

Sept. Oct. 2009

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

Sai Ram. There was a warm welcome for Renu Gidoomal's first visit to Ireland, for a very special Satsang. She was accompanied by Ishver Patel, Coordinator for U.K. and Ireland. A large sprinkling of Sai devotees, from both the Irish and the Indian communities, were also present.

Music was in the air! Renu had the large attendance singing and clapping to the songs and Bhajans she played. Everybody entered into the spirit of the day and all agreed that the Satsang was the most enjoyable for a long time. There were many new faces -with one lady flying in from Scotland for the occasion.

Ishver gave an inspiring talk of his earlier visits to Swami and being blessed by the experiences.

Those who contributed to making the day a most pleasant one, are too many to mention individually. But they created a perfect setting for a truly Sai Satsang.

Renu's brother Chandra must be congratulated for the Prasad packs he had made up for everybody in the room. A most generous thought!

I think I'm safe in stating that everybody returned home with a happy heart and a renewed sense of connection with our Lord Sai.

We look forward to a returned trip from Renu and Ishver...and hopefully soon! Ed.

Within you is the mighty ocean of nectar divine. Seek it within you. Feel it. Feel it. It is here, the Self. It is not the body, the mind, the intellect, the brain...Above all these you are...You appear as the twinkling stars. What is there in the world which can make you desire anything? -BABA.

'Donations'

In a recent communication from Dr. Michael Goldstein, he stated; "Sai Ram!

It has come to our attention that emails are being sent to Sai Centres everywhere with false and malicious information

accompanied by illegal appeals for donations. The emails state that there is terrorism taking place in Puttaparthi and that people should send money to them to protect the ashram from this terrorism. There is no basis for their appeals for money. Please disregard these spurious emails.

Loving in Sai, *MichaelGoldstein.*

I am neither Guru nor God. I am You; You are I; that is the Truth. There is no distinction. The appearance of differences is the delusion. You are the waves; I am the ocean. Know this and be free, be Divine. -BABA.

Sai -The Charioteer of our Lives.

The surgeon finally told him, "Sir, miracles do happen. We hope such a miracle would happen to you."

Dr. Y.S. Thathachari, a dedicated biophysicist who had worked for some years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and after that at Stanford University and the University of California, suffered in 1960, 'aggressively malignant and metastasizing tumors in the skull, the neck, the ribs and the hips, the cancer having the features of both Ewing's and Reticulum Cell Sarcoma.' It was a death sentence enveloped in medical abracadabra!

Prof. Kasturi reports it in 'Sathyam Shivam Sundaram', and what the surgeon finally told him. Returning to Madras (now Chennai) the doctors there pronounced that even the liver was effected with cancer.

Tathachari said, "In 1965, I felt like seeking the blessing of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, following a chance reference by a friend. Baba blessed me and my wife, and directed us to go back to Stanford, continue the Endoxan, if I wished to do so.

"In 1970, when I approached Him again, He asked me to discontinue all drugs and dietary supplements. He gave me an assurance of cure and dispelled that ever-present dread of occurrence."

Thathachari later pursued his teaching assignment and research projects in America

with undiminished zeal. The 'miracle' had indeed happened.

The reason we quote this particular incident, though there are innumerable of such 'divine graces' happening anytime all over the world, is to bring to attention a few powerful and profound words that Bhagavan wrote to him many years later.

"Busy yourself with the duties which are entrusted to you, in good spirit and fine health. Sai is ever by your side. He is the charioteer of the vehicle of your life. The ship of life, however heavily loaded with the cargo of joys and sorrows, can certainly arrive at the harbour of selfrealisation, if it is propelled by holy mental energy. Repetition of the Name is the 'dug-dug-dug' of the pistons; the steering wheel is love; the anchor is faith. Continue the journey in confidence. Sai is always guarding you from harm and pain...Swami is constantly showering His compassion on you. He counsels you from within and corrects you. On your part, be immersed in the duties entrusted to you; remember, that is Swami's work. When you discharge your duties, convinced that the work is mine, health and happiness will be added unto you."

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in so many comforting sentences, conveyed how glorious one's life can be if He is made the Charioteer. It is these sweet and soothing words of the Lord, dripping in divine selfless love, which are His most potent weapon to induce man to pause, reflect, reform and then reestablish himself in peace. Written by the late Prof. Kasturi.

Love develops Divine power in you. There is nothing that love cannot conquer in this world. Sages perform penance in dense forests infested with wild animals. They did not possess any weapon for self-protection. The weapon that protects them is their intense love and yearning for God. They tame the wild beasts with their power of love and transform them into docile beings. You should not merely exist as a human being in form. Speak good, see good, do good and be good. Divinity will manifest

in you only when your conduct is good.
-BABA.

Why Go to Satsang?

A Satsang goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Satsang every Sunday.

"I've gone to Satsang for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 Satsangs. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the speakers are wasting theirs by giving Satsangs to us all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the Editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this, they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Satsang for nourishment, I would be Spiritually dead today! *Pritam N.C.*

My walking amongst you is a gift yearned for by the Gods of the Highest Heaven and here you are receiving this Grace. Be grateful. But also remember that to whom much is given - from him much will be demanded. -BABA.

Prophecy of Nostradamus...

According to the world famous prophecy-maker Nostradamus who recorded his prophecies in his book 'Centuries', some 400 years ago, a very great leader would be born in South India (land surrounded by the three seas). He would have unlimited wisdom and power, and He would be an immortal ruler. With His efforts, world wars would be over, and India's spiritual message to humanity would spread far and wide. He would observe Thursday as the Holy Day.

Revelations of Naadi...

Budha Naadi: The person to whom this horoscope relates will spend His whole life-time enjoying the bliss derived from uniting Jivatma with Paramatma. Agastya Naadi: He will be an all Merciful Avatar of God, Preceptor, Protector and Father of the world. Sukra Naadi: By Love, kindness and knowledge He will establish bliss in the World. He will establish a Mandir (Prasanthi Nilayam) which will be conducive for practising tapas, etc. He will be an Avatar amongst Avatars. He will derive immense joy in the service of mankind. Source: "Sathya Sai, The Almighty"

Sai has come in order to achieve the supreme task of uniting all of mankind as one family through the bond of brotherhood, establishing righteousness and teaching the principles of morality. - BABA.

Swami's Advice on Eating

"If you talk while taking food, the digestive system will be spoiled. Once the digestive system is spoiled, several diseases will confront you. Before partaking your food, pray to God silently keeping your eyes closed. Take your food in silence in a calm environment. Do not howl, talk or chit-chat, while taking food. Do not cry or laugh too. Do not entertain worry before or while taking food.

"These are some of the precautions to be taken to lead a happy life." -Baba, (Discourse on Oct. 12, 2007)

To say that you have to be pure in order to win My Grace is as foolish as to say that you have to be healthy to receive the administration of a doctor. The pure do not need a Master, The tough do not need a doctor. -BABA.

Sai Baba to the Rescue

When my longtime friend, Ruth, called to wish me a Happy Birthday, on Sept. 19th 1992, she told me she planned to go see Sai Baba before the year was out. I had sent her His picture and some Vibhuti after our first trip to India in 1987, and when she and three of her friends came to visit us in

Colorado for the first time in Sept. 1992, we showed them several videos of Sai Baba. After watching the videos, Ruth said she knew instantly that I had been telling her the truth - that Sai Baba is God. When she returned to Northern California, she started going to various Sai Baba centre meetings and events.

After talking to Ruth, I started thinking about how wonderful it would be to go to see Baba again, and the following morning, I suggested to my husband, Syd, that we should take what was left of our savings and make another trip to India while we still could. The one consulting contract he had was coming to a close and we had no idea when our next income would come from. It had been five long years since our first trip, and I was yearning for the Darshan of my Lord, Sathya Sai Baba. The Darshan He gave me in my occasional dreams has kept me going these five years, but as with most devotees, I wanted the real thing. Syd instantly agreed and we started looking at dates and making plans to go.

On my way home from running errands in town that same afternoon, I was driving on our winding mountain dirt roads singing bhajans and blissfully thinking about our pending trip to India. Suddenly I felt something burst inside the top of my skull. It made a popping noise after which I felt a warmth moving down inside my head from the crown area. My vision slowly blurred and then I was blind. When I could no longer see, I remember yelling out, "No, Baba!", while simultaneously and impulsively slamming on my brakes, just as I lost consciousness. That feeling I had when I yelled "No, Baba!" was that I was telling Him I was not ready to leave yet. Everything happened in slow motion so that each detail of the event is etched in my memory.

I have no idea how long I was unconscious, and when I regained consciousness, my first awareness was that I was surrounded by darkness and could not see anything. I was strangely at peace, and wondered if I was still alive. I felt my eyes and face and knew that I was still in this body. As I sat there for what seemed like a few minutes pondering

on what to do next, I felt that same warmth inside my skull and this time it was slowly rising upward. It seemed to be returning to the top of my head where it came from. My vision slowly returned, first blurred and then gradually it cleared until I could see my surroundings once more. I sat there for a few minutes and assessed the situation. It was still broad daylight and my car was sitting along the side of the road with the engine off and set in the 'park' position. I have no memory of what happened after I slammed on the brakes.

I knew that it could only have been Sai Baba who not only saved my life, but reversed what was probably a fatal aneurysm, and then gave me back my sight. He must have maneuvered my big station wagon to the side of the road and set it in the 'park' position and turned the key in the ignition to the 'off' position. The reality of what just occurred brought forth a flood of tears from my eyes as I sat there. I realised how much my Beloved Lord must love me to have given me so much. I tried to think of what I might have done to be worthy of all this Grace, but it only made me feel less worthy. Slowly I started the car and returned home, cherishing this moment of God's Grace. It was hours before I could talk about it and share it with Syd.

That night I dreamed of Sai Baba, but could not remember anything about the dream except that there was a road involved. Charlene Leslie-Chaden.

Remember, if God ever came on Earth in His fullness of power, majesty, glory and splendour, it is today as the Avatar of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Entertain no doubts about it. -BABA.

Swami Reveals His work on Subtle Planes

Charles Penn revealed in his book "Sai Ram", that while in a meditative state, Swami gave him the opportunity to witness His work on another plane, working tirelessly in worlds within worlds.

In his article he stated the following: "Baba gives darshan to people in dimensions

strange to us. The people, in this dimension, look just like us but appear to be living in 'darkness' and not in the Light to which we have access.

"During a vision two years ago, Baba was in Los Angeles, in His subtle body. I saw Him amidst a large throng of people standing in lines; they had been drawn to have His help. The scene was Pershing Square, a large park in the heart of the City of Los Angeles. Baba was pouring amrit from a small silver vessel into each hand extended towards Him. The people were listless; their faces showed no sign of expression; their actions were slow, and they did not speak or move about. They were truly people in need of Light and help, for they could not raise themselves above the dimension into which they had gravitated. Baba, during all this time of my observation, was quietly pouring from the small vessel the nectar that represented a ray of hope for these unenlightened beings.

"Indeed Baba has not been to Los Angeles in physical form, but to those living in other dimensions, He is no stranger. He works on all planes to uplift wayward souls.

"On another occasion, during a meditative state, I was given a different 'view' of Baba. I found myself with Him at a large bowling alley. In America bowling is a great indoor sport. Alleys with as many as fifty lanes constructed of highly polished wood are housed under one seemingly unsupported roof. Baba stood to one side, watching the bowling with much interest, and He had a mystical bluish grey appearance which was similar to a bluish light in which I have previously seen Him. In this scene I was only a witness.

"Another time He let me witness what I call 'the root people'. I saw men in another dimension working underground, tending the roots of trees and plants that extended down from the surface of the ground. These men appeared as gardeners or workmen. They wore regular working clothes and used implements the same as we use, including large hoses. The workmen seemed to be joyless, working for work's sake, and giving life to the foliage above. This experience in

the underground dimension was remarkable - a revelation made possible by Baba.

“I have not yet met Baba, my Guru, in the concrete Form. But that day will surely come when this instrument has been sufficiently purified to withstand the Light emanating from Him.”

After long searches here and there, in temples and in churches, in earths and in heavens, at last you come back. Completing the circle from where you started, to your own soul and find that He, for whom you have been seeking all over the world, for whom you have been weeping and praying in churches and temples, on whom you were looking as the mystery of all mysteries shrouded in clouds in the nearest of the near, is your own self, the reality of your life, body and soul. That is your own nature. Assert it, manifest it. It is Truth and Truth alone, that is one's real friend, relative. Abide by Truth tread the path of righteousness and not an hair of your body will ever be injured.

Meditation is nothing else but rising above desires. Renunciation is the power of battling against evil forces and holding the mind in check. -BABA.

300 Year Old Shivalingam Found in Puttaparthi

On 23rd July there was work being done in a farmer's field just behind Swami's ashram, in Peddakammavari Palli Road and workmen found in less than three feet away from the wall of the Ashram, a Shivalingam. Eventually the news spread in Puttaparthi and hundreds of devotees started going there and it soon became the talk of the town!

Puttaparthi has had some history before Swami's birth in this Holy tiny hamlet. The King Sri Krishnadevaraya had his base in Penukonda (an hour from Parthi) and had built some temples around Puttaparthi in Bukkapatnam, and he was also instrumental in building two lakes in Puttaparthi area.

The emergence of the Lingam was big news for Puttaparthi and the media from all over

the state went there to cover the news. The archeological director was also called to check the Shivalingam. The primary investigation, confirms that that Lingam was of 17th century and the Archilological director also didn't write off the possibility of a temple somewhere close by this place.

Devotees were queuing up to see this Lingam. Many offered milk, ghee and other offerings as abhishekam, and there were also high profile visitors from the ashram to see this Lingam. The flower and coconut vendors, who usually sell near Ganesh Gate, shifted to this new place and it was totally a festive atmosphere around the Lingam find. The auto rickshaw drivers were all driving up and down with devotees to the place.

The upper part of the Lingam was detachable and many pandits are of the opinion that since the upper part was removed, it needs to be installed in a better place and a puja is to be done to get the power back into the Lingam. *'Sanathana Dharma' magazine.*

The Sri Sathya Sai Organisation is set up to develop and foster love. It arose from the heart and it expands the heart. The inner desire to achieve love and expand love, has taken outer shape as the organisation. -BABA.

How Many of Us Just Check In?

A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day, Decided to pause by the altar to see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened, a man came down the aisle, The minister frowned as he saw the man hadn't shaved in a while.

His shirt was kind of shabby, and his coat was worn and frayed. The man knelt, he bowed his head, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed, each noontime came this chap, Each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear, He decided to stop the man and ask him, "What are you doing here?" The old man said he worked down the road. Lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for strength

and power. "I stay only moments, see, because the factory is so far away; as I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

"I just came again to tell You, Lord, how happy I've been, Since we found each other's friendship and You took away my sin. Don't know much of how to pray, but I think about You everyday. So, Jesus, this is Jim today -just checking in to pray." "Sanathana Dharma" Sept. '09

Never give up Sai. Make the best use of the chance given. Once you lose the opportunity to serve the Lotus Feet of Partheesha, you will not get it back. Sai grants you devotion, strength and liberation. Do not ruin yourself by listening to others. SS.Vol. 42, July 1999.

Facing Fear

The very first morning after I returned home from the hospital, I was sitting in front of my altar and had an incredibly strong experience of Love flowing from Baba's picture through my being. In my head I heard the words: "This hospital drama was a rehearsal for your death. You will always have this experience to draw on in this lifetime. Remember how easily it can be done if you remember My Form and take My Name. Losing your awareness does not have to be a painful experience. You were making something ugly out of it. I have taught you how to turn it into a thing of beauty."

I realised then how many things in my life I had turned into ugliness by my own shields of fear, anger, pride, etc. It was only my mind that projected this ugliness. mine a beautiful offering to Him. It was a very special moment. I really could feel His Love flowing through me.

I cannot believe the operation is over. Such a release for me. Not only to know it is over, but to realise that He has lessened so much of my fear of dying. I never even dreamed something like that could happen. I have had the fear since I was born. I'm sure I will still have much work to do in the area of learning to deal with my fear, but right now I

feel so much energy pouring in since I don't have to use so much to keep my fear in place. -SD

Copy from; "Sai Ram" by Faith & Charles Penn.

For no one can come to Puttaparthi, however accidental it may seem, without My calling them. Prasanthi Nilayam is the spiritually uplifting centre for the whole world; devotees from all over the world are here, so, the slightest mistake or wrong committed by you will be the talk of the world.

Your behaviour must be exemplary; every country must learn lessons from you. The foundation must not give way; you must be strong and steady, sincere and straight...

As a matter of fact, Puttaparthi is the name revered and remember with gratitude by millions today and it will be treasured in History as the most immortal name. No other village has that fortune. -BABA.

Of Such is the Kingdom of God

It was Christmas at Puttaparthi. A quiet stillness pervaded the air as we sat at morning darshan waiting for Baba to appear. The palm leaves rustled gently in the breeze. The sky was clear and blue without any trace of clouds. It had been six years since my husband and I had visited the ashram. This was the first visit for our children Aaron, 18 months old, and Heidi, 3 years old.

As if from nowhere Baba's orange robed figure suddenly appeared. He walked towards the men's side as if His feet "floated" in the air. Moving among the crowds, He accepted letters and gave His blessings. A surge of happiness welled within me as I experienced His profound love, grace and compassion. Gradually He moved towards the women's side. As He neared our place, my heart sank as Aaron began to fuss.

When I looked up, Baba was several rows past us. I hadn't noticed even a glance in our direction.

As we left, Heidi said, "Mommy, He didn't even talk to me or give me a present!" It

then occurred to me that she had expected Baba to be like a grandfather or Santa Claus, lifting her up in the air playfully and giving her presents. She had only seen His pictures at our Cambridge Centre meetings and in our home. How could I explain to her the true nature of an Avatar? "Heidi", I said, after a few moments of thought, "the only way Baba can hear you is if you pray to Him in your heart."

During the afternoon and evening I began to notice her praying with folded hands whenever she would sit down to rest. Her concentration amazed me. Even the next morning she remembered to pray.

Morning Darshan found us in the third row with our friend Indira beside us. Baba appeared walking towards the men's side accepting letters and blessing various items with a touch of His Hand. As He neared the women's side my heart began to beat faster. He paused a second in front of us. With a rapid movement of His hand He materialised a small object which landed with a thud in Indira's lap as she still held out letters that He never took. It all happened so fast that by the time we looked up He was several rows down the crowd of people. Indira picked up the small piece of candy in the wrapper and looked at Baba with a puzzled expression on her face. He looked back at us with a playful smile and said in His sweet sing/song voice, "Not for you, for the little girl." Heidi was thrilled. Her prayers had been answered. At the age of 3 she had learned that God hears and answers our prayers. We too can learn from her faith the importance of becoming like children before God. "Of such is the Kingdom of God." *Cathy Daub (New Jersey)*

People sing about Him (Vinayaka) as the one with the big stomach. But the stomach is full of air and nothing else. He never accepts anything from anybody though He moves about everywhere. God is also like that. Whoever may offer, He will bless but not receive. -Baba.

Financial Conference in P.N.

The 28th August was an eventful and special day in the history of Prasanthi Nilayam. It was a day when major representatives of India's Commercial and Financial world, gathered together in Parthi to exchange views on the current global financial crisis.

Under the unique title, "Ethics and World of Finance", the gathering where everyone was trying to 'know the real value of money'. Where better to learn, than at the feet of the Lord of All, the Avatar and Master Who says, "Money comes and goes - Morality comes and Grows."

This Avatar of the Kali Age, says, that money should be the last thing we should be running after. With the CEOs of the leading banks in India, gathered together in one place, whose mantra would be 'money matters - matters a lot', this must have come as a shock.

All were seated in the Sri Sathya Sai University auditorium, packed with dignitaries from all the banks of India.

The students of MBA, especially of the Finance specialisation, must have been blessed to have been in the presence of so many distinguished 'high-profile' guests, like Mr. Subba Rao, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, the governing authority for all the banks in India, and Mr. G.V.Reddy, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. It must have been a nice learning experience for the MBA students. It was said, "No business school anywhere in the world, would have a gathering of such a big number. Most probably they would be successful in bringing local branch managers of a few banks in their town, for such conferences but not the CEOs of all banks in India, all on the same day sharing the same dais."

The Conference was held in a situation where, apart from the global financial crisis, the Reserve Bank of India is also responsible for scrutinizing the financial activities of all the banks, under much criticism, as there were innumerable incidents of frauds in financial sectors, be it the banks or 'chitfund' companies. Another problem facing India is

counterfeit currency notes whose percentage has gone up 4% now.

Swami started the Conference by lighting the lamp, and after the welcoming address from Mr. Pandit, Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, Mr. Subba Rao, gave a lengthy talk on the present situation of financial sector and stressed the need for Ethics in Finance sector and referred, at length, about the law and the kind of manipulations many financial institutions are practicing which ultimately is resulting in banks going bankrupt.

Many examples of sharp practices were given -too long to go into here- but Mr. Rao's talk was a thought-provoking one. A definite lesson was there for everyone, and it was nice to hear the kind of reforms the Financial heads plan to introduce into society which they promise will be scam free.

Mr. Y.V. Reddy ended his talk saying that while India has so much in the way of resources, which has the capacity of fulfilling everybody's NEEDS but not the GREED which is where the crux of the problem lies.

Swami sat for almost two hours, listening with rapt attention and in a very active mood on that day, playing the perfect host to the dignitaries. At the conclusion of the meeting, each speaker went up to Him for His Blessing. Swami reached out for their hands, slowly pressed them like a caring mother, and patting then for the good talks they made, and made sure they were comfortably seated.

Swami, with a beautiful smile, gave to the present Governor of the RBI and to the former Governor, each a tiny replica of Swami's Sarva Dharma Stoop, which is near His residence.

Later in the afternoon, one of the speakers, Mr. Rama Murthy, of ING Vysya Bank, expressed his thanks to Swami for saving his life during the recent terrorist attacks on the Taj Hotel. He went on to praise Swami's educational system and His institutions, and expressed his hope that students of this background would become 'handy' in the near future. Also, it was suggested that there was no other place in this world better than

Puttaparthi, to hold a conference on Ethics and the world of Finance, since everyone carries out moral values to this Holy Place.

Swami asked Prof. Venkatraman to address the gathering. He said he was of the opinion that TRUE LOVE is not to be seen in Bollywood movies, but be experienced with Swami, Who is PURE LOVE Himself. He went on to say that Swami is not interested in the fixed deposit that we have in the banks, but in the interest earned by the fixed deposit of LOVE that is within us.

At 6.30p.m. arathi was given to Swami, thus bringing down the curtain on an amazing day.

All who come embodied are Avathaars, that is to say, advents of the divine, manifestations of God. What, then, is the special feature of Raama, Krishna, Buddha, Christ? Why do you celebrate their birthdays with such reverential enthusiasm? The speciality is this: they are aware; you are unaware of the Aathma which is the truth. Awareness confers grace, glory, majesty, might, splendour. Awareness confers liberation from bounds, from time, space and causation, from sleep, dream and wakefulness. For you, sleep is fiction, dream is fantasy and wakefulness a many-directional storm. Avathaars are ever alert, aware, alight. -BABA.

Baba's Miracle of Transformation

Dr. Yassin Sankart - Canada Prof. of Management in Delhousie University, Canada

I came to know Sri Sathya Sai Baba on April 1st, 1978. On this day, I was rushed to the hospital by ambulance to the emergency ward. A team of specialists examined me and gave me a battery of tests, all of which I failed. Simple questions about my name, 'phone number, date of birth, occupation, place of employment and field of specialisation, I could not answer. I was delirious and in a state of mental confusion and anxiety. The team diagnosed that I had a neurological disfunction and I would be hospitalised for six months to a year.

During the night in my state, disconnected from reality, time and space, I dreamt a man with bushy hair and an orange robe who took me into a garden, sang a few Bhajans and touched my head. Next morning, the team of specialists arrived and started questioning me about my occupation, 'phone number, etc. I answered all their questions and was curious about this simplistic level of questioning. They were amazed at my lucidity and queried what happened in the evening. I told them about the dream; the dream that was crystal clear in my mind. They concluded, it was an amazing recovery. However, they decided to keep me in the hospital for two weeks for observation. After I was discharged, I found out that the man in my dream was Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

I started reading everything about Him, His miracles, community projects, discourses, etc., and was overwhelmed by His divine wisdom. The second miracle, more critical than my amazing recovery is the miracle of transformation of my vision, work ethics and behaviour.

I studied at top universities in the West, McGill University, University of Toronto and John Hopkins University, and never learned a lesson in human values or ethics. So, when I became a professor I never lectured on this topic in management. I thought was nonsensical, problematic, subjective, relativistic, etc. Since I started studying Sai Baba's teachings I now lecture on values and ethics; there is an infusion of values and ethics in all my books, research papers, conference proceedings. A new vocabulary on values and ethics had entered my mind and consciousness. The value-based perspective in education, motivation, leadership, technological change, etc., is really the centre of my pedagogy and I have taken it to the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, etc., where it was well received. This is a miracle of transformation not only in terms of my profession but also in my vision, goals, attitude, perception of reality, values, behaviour, lifestyle, work ethics - all elements of my personality.

Many hesitate to believe that things will improve, that everyone will be happy and joyful, that the Golden Age will ever dawn. Let Me assure you that this Dharma Swarupa (personification of Righteousness) has not come in vain. It will succeed in averting the crisis that has come upon humanity. -BABA.

Questions & Answers

Q. Swami. Persons near you have to be perfect.

A. People judge Swami by the conduct and behaviour, the earnestness and sincerity, the generosity and humility of those 'near' Him. So, those who are outwardly 'distant' are not apparently dealt with so severely. But, even they are watched and warned. Depending on the situation, I can be soft as a petal or hard as diamond.

Q. Swami is often heard saying, "Yes. Yes. Yes"

A. Your tendency is to say, 'Yes' to that which is pleasing to you, and 'No' if the prospect is otherwise. Swami says, 'Yes. Yes. Yes.' to everything that comes. For, everything is My Gift; everything is Good for the person, at the time, for the purpose I have in view.

Q. Why does Swami have more restrictions for women? They do not have easy access to Swami!

A. Everyone has the same kind of access to Swami. This does not depend on their being men or women. Everyone receives the same grace, depending on his or her devotion, his or her need, or his or her work. Swami may say so; that nevertheless women have more hurdles to overcome when they want to convey something to Swami.

There are times when the man who stands next to me never catches my attention, as hard as he may try; while a devotee sitting far away in a corner amid a crowd easily catches it. It all depends on who has to receive what and when. Everything happens according to that will, not because of the physical form of man or woman.

Also, these differences are visible to you at your level of consciousness. For Swami, these are not differences that count. The

Atma is not different in man or woman. The atma is eternally conscious, pure and self effulgent. The Atma is neither masculine nor feminine, nor yet neutral. It is only the body that limits, deludes and wears names.

Q. What is the principal cause of all troubles and sorrows?

A. Attachment and ego are the main causes. Jealousy is another factor.

Q. How can jealousy be conquered?

A. By having love for everyone, by thinking of others with love and wishing them well. More than all, by realising that jealousy is physically more harmful. It does damage your internal system and, later on, you will have to suffer the karma of the bad things caused by your jealousy.

Q. Why has God created bad traits and negative tendencies in humans?

A. These are results of man's own actions. God is only a witness to events.

Human beings are themselves responsible for the good and the bad in them. Remember that the things you do (or) not to, can never hurt you.

Q. But Swami says that there is nothing good or bad!

A. Yes! This is from God's point of view. For humans, this is a relative matter, since what is good for one may be bad for another. What is good at one time may be bad in another season. Good and bad are thus two states, take two fruits, phalam, which are good. Once they are eaten and digested, they become excreta, malam, and that is bad.

Q. Scientists say that something cannot be created out of nothing.

A. Yes, but what they think of as nothing, is really anything. There is no nothingness in the Universe. The scientist makes such statements because, with his limited vision, he cannot see all things or know them.

Both science and spirituality begin as inquiry, a quest. Spirituality comes full circle, like the letter O, while science reaches the half circle stage, resembling a C. Science has a lot of catching up to do, for it has only discovered a fraction of the truth. It is like a small piece of cloth protruding from a fist: you can only conjecture about the whole, its

looks and size, for it is hidden and you cannot see it.

Q. But, science has made many advances flights to the moon and other planets, for instance.

A. Yes. Whatever science has done for humanity is to be welcomed, but it is still a growing and advancing field. Scientists used to say that you cannot split the atom and today that is no longer true. The scientist learns as he progresses.

Today's investigations become old tomorrow and lead to new investigations, which will become old the day after tomorrow. There is no end to this, and so the truth lies in something that contains within it both the old and the new. God alone envelops the old and the new and so the best way to advance is Godward.

“What Does Love Mean?”

A group of 4 to 8 year olds, were asked this question. Their answers were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think.

Karl -age 5...Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.

Terri -age 4...Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.

Emily -age 8...Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas, if you stop opening presents and listen.

Elaine -age 5...Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.

Mary Ann -age 4...Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

Lauren -age 4...I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.

Chris -age 7...Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.

Cindy -age 8...During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared any more.

Clare -age 6...My mommy loves me more

than anybody. You don't see any one else kissing me to sleep at night.

Nikka -age 6...If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.

Karen -age 7...When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down, and little stars come out of you.

Noelle -age 7...Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.

Danny -age 7...Love is when mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.

Rebecca age 8...When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over to paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

Businessmen Are Responsible for Today's Corruption

Discourse at a meeting organised by Indian Merchants in Mumbai, 14th May, 1984

What is the root-cause of all the disorder, chaos, crime, falsehood and violence that prevail in the country today? It is the behaviour of people contrary to the dignity of human nature that is responsible for the present situation.

All the education that one receives has no relation to human values. Whether it be in the sphere of political behaviour or social conduct, economic activity or spiritual pursuits, all one's actions are based upon the tendencies of the mind. No change in any form of activities is possible unless the mind is changed. That is why the Vedhas (ancient scriptures of spiritual wisdom) proclaimed that the mind is the cause of the bondage and the liberation of men. One who wants to change others must first change himself. The heart is like a lock and the mind is like a key. If you turn the key to the right, you open the heart to God; if you turn it to the left, you turn it towards attachment to worldly things.

There is no use blaming the government for all the evils prevailing today. The people are responsible for the injustice, the wickedness, the falsehood and the country. The people cannot disown their responsibility for the

actions of a government which has been placed in power by their votes. Whether a government is good or bad depends on the people themselves. There is widespread talk in the country about corruption. Many come and ask Me; Swami, when will corruption end in this country? Who is responsible for this corruption? Is it the government? No. It is the businessmen who are directly responsible for this corruption.

For their own selfish reasons and private gain, businessmen have been financing those in power and making them more and more powerful. If you businessmen live up to your fight principles, all this corruption can be ended in a minute. It is true that there is no one who does not desire wealth. An old Telugu proverb saying that even a dying person will get up if he sees somebody offering money. It is not surprising if, when bribes are offered, officials do not refuse them. It is for businessmen to set a limit to their business and their profits, and utilise their abilities for the promotion of public good. It may be difficult to combine business with morality. Therefore, the first requisite is to install morality in the heart and, with faith in the Divine, engage oneself in business. If this is done the nation will benefit from the businessman's efforts and he will be serving society.

Today everyone talks only about what he wants. He says: I want this, I want that.

If he loses anything he bemoans his loss. The whole of life is spent in acquisition and losing, and there is no peace of mind. Businessmen have to understand the basis of human relations and cultivate harmony and understanding. Unless such abroad-minded approach is developed, businessmen will not experience the bliss of the Divine.

How long can the pleasure derived from education, wealth, health or position last? Like the lamp that sheds its light on all alike, you must cultivate love towards all.

How much better would it be if the crores of rupees spent on erecting temples are used for improving the condition of the poor, the destitute and helpless? Institutions for helping the indigent unfortunates are more useful than edifices for worshipping some

deities. To give a helping hand to the helpless is real service. Love towards one's fellow beings is the best spiritual discipline. Misuse of money is a great evil. Wealth must be used only for good purposes. Money is capable of leading man to any place, good or bad. Hence he should take care to see that wealth does not lead him to bad ways, or bring a bad name to this great country.

By limiting their desires and reducing the amenities required for comfortable living, the wealthy should devote themselves to the service of the poor and the forlorn. Seek to derive happiness from service to your fellowmen. Happiness is in union with God. The Sathya Sai Organisations should not be content with conducting bhajans (group singing of devotional songs). Their motto should be Seva (selfless service) at all times. They should take up every form of activity and give it a spiritual meaning. It is only those who are imbued with the spirit of selfless service that are fit to become leaders of the nation.

Service to society is everyone's primary duty. Businessmen should develop a moral approach, use right means for earning wealth and utilise it for the benefit of society.

I may have caused some uneasiness to all of you, but should you should all take to heart what I have said, and try to practise what I have said. Thereby you will be achieving real happiness. I bless you all.

Why should you have fear or sorrow, with the Lord installed in the altar of your heart? Do you not know He is there, guarding you and guiding you? He is in all beings, at all times.

Endeavour to remember this fact whatever you may be doing, whoever you may be contacting, in whatever manner. You will succeed in this, provided you do not give up the recitation of His Name.

Sri Sathya Sai.

On previous occasions when God incarnated on earth, the bliss of recognising His Divine nature was vouchsafed only after the Avatar had left the world, in spite of plenty of patent evidences of His Grace. And the loyalty

and devotion they commanded from men arose through fear and awe, at their superhuman powers and skills, or at their imperial and penal authority.

But, ponder a moment on this Sathya Sai Manifestation; in this age of rampant materialism, aggressive disbelief and irreverence, what is it that brings to It the adoration of millions from all over the world? You will be convinced that the basic reason for this is the fact that this is the Supra-worldly Divinity in Human Form. -BABA. (1968)

Achieving the Godhead

'Bhagavad Gita, A Walkthrough for Westerners' j. Hawley

"All humanity is born for ultimately achieving perfection. This is the very purpose of humanity. Through being devoted to one's duties each person will find this perfection. But take heed, Arjuna, the person who abhors his or her duty can never become fulfilled.

"Through performing work selflessly with no attachment to the outcome and doing it as an act of devotion to the Divine, you attain fulfillment and spiritual perfection. The notion that work and worship are separate activities is common but incorrect. Live your life and do your work in an attitude of adoration of the Divine. Do each and every act for the sake of the Divine. Love God in everything you do. Convert your earthly existence into worship. The one who does this is truly a yogi.

"Your very nature dictates that you perform the duties attuned to your disposition. Those duties are your dharma, your natural calling. It is far better to do your own dharma, even if you do it imperfectly, than to try to master the work of another. Those who perform the duties called for by their obligations, even if those duties seem of little merit, are able to do them with less effort - and this releases consciousness that can be directed Godward.

"Just as fire produces smoke, people's actions produce effects that can be negative as well as positive. No activities, regardless of how good, are completely free of blemish.

One should not abandon one's duties even though they may seem tainted. True yogis discharge their duties faithfully as acts of devotion to the Divine, and thus free themselves from any contamination.

“The person whose mind and intellect are no longer attached to anything whatsoever, who has subdued and gone beyond the sense of self (ego) and the desire for enjoyment - that person has, through renunciation, attained the supreme state of liberation from the bondage of karma. This loving yogi has become an instrument of Divinity.”

Every Divine Principle is manifest in this Form

“This is a human form in which every divine entity, every divine principle, that is to say, all the names and forms ascribed by man to God, are manifest... Do not allow doubt to distract you; if you only install, in the altar of your heart, steady faith in my Divinity, you can win the vision of my Reality. Instead, if you swing like the pendulum of a clock, one moment towards devotion and another towards doubt, you can never succeed in comprehending the Truth and win the Bliss. You are very fortunate that you have a chance to experience the bliss of the vision of the form that is all forms of Gods, now in this life itself.” -BABA.

www.sathyasaieire.org
