

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

On the occasion of the Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference in Prasanthi Nilayam, Swami commented on the distress caused by George Bush (Sr.) and his son President G. W. Bush, to many women and children in Iraq and Iran, and all for the sake of oil! Everyone sat up at the mention of Iran, and wondered of an attack had been made against that country. It's always difficult to receive news in P.N., but later we ascertained that this had not -as yet- occurred. Was Swami viewing a future event, one that was yet to happen?

He materialised a large golden Shivalingam, and sprinkling Vibhuti over it and presenting it to Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and member of the Prasanthi Council, with instructions to pray and pour water over it every morning, and give the *abhisheka* water to the sick. Swami also said that it would grow in size, over time!

On the conclusion of the Conference, there was an excellent exhibition of material from all corners of the globe. Rosemary Marron covers this Education Conference, in the following article. *Ed.*

Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference

The monumental International Sai Education Conference was held in Prasanthi Nilayam from 20th - 22nd July. Five delegates from Ireland attended, including Patrick Gallivan, Rosemary Marron, Jacinta O'Hara, John and Fionnuala O'Dowd. Approx. 2,000 international delegates, together with delegates from the Sathya Sai University, Sri Sathya Sai International Centre of Human Values in New Delhi, Sathya Sai Institute Mumbai, and various Sai Schools in India, were also present.

The theme of the Conference was based on Bhagavan's principles of Authenticity, Accountability and Service. The main delight of the Conference was that our

Beloved Bhagawan gave His Divine discourse on each of the three days of the Conference. These discourses may be downloaded from www.sathyasai.org.

Delegates were issued with a booklet containing 27 discourses on the theme of Educare and this book may also be downloaded from this site.

Four key workshops took place. They covered:

1/ Sathya Sai Institutes, 2/ Sathya Sai Education in Human Values, 3/ Sathya Sai Schools, 4/ Standards & Accreditation for Sathya Sai Schools. The SSEHV workshop was for countries that do not have an Institute. There was also a panel of members of the International Education Comm-ittee/SSSWF who answered questions that were submitted from each country 'in advance' of the WEC. I heard two questions that were submitted from Ireland being read out and answered at the second workshop on Institutes.

The main message in SSE as outlined by Dr. Jumsai is that everything in our life is to be brought to the heart for examination and approval before action, i.e., unity of thought, word and deed, or 3HV.

Bhagawan graciously allowed a number of dramas depicting various divine scenes. In addition there were a number of musical programmes including the Sai Symphony Orchestra, bhajans from Russia, Austrian & Italian groups.

On the evening of the 21st July, following the Russian bhajans, Bhagawan materialised a gold Lingam, much to the delight of all present. On the 22nd He bathed this Lingam in water and then materialised Vibhuti which He poured over it. Bhagawan then announced that He was giving this Lingam to Dr. Goldstein and that it was to be used for healing. He also said that it would increase in size each day. This was truly an amazing sight!

A major part of the Conference was the SSE International Exhibition that was held in the Poornachandra Hall. The main

exhibits included Sai Institutes, SSE or Bal Vikas programmes, SSEHV, quotations from Bhagawan, children's art & craft work on the Five Values, together with samples of several resource materials.

In addition, a film was running on a large screen along with various DVD's on wide screens at a number of locations in the hall.

SSEHV in Ireland was very well presented at this Exhibition. We had:

- * two panels on the Institute depicting information, photos & one testimonial.
- * one panel on SSEHV depicting information, photo and three testimonials.
- * artwork from children in Scoil Padraig Naofa, Louisburgh (four-A4 pictures)
- * 26 slide PowerPoint presentation. This presentation outlined the development of SSEHV in Ireland. In addition to information, it also included photos of SSEHV training in Wicklow, Boyle & Louisburgh, together with photos of SSEHV conferences in Dublin and testimonials from the writer, and three primary schools. This was included with other PP presentations from Europe and was played repeatedly using loop facility.
- * In addition a panel identifying all countries that held SSS Pre World Conferences identified 'Ireland' as having undergone this process.

Information was presented on a series of 'panels' (large posters), the quality and standard of which was excellent. I took photos of these panels that were approx. 7 feet in height and 3 feet in width. I am happy to email to anyone who may be interested. In addition, samples of these panels are available on website www.sathyasai.org. One of the Irish panels is on file 'Europe Institute Ireland'.

I am happy to supply content of each panel for your perusal.

This Exhibition was officially opened by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, on the morning of the 20th July. He spent time

visiting each section of the Exhibition and stayed for approx. one hour in the Hall.

This is reported in the July edition of *Sanathana Sarathi*.

After the Conference, this Exhibition was taken to the Sathya Sai Institute in Mumbai and from there to the Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Human Values, in Delhi, where the contents are being displayed.

I am delighted to report that this is the first major exhibition from Ireland to appear in Prasanthi and trust that it is just the beginning!

Our thanks and appreciation goes to Dr. Tom Scovill, USA, and the students at Prasanthi Nilayam for all their excellent work in organising and presenting this Exhibition.

During the Conference, flags from each country represented were flying in the Sai Kulwant Hall. For the first time the Irish flag was flying there, thanks to the efforts of our Chairman and Central Coordinator.

Following the Conference, Dr. Goldstein requested that all countries respond to the SSE Guidelines that have been issued. Copies of these documents have been given to the Irish delegates and to the other members of the SSEHV Working Group. I trust that we will have a creative, constructive, informative and detailed response to submit to Ishver Patel, Central Coordinator, U.K. and Ireland.

*Rosemary Marron,
Director ISSEI.*

Obituaries

Those who knew him, will be saddened to learn of Michael Poynder's passing, in the Super Speciality Hospital, in Puttaparthi. His well-received first book, "*Pi In The Sky*", was blessed by Swami and later published in 1992.

On the occasion of our first meeting in the early 1990's, I well remember his cry, "I want peace!" I'm sure he has now found the peace that he had for so long sought. He left instructions that his ashes be brought back to Ireland.

Also, our deepest sympathies go to Derek O'Neill on the recent sad, and unexpected, passing of his dear wife Linda, after a short illness

We pray, now, that both Linda and Michael have merged with our beloved Lord, Sathya Sai Baba.

And to both we say, 'Sai Ram'.

You are all in slumber; I have come to wake you up. -BABA.

His Mission and Us

"I would want everyone to become shareholders of My Divine power and universal energy. I have to work through them, raise the in-dwelling God in them and evolve them to a higher reality.

"If I cure everything instantly and if the Avatar brings all the calamities to an immediate end, which I can do, and do, when there is a great need, the whole drama of creation with its karmic universal law, will collapse. Remember, these calamities occur not because of what God has made of man but really because of what man has made of man.

"Therefore, man has to be unmade and remade with his ego destroyed. Those who want to secure pearls from the sea have to dive deep to fetch them. It does not help them to dabble among the shallow waves near the shore and say that the sea has no pearls and all stories about them are false.

"Likewise, if a person wants to secure the love and grace of this Avatar, he must also dive deep and get submerged in Me.

"The only way to incarnate the God within man is that the Avatar takes the human form and behaves in a human way so that humanity can feel friendship with Divinity. At the same time He rises to godly heights so that mankind also can aspire to reach God.

"All of us have something of God, the Divine spark, within us. All are Divine like Me. The only difference is that they are unaware of this Godhood. They have come into this karmic prison through mistakes of many lives while I have taken

this mortal form out of My own free will!!!

The Triple Avatar To Achieve This Mission...as told by BABA.

1. *SHIRDI SAI BABA laid the base for secular integration.*

2. *The mission of SATHYA SAI BABA is to make everybody realise that the same God or Divinity resides in everyone.*

3. *PREMA SAI BABA the 3rd Avatar will promote that not only does God reside in everybody, but everybody is God. That will be the final wisdom which will enable every man and woman to go to God.*

Hence what does Swami expect from you?

"You have so many sittings for your body during the day: coffee, breakfast, lunch, tea, snacks and dinner! But to attain permanent bliss, wouldn't you like to give Me at least one sitting? Without that how can I give you Grace?

"Continue the worship of your choice of God or Goddess or Guru or Saint. It'll reach Me only for all names and forms are mine. If you're not able to See Swami in everyone, then everything else is futile! All are playing a role in this glorious

Each one wants to find the way to God, yet no one attempts ask Him, even once.

-BABA.

The Miracle Man In Chile

In the capital of Chile, Santiago, on a T.V. programme, an uneducated Indian medicine man (shaman or curandero) spoke of miracle cures. He was asked what he cured and replied, "Everything!"

Later he was asked, "How do you cure?" but the 'miracle man' couldn't explain, simply saying, "In reality, it is not me who cures."

The questioner asked, "If it isn't you, who is it then?" The man just shook his head and the programme ended.

The following week the 'medicine man' returned with a friend who had just returned from a trip to India, and was sitting in *darshan* when a sevadal asked

for him by name, saying, “Swami wants to talk to you.”

Upon entering the interview room, Swami smiled at him and asked if he knew the ‘miracle man’, giving his complete name. “Oh, yes!” the friend replied, whereupon Swami gave him a small envelop that was to be given to the ‘medicine man’.

Returning to Chile and presenting the ‘medicine man’ with the envelop, the latter said, “I do not know anyone in India.” but upon opening the envelop, and seeing Swami’s photo, he exclaimed, “Oh, He is the one who cures my patients. What is His name?”

Swami has sent the photo just in time to help the ‘medicine man’ with his T.V. interview. Such is Swami’s love!

Don’t think that by coming to Puttaparthi, you are going to be very happy. You will, in fact, be very disturbed, but if you secure your victory here, you can go to any part of the world and nothing will ever disturb you. -BABA.

The Divine Doctor

Swami approached an aged man at *darshan* and the man exclaimed, “Baba, daughter-in-law not well. She is pregnant and doctors are saying one of the two will survive. Please save her and the child.”

Swami replied, “*Not one -two are there. Don’t worry, Baba will save all.*” The man left with full faith, leaving all his worries at Baba’s feet.

The following day, Swami gave a dream to both the man’s son and the man’s daughter-in-law. He said, “*Don’t worry. Baba has taken up your case. Your operation will be done, but don’t go to any hospital.*”

Both the wife and husband thanked Swami for His Grace and placed a letter, the following morning, at His photograph and agreeing to follow His command.

The following evening Swami appeared again in the mother-to-be’s dream, dressed as a doctor and materialised all

the surgical instruments and proceeded to operate on her, speaking all the time, “*Now I will start the operation and the child is going to be delivered,*” and so on.

Having completed the operation, Swami showed her both the children in the dream, snapped His fingers and said, “*Delivery is over. Now get up.*”

The mother woke up and found the two cute twins by her side and a letter in one of the child’s hand, in which Swami suggested the names of the children and ended by signing it,

“With love, Sai Baba.

Develop truth and love, and then you need not even pray to Me to grant you this and that. Everything will be added unto you, unasked.

-BABA.

“Just be there. Stay.”

“We are not human beings going through a temporary spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings going through a temporary human experience.”

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside, “Your son is here,” she said to the old man.

She had to repeat the words several times before the patient’s eyes opened. Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man’s limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man’s hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her, and of the noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night-

staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients.

Now and then she heard him say a few gently words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked. The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son and his son just wasn't here. When I realised that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed."

The next time someone needs you...just be there. Stay! -Author unknown-

Tread the path of righteousness and not a hair of your body will ever be injured. -BABA.

"The Body is the Temple of the Divine"

Swami has stated the following interesting comment; "*All are equal in Birth and Death. Difficulties arise only during the interval. Each and everyone are the same. The duration of life is under the control of Him Who gave life, the Creator. It does not depend on the calories of food consumed. The body is the temple of God, as the Atma resides in it. Hence it is the duty of man to keep it clean and in good condition.*"

The Bolivian Miracles

"It was the year 1989", said Mrs. Maria Teresa Doria, whose daughter, Karina,

was going to lose her sight permanently. Many ophthalmologists had examined her, explaining how the pigmentation in the retina was not normal, and how there was a progressive deterioration of the optic nerve.

While one of her eyes was no longer responding and the other was deteriorating fast, I somehow was not willing to accept the stark prognosis. One of the doctors recommended that 17-year old Karina be inscribed in the Institute for the Blind, so that she could learn Braille. To me, it was totally unacceptable.

Then, one day on the TV, I heard a discussion on spiritual gurus where there was a mention of Sathya Sai Baba. They showed a picture of Sai Baba, too, and He looked so brilliant and beautiful. When they started talking about His miracles, I was even more enthralled. During this time, I was attending a conference on health.

Once there, I bought a few books about Sai Baba and also got some Vibuthi. Every night I started applying this Vibuthi over Karina's eyelids and to my amazement and joy, she started getting better every passing day. One night Karina even had a dream where she saw Swami. Our house at this time was pervaded with a smell of jasmine. Swami's Grace was mysteriously percolating our lives.

Later, when I took her for a medical check-up, the ophthalmologist was amazed at the regeneration of the optic nerves. "She is normal," said not one, but all three doctors who examined her. I knew Swami had completely cured Karina. I needed no more confirmation of His Divinity.

Hundreds of miracles like this instilled devotion and installed Sai in the hearts of Bolivians. Sr. Javier, a long-standing devotee, said, "In the year 1990, we were invited to visit a group of people who were studying *metaphysics*. Mr. Gustavo Mendez spoke to them about the miracle of Vibuthi which could cure just about

anything. People wanted a sample of Vibuthi and no one seemed to have any!

“I remember that I had a small amount in a plastic bag in my pocket, but it was enough for only 4 or 5 people. But over 80 people lined up to receive a sample! Each one took a small piece of paper to keep the Vibuthi safe, and Mrs. Anita Ardaya started giving out a spoonful to each one!!!

“And she kept giving spoonfuls not just to 3 or 4 but all the 80 received their generous samples, and when Anita returned the bag to me, I was completely dumfounded. The bag had the same amount of Vibuthi as was there previous to the distribution!

“The hair on my arms literally stood on ends!” she exclaimed.

Every devotee must cultivate love and compassion. It is said that it is only by sacrifice that one can attain immortality. It is only a person with the quality of sacrifice can experience bliss. -BABA.

Kali Age

During a discourse in the Sai Hospital, in Whitefield on 3rd June 1995, Swami stated the following;

“With the influence of the Kali Age, man is a prey to all kinds of ailments and has no peace of mind despite the possession of every conceivable kind of wealth and comforts. There is no dearth of doctors. In spite of the availability of so many amenities, why is man afflicted with disease? Indeed, more than physical ailments, mental diseases are growing limitlessly. Mental sickness caused by tension and worry gives us so many bodily ailments. Man today is afflicted with discontent. As one set of desires are satisfied, other desires go on cropping up. If desires are reduced, contentment will grow.”

Any act of hatred or violence committed by you will pollute the

atmosphere of the world. Adore any living being; the adoration reaches God, for He is in every being. Insult any living being; the insult too reaches God. So, expand love towards all, everywhere. -BABA.

A Promised Visit Fulfilled

Swami narrated an experience which occurred 30 years ago.

A devotee visited Swami and prayed that He would come to his home for a ‘house-warming’ ceremony. Swami agreed and fixed a date saying, *“I’ll be there on that day at 9.00 a.m.”*

Preparations were made in the devotee’s home for the visit, despite the rain and a cyclone that hit East Godavari. People watched the waters rise while their hearts sank! However, they were comforted by what Swami used to say, *“There may be people who suffer because they do not have Faith, but there is no one who will be let down if he has Faith”*.

The bridge over the Godavari had to be closed by the authorities, so no transportation was allowed to cross the river. Swami had to give the authorities an assurance that He was taking the journey at His own risk!

“Nothing will happen to anyone who is with Me”, Swami wrote of the occasion later.

A small boat was procured to ferry Swami, with others, to the other side, but it required them to go under the bridge - which had a very shallow clearance - to reach the shore.

People lined the riverbank of the swollen river to see what would happen.

Swami instructed the people in the boat to, *“Close your eyes. Do not watch what will happen”*. In a fraction of a second the boat suddenly disappeared and reappeared on the other side of the bridge!

As promised, Swami reached the house at exactly 9.00 a.m.!

**“A devotee,
filled with the love of the Lord,**
welcomes what may appear as punishing
as something intended for his good - even
when the Lord appears to be angry, His
compassion is evident. Even in
punishment God’s kindness will be seen.
Hence, no one should cherish grievance
that he or she has been singled out for
punishment. Even punishment is a means
of leading one to God. The display of
anger is for safeguarding the devotee.
The true devotee is one who recognised
this truth and welcomes whatever
happens to him as intended for his good.”
-BABA.

**BABA APPEARS WITH BLUE
COMPLEXION, LIKE KRISHNA.**

On the occasion when Hislop was travelling on a journey with Swami in His car, Hislop turned to speak to Swami, who was seated on the back seat with two others, only to see His complexion was blue like Krishna’s. When asked about it, Swami replied, *“Whichever is beyond measure, like the sky and ocean, they are blue in colour.”*

Swami’s Mission and Us

Sri Sathya Sai Baba, has referred to His Mission in this world, on many occasions.

“I would want everyone to become shareholders of My Divine power and universal energy. I have to work through them, raise the in-dwelling God in them and evolve them to a higher reality.

“If I cure everything instantly and if the Avatar brings all the calamities to an immediate end, which I can do, and do, when there is a great need, the whole drama of creation with its karmic universal law, will collapse. Remember, these calamities occur not because of what God has made of man, but really because of what man has made of man!

“Therefore, man has to be unmade and remade with his ego destroyed. Those who want to secure pearls from the sea have to dive deep to fetch them. It does

not help them to dabble among the shallow waves near the shore and say that the sea has no pearls and all stories about them are false.

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“The only way to incarnate the God within man is that the Avatar takes the human form and behaves in a human way so that humanity can feel friendship with Divinity. At the same time he rises to godly heights so that mankind also can aspire to reach God.

“All of us have something of God, the Divine spark within us. All are Divine like Me. The only difference is that they are unaware of this Godhood. They have come into this karmic prison through the mistakes of many lives while I have taken this mortal form out of My own free will!”

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1. Shirdi Sai Baba laid the base for secular integration.
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That will be the final wisdom which will enable every man and woman to go to God.

Hence What Does Swami Expect From You?

“You have so many sittings for your body during the day: coffee, breakfast, lunch, tea, snacks and dinner! But to attain permanent bliss, wouldn’t you like to give Me at least one sitting? Without that, how can I give you Grace?

“Continue the worship of your choice of God or Goddess or Guru or Saint. It’ll reach Me only for all names and forms are mine. If you’re not able to See Swami In Everyone, then everything else is futile! All are playing in this glorious Mission.”

Someone once asked: “Swami, you say one should not hurt and kill animals.

Suppose a cobra comes to bite. Can one kill it?"

Swami replied, *"If you think it is coming to bite you, you could kill it, but if you believe that Swami resides in that cobra also, you should not kill it."*

"But Swami," said the other person, "The cobra would bite!"

"No," replied Swami. *"If you really believe that Swami is present also in that cobra, it will not bite! Practice to see God in all!"*

Why are you so scared of the struggle? This is wrong. When I give you the challenge, I also give you the strength and wisdom to face it. You should say, "Swami, test me as much as You want, but give me victory." When you are fighting a battle, what do you ask for? Do you say I want a gun, a sword and so on? You just say, I want victory! Therefore, ask for that peace. -BABA.

From Hungary with Love!

"No day passed without some haggling between me and my parents," said Laszlo Daloki, a 46 year old Hungarian. "I used to run away from home trying to find space to hide. My father was an aggressive person and would not mind even hurting me physically."

Laszlo underwent many surgeries, but on one occasion a surgeon made the error of cutting nerves to both hearing organs. He became completely deaf. That was in 1991.

Depressed and angry, he attempted suicide. He lost his friends, nothing interested him any more. He became useless. His anger disrupter whatever harmony therewas at home. He had no friends he could confide in for help.

He tried a counselor, who said he should try to identify the root cause of the problem and suggested he went to a Sathya Sai Baba centre! Later, he learnt that a group from Hungary had gone on a pilgrimage to see Sai Baba, and their lives

improved considerably after receiving His Blessing.

He learnt, also, that another group was preparing to go to Prasanthi on Jan. 3rd 2006. He found a job that paid enough money to buy a ticket and join the group.

The Hungarian group were fortunate to get an interview with Swami, and Laszlo was blessed to be sitting next to Swami, Who asked his name, and holding his hand produced Vibhuti. Laszlo was told to put it in his ears for a few days and that everything would be alright!!

Swami was speaking to him through a translator who spoke loudly. "I could not hear Sai Baba's voice due to the deafness but as the translation went on, I could feel what Swami was saying," said Laszlo. He placed the Vibhuthi in his ears and the following morning, without his hearing aid, "I could hear everything clearly!" he said.

"After returning home, my life took a U-turn. Everything around me became better, -in my family life, relationships with people and my financial position. My whole experience of life was enhanced. The doctors, who performed the failed operation, had told me I could not possibly hear again, as the damage was too much to repair."

When people asked how he got his hearing back, he told them that God gave it back to him, and related his experience with Sai Baba.

"My first doctor believed me, but as a professor of medicine, he was unable to understand or explain the incident. Some doctors wanted to examine and investigate the Vibhuti, thinking it was a new medicinal cure!"

Troubles and difficulties are part and parcel of human life. They are the results of your karmas. There is no point in praying to God to wipe away all such troubles and difficulties. The right type if prayer would be to ask God for courage and strength to bear all the difficulties, problems and tragedy with equanimity. -BABA.

Swami Teaches Us Simple Things In Beautiful Ways...

by Mrs. Geeta Ram.

When I was a young girl in Brindavan we were given some jobs, as there was no *Sevadal* gardener and cook. Everything was done by us. So my job was to set up the altar in Swami's bungalow and I used to come only once a week since I had school on other days. One particular weekend I did not want to go because Ms. Subbulakshmi (a very famous classical vocalist) was giving a concert in Bangalore. Swami is always there, but Ms. comes only once in a while.

But my parents were very strict and committed to Swami. They said, "Once you are committed to Swami you should do the work." Then I said, "Why can't you do it for today?" My parents replied that I should have informed Swami last week. Then I requested for half the concert, and mother said that we can come back after Swami's *Bhajan*.

I grumbled, "Swami sits and goes on answering questions after *Bhajans* and He will take an hour."

Everyone was doing their job but I had a long face. Swami was moving around the house and He looked at me saying, "*Hey 'castor oil face', what is wrong with you. Why are you banging My pictures? What happened, an argument with mother?*"

"Swami, today there is a concert by Ms. Subbulakshmi, in Bangalore."

Then Swami said, "*She is a great singer, isn't she? Then why did you not go?*"

"Swami, my mother told me I have to do my duty first."

Swami replied, "*She could have cleaned the altar. At least she should have done that much. OK, you can go a little late, but if I start speaking after Bhajans then you will be late.*"

So, Swami was speaking of all that, and I had told my mother!!!

Then Swami said, "*Today I will not speak after Bhajans - you all go for the programme.*" I was thrilled.

Bhajans started and Swami was also singing. After some time Swami asked everybody to wait and that He would come back. Five minutes later, Swami walked with Ms. Subbulakshmi!!

We were all shocked and Swami said, "*Subbulakshmi, didn't you have a concert today in Bangalore?*"

"No, Swami," she replied. "There was a misprint in the newspaper. It's tomorrow"

Swami told her, "*See that young girl sitting there; she loves your music so much.*"

He then gave her a list of songs that I like and asked her to sing those songs. She was a very good devotee of Swami and with all devotion she gave a private concert to the Lord. Then Swami called me and said, "*See when you do your duty, God will reward you in more ways than you expect. You heard the concert today; you can go to the concert tomorrow as well!*"

All are God. You too are God, above and beyond the past, present and future. You are not the body which is tied up with time and which is caught in the coils of was, is and will be. Be ever fixed in the attitude that you are of the nature of *Parabrahman* (God); dwell constantly in this thought. Thus you can become a *Jnani* (person of wisdom) -BABA.

"The Circle of Love"

by Mrs. Usha Ranganthan

On a visit to the U.S., in 1984, I was a part of the 'Circle of Love'. My colleague, Ms. Albery, was perhaps the most unusual of my colleagues. She seldom spoke of herself. We knew her early life had been privileged, but that when she joined our company, she was lod and alone and impoverished, living in a shabby room with a few cherished

keepsakes. She met adversity bravely, but with a stern and haughty demeanour. I myself, tried hard, but I could not break through her reserve. I used to pray to Sai Baba that I would find a way to reach her, but she was too proud to let emotion show.

One lunch hour, in Dec. 1984, I was browsing in an antique shop, a favourite pastime. I seldom purchased anything, but this day was different. I spotted an enamel pencil in a silver case. It had a large "A" in its elaborate monogram and I felt an urge - almost a physical nudge - to buy it for my friend Albery.

"What is this?" she asked brusquely, when I handed her the tiny package. "Just a little Christmas something", I said apprehensively. When she opened the package and saw the silver case, her body tensed, and her eyes filled with tears.

"Usha," she said -never before had she used my first name. "How did you know?" "Know what?" I asked.

"This one belonged to me", she said. "Had to sell it years ago when I was hungry and desperate. It was given to me by someone I loved and now your kindness has brought it back".

I could see happiness beaming across Albery's face!

Everything in this world, visible or imperceptible, happens according to Divine Will. One need not pay heed to what others say when it comes to obeying God's command. You have to obey the Divine command in letter and spirit without adding any commas and full stops by yourself. Unfortunately, today nobody is making any effort to understand the mysteries of God's creation. Scientists boast of having unravelled the mysteries of creation, but they do not have true experience of the reality behind the phenomena. Each and every activity that takes place in this universe is full of wonder. When you observe carefully you will be able to perceive the unseen hand of God at work. -BABA.

Swami -at the heart of it all!

At a recent Cardiac conference held in the Super Specialities hospital, held in collaboration with the Indian Association of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons, some of the top surgeons in the world were giving live demonstrations.

Notably amongst them was Dr. Valluvan Jeevanandam, who has a special interest in treating patients traditionally considered inoperable. "He has repaired damaged hearts in several patients awaiting transplants, enabling those patients to forgo transplantation. He also has successfully performed transplants involving patients who do not fit the standard criteria for transplants.

"Dr. Jeevanandam is a pioneer in the field of mechanical circulatory assist devices. In October 2000, he was the first surgeon in the world to successfully implant the CardioVad, a revolutionary, permanent circulatory assist device that boosts heart function in patients with severe heart failure, who are not candidates for transplants. And most importantly he feels that the future of health-care is in the way Swami's hospitals function. In his words:

'After being given the privilege and honour of working at the SSSIHMS many times, my answer to all questions is unequivocal -not only is patient care absolutely superb, but this institution is unmatched by any other in the world. If my experiences are any indication, SSSIHMS is truly a Temple of Healing. Not only is there treatment for the patient, but there is also the 'Presence' of the Caregiver as well. Everyday now, I spiritually give His my patients and He takes care of them -I am an extension of His Hands and just do the duty that Swami has put me on this earth for.'

If you love God you will have fear of sin. Today people without fear of sin commit heinous acts. This contradicts the very nature of humans. The body is

a house given to you on rent. The owner is God. Jive there as long as He wills, thanking Him and paying Him the rent of faith and devotion. -BABA.

Spiritual Transformation

Transcript of talk by Sri Sanjay Sahani on
RadioSai.

A few years ago while addressing devotees in Brindavan, Swami said, *“I do not want your Bhakthi or devotion. I want your transformation.”*

That devotion which does not lead to transformation is no devotion at all. *“Why should we spiritually transform ourselves?”* Is it because Swami wants us to transform? Or is it because we must transform?

I wonder if you have ever seen a caterpillar walking on its little legs on a leaf. As a caterpillar evolves it grows into a beautiful butterfly, which hops from flower to flower, colourful, giving joy to everyone around. Have we ever asked ourselves, *“Why should a caterpillar give up its existence as a caterpillar and become a butterfly?”* Because its destiny is to be a butterfly! It is manifesting its own inherent nature when it transforms into a butterfly!

I recall another incident which happened when we were undergraduate students. Swami was explaining the difference between His expectations and the expectations of the parents. He said, *“Your parents expect that you study well, get good marks after your education is over, get a good job, a good wife, have good children and accimulate a lot of property. That is the expectation of your parents. My expectation is very different.”*

He said, *“Cultivate good thoughts: get a good name. That is My expectation from you.”*

One day, we were in Trayee Brindavan, Bhagavan’s residence in Bangalore. A student was sitting somewhere in front, knelt and got up to ask Swami something. Swami also went near him, *“What is the matter?”* And the boy said, *“Swami, I*

have got so many bad thoughts.” Swami replied, *“Bangaru, my dear one, this is the season! If in rainy season, you don’t get rain, when are you going to get rain? This is the season!!”*

And then He said, *“Do you think that you are the one and sole individual who is afflicted with bad thoughts,”* and He pointed to the entire student community and said, *“All are in the same boat, it is only a question of degree. Only you are uttering it with your lips and others are keeping mum.”*

Swami has said on other occasions, *“When you get that wrong thought, you know it is wrong! You know it is not good for you. What should you do? The bare minimum that we should do is to see that it doesn’t translate into action.”*

There used to be a devotee in the ashram at Brindavan, in Bangalore, who had a mental problem. And Bhagavan blessed the students, with the privilege and the opportunity to take care of this devotee. It was, in fact, one of the most sought after service activities in the campus. There were a few students who would do this service, in rotation and it so happened that during the summer, most of the students weren’t there, when Swami too was not in Brindavan, very few teachers were around and there was this student who was looking after this devotee and his welfare. Even the washer man of the ashram had disappeared. The student waited, 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks passed. There were 20 pairs of clothes collected over 20 days to be washed. This boy waited, the washer man was not around. He gave up and himself washed all the 20 pairs of that devotee unknown to anybody in the Hostel or in the Ashram.

A few weeks later, Swami returned to Brindavan, and suddenly He asked the Warden, *“Send the boys who take care of that devotee,”* and when the boys were with Swami, out of the blue, Swami pointed out to that boy and said, *“I know that the washer man was away and you personally washed 20 pairs of clothes*

belonging to him,” and then He blessed him and filled his hands with gifts!!

Every good little act you do, in the silence of the night, even if nobody around knows it, God knows and is willing to bless you and recognise you for your effort.

The mantra that we chant three times: ***Lokah Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu***, was changed this summer upon Swami’s direction.

Henceforth, we should now chant it as following: ***Samastha Lokah Sukhino Bhavanthu***, which means, “Let all the worlds be happy.” You can hear the college boys chant it on <www.sathyasai.org/files2008/080831SAMASTA_LOKA.mp3>

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