoyed to be in the presence of Swami but one little fellow, though smaller than the rest, had the brightest smile. He

gave his name readily and when Swami said, "Where are you from?" he replied, "From you, Swami". Then the Lord Sai smiled too. "Look," He said happily, "Here is one who knows he is from God." This boy could not have been much more than six, and here was I, in my sixties and still trying to understand and realise that I was from God - that indeed we all are. So we come from God, yet we are still an integral part of Him - the One Being. Furthermore, in our presence state of human consciousness, we are not aware of having any connection with Him; we are in a sense, like the prince in the story who was taken from his royal home by a band of robbers. He grew up with the robbers and believed that he was one of them; indeed he had no idea of his royal identity - not until many years later, when a turn of circumstances brought him back to his home, did he realise his identity.

Must we go back to our spiritual home before we realise who we are?

On the contrary, I think we must realise our identity before we can go back. We have come from God as the little boy stated, with which Swami agreed!

Never give up this Sai. Make the best use of the unique chance given to you. Once you lose the opportunity of serving the Lotus Feet of this Partheesa, you will not get it back. Sai grants you devotion, strength and liberation. Do not ruin yourself by diverting your attention to other things.

-BABA

Testing Times

The following are a number of instances when Swami saved His devotees from serious or fatal harm.

An Indian state official, and friend and follower of Gandhi, was driving along a narrow mountain road with his wife, when he had to swerve to avoid an oncoming car. Their car plunged over the side and fell several hundred feet. Before losing consciousness he heard his wife call out "Rama!" twice. When they regained consciousness, they were both unhurt but the car was a wreck! Months later, by chance, he came across a crowd gathering to hear Swami. An usher approached him to sit in the front row. When Swami appeared he came up to the man and said, "Ah! You have come. You must thank your wife for your life. If she hadn't called Me you would now be dead. I pulled you both out of the car and set you down on the ground unharmed, even though you didn't think of Me once. But I have saved your life many times before without you even knowing it."

As a student in London in the 1940 blitz, he had been ordered by an air raid warden to leave his room to get into a bomb shelter before the house had a direct hit. He assumed the warden had been killed! Swami was the warden!

Mr. S.N. Singh of Calcutta also had a clear example of Swami's omniscience. Swami said, "It so happened that the car he was travelling in was hit by another bigger car and there was a major accident. His car was completely smashed up and Mr. Singh did not know what had happened to him. He was sitting comfortably in the

middle of the road, but Swami's picture in the (materialised) ring was broken into tiny pieces. It took him about five minutes to reach his home after the accident, and when he arrived there, My telegram was already waiting for him. 'Be happy. I am with you. Do not worry about the accident. Baba.'

A lady called Tulasamma, was involved in a bus accident in 1974. The bus crashed through the side of a bridge and stood teetering on the edge of a ravine. She shouted out "Sai Krishna" and the bus remained on the edge while the passenger carefully alighted. Next day they went to Whitefield to thank Baba. "There, I heard that the previous day, in the middle of a conversation, Sri Sathya Sai Baba had fallen silent and then He had suddenly raised His hand in a forbidding gesture, indicating HALT!" It was the same time as her accident!

Mr. Penn was flying high when his petrol tank began to give problems. Swami appeared in the cockpit and not only located the defective part, but gave instructions on how to repair it.

Mrs. Padmanabhan was almost unconscious owing to a serious malfunctioning of the central heating in a flat in Sweden. When she called "Baba", He appeared, calmed her and turned the heat down.

"I am always with you!" He says.

Recognise and accept all religions as paths leading to the same destination. All of them teach love and compassion, humility and forbearance. - BABA

It is not a good quality to welcome pleasure and turn away pain. You must welcome sorrow in the same joyous spirit in which you greet happiness. Happiness has no value unless there is also sorrow. That is why it is said, "Pleasure is not secured from pleasure." Pain is needed to secure pleasure. Rama demonstrated to the world the truth of this concept. – BABA

Sai Q.&A.

Hislop: Is not praying to God the same as begging?

Baba: To beg from an equal puts you down and him up. But to ask God, you rise up to His level. You must ask God. To ask God is perfectly alright. It is not begging.

Hislop: But I had thought that since God knows each problem, that if it was appropriate to remedy the trouble God would do so without being asked.

Baba: Important answer! No. It is your duty to ask God. Words must be spoken, and the words must correspond to the thought. The thought must be put into sincere speech. It is correct that Divinity is Omniscience. But He requires that sincere words be spoken. The mother may know the child requires food to maintain life, but milk is given when the child asks for it.

Hislop: It is not clear when one should ask God and when one should not. For example, there is a headache that doctors seem unable to cure. I do not ask Swami to cure the headache; I do not pray for a cure. However, in a letter, Swami wrote:

"How is your health? Do not worry about that. Your God is always with you, in you, around you."

Baba: That is right. What Baba said is enough. For you, body identification is weakening. You have a headache today, a stomach pain tomorrow. Let it go. Don't worry about it. You are not the body. Once Baba has told you not to worry, there is no need to ask Him about it. Don't identify.

Hislop: Does Swami mean that for those persons still fully identify with the body, a continuous headache might be a proper subject for prayer?

Baba: Yes, but why bother Swami about a mere headache. You may tell others the same.

Jesus Indicated That God Would Come To Earth

A Roman Catholic couple from America happened to hear about Swami and decided to visit P.N. During the audience they saw the glorious form of Swami and they felt powerful spiritual waves being radiated to them. The man was overwhelmed by Swami's eyes, full of kindness, and heart replete with love. He was convinced that Jesus himself had come to earth in Sai's form and told his wife as much.

"What nonsense!" she said, "We are Catholics. It is not proper for you to say that this Hindu is Jesus himself. I do not agree with you at all on this." She remained somewhat aloof from Sai Baba. One day, Swami invited the couple into the interview room. The man was undoubtedly in great

exhilaration. His wife was somewhat cold and sat a little aside. As the interview drew to a close, the man asked Swami politely, "Swami, may I take a photograph?" Swami agreed and the gentleman took a few snaps with his camera. The film was developed and printed on their return home. What they saw was not Sathya Sai but the loving and compassionate figure of Jesus Christ! They were astonished. The woman felt extremely sorry that she could not recognise Jesus Christ when physically present in front of her in the form of Sri Sathya Sai. Needless to say, she became Swami's devotee from that moment.

A devotee asked Swami: "Jesus promised to come back again. Are you that Jesus?" Swami explained to him, "Jesus did not say that he would come back. What he actually said, that God who has sent him to earth Himself would come. He pointed to a sheep. The cry of a sheep sounds, 'Ba! Ba!' Jesus indicated that God would come to earth with that name. But his followers did not correctly comprehend what he had stated. It is I who sent Jesus to earth!"

"He Has Come"

This is the title of a book about Sathya Sai Baba, which I had published recently.

It was at least ten years ago when I finished writing it, and when I learnt that my friend Dr. Jal Fanibunda was going to visit P.N., I requested him to take the manuscript with him to see if he could present it to Swami for bless-

ing. This he did, and Swami carefully flipped through the pages and blessed it by signing, "With love, Baba".

And there it rested, until I came upon it again a few weeks ago. I decided to have it 'self-published', with Author House in the U.S. I have just received the initial copies and I am more than pleased with the result.

Anyone wishing to purchase copies may contact: Author House, UK. Ltd. 1663 Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN. 47403, U.S.A. (or www.authorhouse.co.uk), stating hardback £17.99 or softback £9.95.

All commissions acquired from the sale of this book by the publisher, I will present to Prasanthi Nilayam.

What the students have to protect today is not the nation. They have to safeguard truth and righteousness only. These two in turn will protect the nation. - BABA

The Assurance and the Fulfilment

(How Baba had prophesised His advent to Smt. Sharada Devi.)

One day I requested Baba (Shirdi Sai) to give me a Mantra Upadesh (spiritual initiation). Baba replied: "You are young yet. I will give you Upadesh when you are older." I waited till I was 29 years old and prayed to Baba again. He shouted at me in anger: "You are always obsessed with Upadesh," and kicked me on the chest with His right foot. With tears of dejection streaming down my face, I went and lay

beneath a tree. I must have slept after weeping for a long time. It must have been very late in the night when Baba came to wake me up. He asked me to follow Him to Lendi Garden. When we reached the Garden, He said, "My child, I could not sleep in Dwarka Mayi (the dilapidated Masjid and Baba's dwelling) when you were lying out there without food since morning. I have brought you here, for, I want to tell you something, but first you must eat."

When I ate and drank, He asked me: "Gori, Is your anger gone?" I replied in all humility, "There is no anger or frustration now. I was a fool not to realise that Your kick was in fact a sign of your Grace."

Baba then told me, "I will tell you something, but before that you should hold My feet and promise Me not to tell this to anyone".

With pounding heart and anticipating the much awaited Mantra-Upadesh, I did as He told me, "Gori, I will appear in Andhra with the same name of Sai Baba but in another Avatar (divine manifestation). Then again you will come to Me. I will keep you with Me and will give you joy."

I was ecstatic in joy and said, "I am blessed, my Lord. This is my greatest fortune." This conversation between us took place in 1917 AD. Later, I was informed that my ailing aunt wanted to see me at Rajamundry. It was when I was at Rajamundry in 1918 that I learnt that Baba had left His physical body. I was filled with inexplicable anguish.

One day, many years later, I was invited to sing a 'Hari Katha' in a

village called Uravakonda. In the house where this event was arranged, I happened to see on the wall a photograph of a handsome lad. He had a large crown of hair. The face and eyes were most charming and magnetic. I asked the housewife whose photo it was. She told me "Don't you know? He is Puttaparthi Sai Baba. If you want to see Him, I can take you to Him tomorrow."

Next day I was taken to the house of Mr. Seshama Raju, the elder brother of Baba. I then saw the young 14 year-old Baba. It was in 1940, I was fifty-two years old. The first words that Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba uttered were, "Gori, you owe Me sixteen rupees from My Shirdi Incarnation." I replied that I had already paid up all my debts to Shirdi Baba. He said, "I know. I said it because you are not able to realise Me. Alright, after completing all your tasks at the Poor Home you are running, go over to Puttaparthi. I shall retain you with Me and shall bestow all the joy you want."

For the next seventeen years, I used to visit Puttaparthi frequently and spend a few months every time in the Divine Presence of Baba. In 1958, when I was 70, I closed down the Poor Home and went over to Puttaparthi to spend the rest of my life there.

"Sathya Sai - The Avatar of Love".

Stay by Me and keep quiet. I will do the rest. - BABA

Finding Fault is the Greatest Himsa, the Greatest Violence. Swami says

that the scars from physical violence heal but the scars from verbal abuse linger, perhaps for years and sometimes for generations. We should therefore be careful with our choice of words. We should never use hurtful, critical words or find fault with others. Swami says even having a negative thought is violence.

Swami gave the example of a home in which the family members are not in harmony: the father is doing one thing; the mother is doing something different; and the son is doing something else. Each one is going a different way and unity is absent. Harmony will not come to such a home. Swami says that real joy comes from controlling the senses, not from transitory worldly pleasures like partying, drinking alcohol, and other indulgences. He says, "Bend the body, mend the senses, and end the mind." Swami cautions us, "Always be vigilant. Always be careful." Our negative tendencies - anger, jealousy, and greed - are deep rooted and lurk in our subconscious mind. We may think that we have controlled them but they are ever ready to return any time. So, we must be vigilant.

We should never hurt another being with words. The damage done by words is more powerful and more lasting than physical violence. There are several, who, despite chanting the Lord's name for several hours, days and months together, did not transform themselves even one bit. The demonic nature of Ravana, Bhasmasura and Kamsa did not diminish even a little, despite their chanting of the Lord's name. What is the reason for this? All their sense organs function with the feeling: "I am the body (Aham Dehosmi)."

Those who utter the name of the Lord while being immersed in Divine Consciousness cannot realise the Divine, however long their penance may last. You are the embodiment of Divine Consciousness. Only when you are pure, can you experience that consciousness.

Through attachment to worldly pleasures one gets bound to the physical and oblivious to one's essential Divinity.

Submitted by Dr K.S. Aravindakshan, Canada

You may not always oblige, but you can always speak obligingly.

- BABA

The Shirdi Link

The Raja of Chincholi was a very ardent devotee of Shirdi Baba and Baba used to spend a few months each year at Shirdi, Akalkot and other holy places in the company of Siddhas and sadhakas (holy men).

However, after the passing away of the Raja, the Rani (queen) was pleasantly surprised to hear of the incarnation of the Lord as Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi and she decided to visit the place.

She prayed to Bhagawan, Who was just fifteen years old at the time, to accompany her to Chincholi and Hyderabad. What a surprised it was for her when Baba arrived at the palace. He asked her about a Margosa tree that stood there when Shirdi Sai had visited them, a well that had been filled in, a line of shops

that had been newly built. Swami told her that He had seen the places years ago while 'in His previous body'!

Sathya Sai Baba asked her about a small stone image of Anjaneya which had been given to the Raja while in the previous body. The Rani did not know that it existed, however, Swami Himself, discovered it for her! He also said that there must also be found a picture of Sai Baba and that too was later discovered in the house.

Three years later, Rani had been rummaging the huge store-room at Chincholi for old brass, bronze or copper which she could sell and save space, when she came upon a brass 'Kamandalu', a drinking vessel used by Sadhus, whose shape was quaint and artistic. The water has to be poured through a slit in the handle and the spout ends in a cow's-head figurine!

Someone suggested that it could be polished and displayed as a decorative article in the drawing room of her Hyderabad House. The mystery of the Kamandalu deepened next day when they found a cobra coiled round it!

"Baba alone can solve the secret," she said to herself, while propitiating the cobra with the traditional Puja (worship).

She arrived at Puttaparthi on the first day of Dasara, and as soon as she entered the premises, Baba sent word, asking her to come up "with my drinking vessel"!

As soon as the Kamandalu was in His Hands, He showed some devotees standing nearby the letters inscribed

on the vessel in Devanagari characters, 'S A A' followed by a pair of short vertical lines, 'B A A' with the two lines again, 'S A A' indicating Sai, and 'B A A' for Baba!

Readers may wonder how the saint of Shirdi, Who, according to all accounts, never left Shirdi for years, could have gone to Chincholi and Hyderabad, and left a Kamandalu with the Raja. But devotees, who have seen and experienced the Avatar of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, will have no difficulty on this score. In fact, it is the honest belief of Rani, as well as some old servants of the Palace, that Sai Baba stayed a few days every time He came, and that He used to ride in a Tonga drawn by bullocks far out of the town, in order to have talks with the Raja who accompanied Him.

(This Tonga is now at Prasanthi Nilayam and is on display at the Chaitanya Jyothi Museum).

"Sathyam Shivam Sundaram" Vol-1, Prof. Kasturi.

Swami and His Divine Call
by Ranganath B

Swami is always everywhere around you, with you at all times. It is that we have to recognise Swami's Grace and Divine Presence.

I had been to Chennai with my young cousin brother and with nobody around, my cousin fell down hitting his head and bleeding profusely from a massive cut on the back of his head. He had suffered sunstroke as we were walking in the very hot sun for some time. I had a photo of Swami which I had bought while in

the Army in Chennai. I placed it in his hand and he opened his eyes. It was then that a Fiat car approached with the words AUM SAI RAM on the front. A young man got out and in a few minutes he was taking us to a clinic, ten minutes drive away. Our young friend told us that he was not supposed to take that route, but after attending Swami's Bhajan at a friend's house, he had forgotten his house keys and drove back. The keys were found at Swami's Lotus Feet, in the Pooja Room! He told me he always puts the house keys in his car and never takes them out. He told me that Swami had taken the keys to help us. This was Swami's Grace! My cousin is much better now!

Another incident was told to me by Dr. Sri Prasanth. He received a phone call, which started with the Divine Name Sai Ram, and told him that there would be an Emergency in a certain house a few kilometres from his Clinic. When the phone went dead he wondered how the person could predict an Emergency which would happen later. Sri Prasanth went to the house in the evening and rang the doorbell. There was a cry of someone falling down. The door was opened by an old lady who told the stunned doctor that her husband had suffered a stroke when the doorbell rang! An Emergency which was predicted!

Both these old people in the house were very old devotees of Swami. The old man is now well and recovering!

Swami's Grace, Love and Blessing work in different ways. He is always there with each one of us at all times. These two incidents prove that

wherever we are, Swami will always be there with us. SAI RAM.

From the Sanathana Dharma Magazine.
