

**2011**

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER  
SEP-OCT 2011**

## Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

My apologies for the lateness of this issue of the Newsletter.

I recently paid a two-week visit to Ottawa, Canada, and I was most impressed and grateful for the hospitality of my good friend Balwant 'Bill' Bhaneja and his Irish-born wife, Marie. I wish to include all those to whom I was introduced to at the beautiful and impressive Sai Centre there. You can visit <[www.sathyasaiottawa.org](http://www.sathyasaiottawa.org)> for a closer look.

This temple was built by a wealthy and inspired Sai devotee/business man, Krishna Singhal, who gifted it freely to the Sai community there. Beautifully decorated with flowers and enormous pictures of Swami, it also consisted of a numbers of rooms for meetings, cloak rooms, etc. But what impressed me most was an apartment that would have been used by Swami should He have paid a visit to Ottawa, a fully furnished bedroom, bathroom, and balconies, from where He could observe the meetings in the prayer hall below.

The other impressive occasion I attended, was a public gathering when both the present and past Lord Mayors of Ottawa, honoured Jean Beliveau, on his return from his 75,000 kms global walk, covering 64 countries, over a span of eleven years (and 50 pairs of shoes!) Leaving his home with his wife's and children's blessings, he chose to walk for the Culture of Peace in the world and the Abolition of Violence against Children.

Towards the latter part of his journey, he was presented with a laptop by his wife and friends, to

enable him to keep in touch with them. He told me he visited Ireland - Belfast and Dublin - during his European tour. All along the way he was invited to stay in homes for meals and rest. For the entire journey he pushed a small buggy that held his few meagre belongings.

Finally, the other impressive person I was invited to visit was India-born Shibani, a qualified architect who had lived and worked in Holland and travelled widely in Western Europe before migrating to Canada. Now retired, he devotes his time and talent to Urban Design Consultancy and to TRIK Art 851 in Ottawa. I would only describe his art as "Sacred Art", like his "Shaiva-Shakti" series, which he described as "an ongoing experimental journey" of "Sa'ham" I am she and "So'ham", I am he!

Like Jean, Shibani is on his own spiritual journey - to experience the ultimate reality, through the creative process.

I am deeply grateful to our Lord Sathya Sai Baba, for giving me the opportunity of having this unique visiting experience to Canada and its people. Sai Ram. Ed.

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***"You as body, mind or soul are a dream; but what you really are is Existence, Knowledge, Bliss. You are the God of this Universe. You are creating the whole universe and drawing it in. To gain the infinite universal individuality the miserable little prison individuality must go. Bhakti (surrender to the Lord) is no crying or any negative condition; it is seeing of all in all we see.***

***“It is the heart that reaches the goal; follow the heart. A pure heart seeks beyond the intellect; it gets inspired.***

***“Whatever we do reacts upon us; if we do good, we shall have happiness and if evil, unhappiness. Within you is the real happiness, 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; it is not the desire of the desiring; it is not the object of desire. Above all these, you are. All these are simply manifestations. You appear as the smiling flower, as the twinkling stars. What is there in the world which can make you desire anything.***

***“With Blessings and Love.***

***Sri Sathya Sai Baba.”***

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**When you recite the name of God with love, carry out with your limbs the injunctions of the Lord and look upon the world as a manifestation of the Divine, you are bound to receive the grace of the Lord.**

**Do not labour under the misconception that mere chanting of God’s name alone is adequate.**

**Devote at least five minutes every day for reciting the Lord’s name and a few minutes for rendering some kind of service to the needy and the forlorn, include in your daily worship a prayer for the welfare of all people in the world.**

**-BABA.**

## **A DIVINE TRANSFORMATION**

Journalist, Ms. Srividhya Sivakumar, was in the 9th Grade, at the Sri Sathya Sai University, Anantapur Campus, when her mother started to believe in Sai Baba.

She, however, says she was born an atheist, but a series of incidents in her life turned her into a person who believed in God.

When her mother used to visit a hospital, or doctor, or even a pharmacist, she noticed a large photo of Swami present, and from every photo Swami appeared to be beckoning her to Him. He kept calling her to Him. Even her home was full of Swami’s pictures.

Her mother recalled that while in Puttaparthi, she would see a large photo of Him in the dining hall, which bothered her every time she passed it, as in this picture Swami seemed to be staring angrily, unlike the photos in her home where He was always smiling! However, on one day when she was passing the photo, she gave her now routine smile to Swami, but this time the angry look turned to a smile! Was she hallucinating?

She immediately posed Swami a challenge. She told Him that if what she was seeing was true, or a figment of her imagination, then He would have to come up with a miracle. The very next day amritham, or divine nectar, appeared and all could see. She had her answer!

Other similar incidents took place later. He makes us play our rolls, no matter how small, to perfection, or

rather, pray that He makes us play it perfectly.

To whom much is given, much is expected.

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**Due to the desire for riches, other evil qualities like pride, greed, envy and hatred have grown among humanity.**

**Wealth is necessary but it is the treasure of Divine Grace and Love that will last forever and preserve you;**

**all other things are transient.**

-BABA (1986)

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### **Swami Knows Everything**

#### ***one of the finest experiences ever!***

The following are excerpts from an interview with Sri V.Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, broadcast on 6th Oct. '02 & on 10th April '03, on Radio Sai Global Harmony.

It was one week before Swami's proposed visit to Chinnai, several years ago.

I found that I had to make an urgent business trip to Chicago, just for one meeting. In those days, Bhagavan was staying in the old Brindavan building in Bangalore and I had to go and take His permission for the trip.

So, when I went to take His permission, Bhagavan graciously said, "Yes, you can go and come back. Anyway I'm coming to Chinnai only for a few days." I was to leave that night from Chinnai. I waited there

with my folded hands and Swami asked me to stop at a particular place during my return journey and meet a particular person. I said, "Yes, Swami, I'll do that." There were no further instructions! I was thunderstruck since I was going to travel 1,000s of miles to meet a person without knowing why I was going there and what I was supposed to tell him. Anyway, I thought Bhagavan would sort out everything and flew that night to Chicago.

After finishing my official meeting in Chicago, I called this person (Name withheld) whom Swami had asked me to meet, and said, "I'm coming to your city to see you."

He sounded a bit curt on the phone and said, "Why are you coming?" I said, "I'll tell you when I get there!" He sounded curt once again but I said, "Sai Ram" and told him that I was coming by such and such flight. It was a 14 hours flight with a stopover for re-fuelling and I simply had no idea why Bhagavan had asked me to meet him!

I was tired when I came of the customs area and this particular gentleman was waiting for me. He appeared to be very wealthy and quite aristocratic. He said, "Sai Ram" and we went to the parking lot where he had his Rolls Royce parked. There was 'dead silence' during the car trip and we reached his palatial house at about 2.30 am in the morning.

He straight away took me to his drawing room, shut the doors, sat facing me and asked, "Now, why have you come?" I told him, "I came because Swami asked me to meet you and I've no other message!" He

said, "What man, you've come such a long distance without any message and without knowing why you're supposed to see me. Are you sure or are you holding something?"

He repeatedly quizzed me and grilled me, but I told him that I absolutely no idea why I was asked to come and see him!"

Then he relapsed into deadly silence and was lost in thought for about 15 minutes! Suddenly he bent forward, reached towards his right shoe, and withdrew something from his socks and I saw a glinting blue steel revolver!

To my shock, he said, "This is a fully loaded revolver and just tonight I was going to shoot myself!" Then he told me how he had got into enormous debts in his business and that he just wanted to end his life! He also said, "Bhagavan knew what I was going to do and that's probably why He sent you to meet me!" I told him that Swami was coming to Chennai in a few days and he said he would be there!

Later in Chennai, first Swami never looked at him and later when we thought he's not going to see this person at all, suddenly He called him into the interview room and asked me also to come in! Then Bhagavan started to castigate this person and I was feeling very embarrassed to translate some of Swami's words!

Swami then got very angry with me and said, *"You're just a loud speaker. Your role is to say exactly what I'm telling you to say. No editing whatsoever."* Then I exactly followed Swami's instructions and this man started weeping like a baby.

Finally, Swami, in all His mercy said, *"Past is past, forget the past. Everything will be alright for you!"*

This man had a lot of properties that could not be sold due to the crash in the prices that took place at that time. But then buyers came mysteriously from somewhere and he was finally able to raise enough funds to meet all his obligations!

Bhagavan's ways are mysterious. How, where and when He would come to protect you, you don't know! Bhagavan knows the Past, Present and Future of every devotee under His care and even though this gentleman had not come to Bhagavan for quite some time, Swami remembered him and saved him!

*"I will not let you go"* is what Swami says!

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**The object of this human existence is to visualise that reality, that Atma (Universal Soul) that relationship between the wave and sea. -BABA**

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### The Sai Trinity

**Q:** Why had this task to be divided into three separate incarnations of the Shirdi, Sathya and Prema Babas?

**Baba:** They are not separate. I have already mentioned the complete oneness of the tree in the final objective of the mission. I will give you an example. Take a kilo of gur (a sweet substance). The whole of it tastes sweet. Next break it into small pieces. Each of them is sweet. Finally break them into small grains. You

find the same sweetness in them. So the difference is one of quantity and not quality. It is the same with the Avathars. Their tasks and powers requisite them differ according to the time, the situation and the environment. But they belong to, and derive from, one and the same dharma swarup and divine body.

Let's take the example of fruit. It begins with the seed which grows into the tree and from it comes the fruit. Work can be compared to the seed, worship to the tree and wisdom to the fruit.

The previous Avathar, Shirdi Baba, laid the base for secular integration and gave mankind the message (that) duty is work. The mission of the present Avathar is to make everybody realise that the same God or divinity resides in everyone. People should respect, love and help each other irrespective of colour or creed. Thus all work can become a way of worship. Finally, Prema Sai, the third Avathar will promote the evangel news 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. The three Avathars carry the trinity message of work, worship and wisdom.

- From Swami's interview to Shri. R.K.Karanjia, in Sept. 1976.

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**The play is His; the role is His gift;**

**The lines are written by Him.**

**He directs, He decides the dress and decoration, the gestures and the tone, the entrance and exit.**

**You have to act the part well and**

**receive His approbation when the curtain falls.**

**Earn the right to play higher and higher roles by your efficiency and enthusiasm.**

**That is the meaning and purpose of life.**

-BABA.

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### **The Depth of Love**

One day a teacher was an eye-witness to a beautiful incident. One of the students had finished his chanting at 2.30 a.m. and retired to his room. This teacher finished his chanting at 3.30 a.m. and was going to his room when he heard some chanting coming out from the student's room. So he went into the room and, lo and behold, what does he find? The student was fast asleep, but even in his sleep, he was chanting the name of Bhagawan!

This was a speech by Mr. Sanjay Sahani who was a student of the first batch of the 5-year integrated Commerce Programme, from 1982 to 1987. He was later blessed by Swami to join as a Faculty Member in the Dept. of Commerce, at the Prashanti Nilayam Campus.

In a speech, Sahani said that the villagers of Puttaparthi, men, women and children took out a candlelit procession, chanting the name of the Lord and praying for Bhagawan to come back to us soon, as the message reached them that Swami had taken Maha Samadhi, the men folk of the village, shaved off their heads as if each one of them had lost personally one of their family members.

One day when the District President of Sathya Sai Organisation, Tamil Nadu, was in his shop, about 15-20 villagers entered his premises. He thought that he was in trouble; it was election time. They said, "Sir, we came to know that Ayya (Father) is not well (They used to refer to Swami as Ayya in Tamil). He is admitted to the hospital and we are not well-to-do people. This is what we all can do. We have mobilised Rs. 2000; can you please send it to Puttaparthi and see that Ayya is treated well in the Hospital?"

One of the group later up to the devotee and said, "I belong to a very low caste. I don't know whether I can say it, but I feel like saying it. It seems Ayya's organs are not functioning well. Can you please send word to them that I am willing to offer the organs of my body so that Ayya may become well?"

Bagawan has said, "There is only one caste, the caste of humanity; there is only one religion, the religion of love; there is only one language, the language of the heart; there is only one God, He is Omnipresent!"

Look at the feelings and sentiments that He has evoked in the hearts of one and all!

A woman prayed in her dream, "Swami! Why have You left us?" He appeared before her in the dream, and asks, "*Where have I gone? I am there with you!*" And He poured akshathas (sanctified yellow rice grains) on her head. When she got up in the morning her whole bed was full of akshathas!

"*I am with you.*" - that is Swami's assurance to all of us. He once said,

*"You may forget Me, I will never ever forget you.. I will never forget you!"*

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**God is installed, whether the owner of the body recognises it or not.**

**It is God that inspires you to good acts, that warns you against the bad.**

**Listen to the Voice.**

**Obey that Voice and you will not come to any harm.**

-BABA.

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Can We Call Ourselves

### **SONS of GOD?**

When one is mindful of the violence that surrounds us today, it is difficult to accept the premise that we are "Sons of God". Have we evolved to the level to which we may be 'at-one' with Him and being totally selfless in our actions within society?

Having read Swami's message on the subject, I fear society is far removed from that noble, Godly, state. That is not to say that we should cease trying to attain it. He is always present within us to assist and encourage us. He wants us to succeed. He doesn't want us to fail.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, has spoken on this challenging subject.

*"When can men call themselves Sons of God? Recognise what pure actions are done by God, selflessly for the sake of all. There is no trace of self-interest in Him: Everything He does, says or thinks, is for the good of others. On the other side, everything men do,*

*Speak or think is born out of selfishness. Men have become puppets in the hands of selfishness. Men can describe themselves as "Sons of God", only when they are completely free from selfishness and become Godly. To call yourself the "Sons of God", you have to manifest the qualities of the Father."*

Even if our journey be a long one, full of hazards, nonetheless the reward is enormous.

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**If you feel you must have something to be happy, pray to God;**

***"God! You have the responsibility to keep me healthy, happy, good and intelligent; give me this thing, which I believe is necessary for my happiness; but if You think I am wrong, give me whatever You think best."***

**God will never desert His obligation; He will feed you and foster you.**

-BABA. (1973)

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### **The Watch & The Bill**

A South African "devotee" arrived in P.N. for an interview, but was full of doubts about Baba and hoped to be able to understand Him.

Swami stopped and spoke to him and then asked him what he wanted, "A watch", came the reply. Swami immediately materialised one and gave it to him. The doubting

"devotee" asked further for the receipt, whereby Swami waved His hand and produced one for him, to the astonishment of the "devotee". He later said it was from his home town in South Africa, with the day's date clearly visible on it.

The surprised "devotee" stared at the watch and receipt, from a store in his home town, 10,000 miles away from Parthi.

Upon return to his home, he went to the shop to check the duplicate receipt to see if they matched. They matched perfectly!

The shop owner recalled the incident and said, "On that day a small tiny person with curly hair and red robe, came into my shop to buy the watch. He spent a long time selecting this one and took it, paying with cash. He immediately left the shop, but after a few minutes He came back and asked for a receipt. A very pleasing personality..." the shop keeper concluded.

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**Karma is verily God...God exists in the form of Karma in everything right from microcosm to macrocosm. Man must necessarily perform action and should offer all his actions to God. If you do this, you will not be bound by the consequences of your actions.**

-BABA.

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### **SAI LOVE**

It was the winter of 1994 at the Sai Baba Ashram in Brindavan, Whitefield. One morning as I was doing *seva* in the western canteen

peeling vegetables in the verandah along with other male devotees, a new devotee joined us. He seemed unsure about what to be doing so we all helped him with which knife to use, which basket to put in the cut vegetables, etc. I noticed that he was hesitant to speak English, and had a German accent. Since I had lived in Germany, I spoke to him in his native tongue, albeit not perfect. He suddenly lit up and we had a friendly conversation. His name was Michael. This was Michael's first visit to Sai Baba's Ashram.

Following that, we happened to meet several times in canteen, bookshop, store, etc. In fact, it seemed every time Michael had problems of language or a question about the workings of the Ashram, I coincidentally seemed to be there to assist him.

One evening Michael approached me enthusiastically informing that where he lived outside the Ashram, he had been approached by a young boy promising to introduce him to a holy lady who had all the powers Swami had. In this lady's house the sacred ashes and the red kumkum powder poured out of Baba's pictures. We were warned by the Ashram security about this boy and the woman just a few days earlier. The lady was not supposed to be a good influence, and devotees were advised not to visit that house. I reiterated this to Michael, to be careful and not to visit anyone's home outside the Ashram. That evening when we met, Michael was very appreciative of the information. We bumped into each other many more times over the next three to four days.

On that visit, members of our group from Central London Sai Centre received Swami's Grace through many *padnamaskarams* and *vibuthi* materialisations. I had to leave Brindavan earlier than the rest of the group. I was praying to Baba to give some sign as He always does of His omnipresence and omnipotence before I left. As after finishing my last meal at the Ashram canteen I was about to get up, I felt a tap on my shoulder. It was our devotee friend Michael holding a beautiful rose stem in his hand which he said he wanted to give me to express his grateful thanks, and also a letter which he asked not to open and read until I reached London.

I was moved by his kind sentiments. On my way out, I gave the rose to our group leader from the Sai Centre as he, more than anyone else, deserved that rose for bringing us mish-mash bunch to Whitefield. I went to Sai Ramesh Mandap for the last time and prayed to Baba, thanking Him for His Grace and on whatever had happened.

On reaching home a few days later, I opened the letter at my altar, It read:

*Dear Balwant/Bill,*

*How can anyone ever tell you,*

*You are anything less than beautiful,*

*How can anyone ever tell you,*

*You were less than whole,*

*How can anyone fail to notice,*

*That your loving is a miracle,*

*How deeply you're connected to my soul.*

## OM SAI RAM

I read the letter a couple of times and did not know what to make of it. No one had ever sent me such a letter full of love: neither my mother, nor my father, nor any girl friend when I was young, or even my wife... With tears welling my eyes, I prayed at the altar and thanked Baba for His loving message. Then I put the letter away with my other Sai memorabilia.

It is only many years later one morning while I was tidying up the altar, I came across the letter, and read it. What became obvious when going through it again was that what I thought addressed to me, had little to do with me - in fact all those words of Michael, were written for Swami. I was mere an instrument.

I wondered why it took me so long to recognise such an obvious thing? What was Baba teaching me in all that?

In Prashanti, in Brindavan, there are co-incidences. Everything happens because Swami *wills* it. Thy Will, Not Mine, as the devotee says to the Lord. Baba wants us all the time to scrutinise our each and every action: scrutinise our attachments to money, affections, and even the state of our faith. He wants us to come to Him to be tested and examined as to how far we have reached in our spiritual quest - is our transformation real or fake?

Unlike us, Baba is not an actor; He does not do things for appearances. As the Director with one penetrating glance, He can see through our hearts to gauge the depth of our devotion, and the lesson to be given for taking us to the next step. His

scrutiny is not to make us fear Him, but for us to see within ourselves the amount of dirt, distortion, and darkness we have accumulated that veils our mind and *Atma*, In Swami, through Michael, Baba's message was that the Divine Atmic love united us all. Michael had, perhaps, recognised this when giving this letter, while it took me many more years to comprehend its real significance.

Swami says: *"The teacher knows how to test the student. The eyes see everything but cannot see themselves. You need a mirror. You come to see Me to get that. I am the mirror in which to see your own eyes. Inner view, not Interview."*

Our self-scrutiny, unlike Swami, is imperfect because it is driven by *Ahamkara*, the ego. It is often a play-acting seeking to impress others - that's the reason that most often it takes us so long to recognise what Baba has been trying to tell us.

As Baba has said: *"You don't have to come here to see My little body. I want you to find Me in your heart wherever you are... Many gurus tell you that you are weak, but I don't say that. I say you have power. You are God! Follow the Master within you. Fight to the end. I will never disappoint anyone who has full faith in Him."* Jai Sai Ram.

Balwant Bhaneja, Ottawa, Canada

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**God you think, God you are;  
dust you think, dust you are.**

- Jesus Christ.

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## The Significance of a Guru

*"In the preliminary stages of spiritual Saadhana, name, form and quality, all have their part to play in the moulding of the spirit," Swami stated at the Guru Poornima Discourse, on August 1st 1956.*

*"The Guru destroys the illusion and sheds light; his presence is cool and comforting. That is why this day, a Pournami (full moon day), is allotted for paying due honour to the Guru. Moreover, the moon is the presiding deity of the mind and Pournami is the day on which the mind has become fully beneficent. Of course, you must know what you have lost, so that you may start on the search to recover it!*

Swami continues; *"The Guru has very often to tell you that you have forgotten your real name or that you have lost the most precious part of yourself and yet are unaware of the loss. The Guru is the physician for the illness which brings about the suffering of alternate birth and death. He is an adept at the treatment needed for the cure. If you do not get such a Guru, pray to the Lord Himself to show the way and He will surely come to your rescue."*

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**On your land you can grow food as you like, or you can idle and let it fallow.**

**You owe the cause of ruin and progress to yourself. The tools are in your hands; you can learn the skills and break the shackles and escape.**

**But if you decide to spend life in slavery and bondage, who can save you? Do not blame fate.**

-BABA.

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## The First Gramophone Recording

We are all aware that in the 19th century Thomas Alva Edison invented the first gramophone, as well as the electric light bulb and the motion picture camera, all valued items, still in the world today.

Edison wished to demonstrate the recording of the human voice and chose Prof. Max Muller, the 19th century personality, for this purpose, and suggested they would meet in London.

Edison sailed to England from the U.S. and before a large audience he introduced Max Muller, who spoke in front of the recording instrument. This was then taken to Edison's laboratory and in the afternoon he returned with the first disc to be played to the audience who were thrilled to hear the voice of Muller, from this new machine.

After a great round of applause and congratulations to Edison, Max Muller came on the stage and addressed the scholars, and asked, "You heard my original voice in the morning. Then you heard the same voice coming out from this instrument in the afternoon. Do you understand what I said in the morning or what you heard in the afternoon?"

The audience fell silent because they could not understand the language in which Max Muller had spoken. If it was Greek and Latin, and they would have definitely understood, since they were from many parts of Europe. But it happened to have been a language they had never heard.

Max Muller explained that the language he spoke was Sanskrit and it was the first sloka of Rig Veda, which says, "Agni Meele Purohitam". This was the first recorded public version on the gramophone plate.

Max Muller explained why he chose to address the audience this way, "Vedas are the oldest text of the human race. And *Agni Meele Purohitam* is the first verse of Rig Veda. In the most primordial time when the people of Europe were jumping like Chimpanzees, from tree to tree, and branch to branch, when they did not know how to cover their bodies, but with fig leaves, did not know agriculture and lived by hunting and living in caves, at that remote past, Indians had attained high civilisation and they gave to the world universal philosophies in the form of the Vedas."

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**The status of the previous life is decided by your actions in previous lives. Bad deeds never yield good.**

**Good deeds never breed bad.**

**Neem seeds never yield mangos.**

**The Lord grants the fruits of every action, according to each person's deserts, in any situation, through any agency.**

**All results follow the actions.**

-BABA.

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**Sai - The Divine Mother**

A small baby, barely a year old and lying on his mother's lap, began to wail loudly, while Swami was giving

a discourse, in the S.A.P. Kalyana Mandapam in Madras, now Chennai. Swami spoke in Telegu, and the celebrated actor, and devotee, Chithoor Nagayya, translated it into Tamil. The audience was enjoying every word until Swami smiled in the direction of the crying baby. All eyes were now looking in the direction of the baby as Swami extended His open palm towards the crying child, and suddenly closed it into a tight fist! At that moment the child stopped crying.

Swami extended the closed fist towards the speaker, Nagayya, and said, "*A small 25-paise coin got stuck in the little baby's throat and I have removed it. Here it is!*"

This was heard over the open microphone to every one's delight, and the audience exploded into wild applause!

Even though the little baby was right on his mother's lap, the poor mother was unaware what had gone wrong with her child! It is obvious that, more than even one's own mother, God is much, very much, closer!

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**When the whole Universe is the mansion of the Lord, where is the need for a street or a door?**

**When the Cosmic Lord is shining within, where is the need for a door?**

-BABA.

## PRAYERS

The following prayers were written by Sri Sathya Sai Baba, and given to Prof. Kasturi, November 23, 1962.

### Thus I Am Born

(Baba says to rise every morning, sit on the bed, and say this prayer before starting the day. Then remember this pledge throughout the day)

*Thus I am born*

*Make me speak soft, sweet words;*

*Make me behave comfortably to all;*

*Let me do deeds that shower happiness on all,*

*And form ideas in my mind that are beneficial to all.*

*May this day be made worthwhile by thy service.*

### Dear Father Mine

*Hoping You'll guide me-*

*This day or the day after-*

*I await your call from day to day.*

*Hoping You'll give Darshan but afraid  
You may not,*

*I'm all alert from hour to hour.*

*Hoping You'll come to me straight*

*This very instant*

*I'm watching and praying ever anon.*

*Hoping You'll smile at me at last,  
though not at first,*

*I'm longingly gazing with thirsty eyes.*

*I shall stand and stay, in deep distress*

*Until my day of bliss does dawn*

*I am Yours, Your own, though exiled  
far.*

*Dear Father mine! Do heal Your child.*

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### Believe in yourselves!

**Faith in yourself and faith in God,  
this is the secret of greatness.**

**Life will have no value if you don't  
have faith in yourself.**

**You and God are not separate.**

**Faith in yourself is the same  
as faith in God.**

-BABA.

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### CONTROLLING THE ELEMENTS

In his book, *Sixteen Spiritual Summers*, Indulal Shah, recalls how he first met Sai Baba and thus began a life of service within the Sai Organisation. He recounts,

In the summer of 1965, I was in Bangalore to visit a friend. During an informal conversation one morning, my host asked me whether I would like to see Sri Sathya Sai, Who was to address a meeting... in the heart of Bangalore city, the same evening. I had, till then, no particular urge to read either His biography or discourses. My immediate response to the question... was somewhat casual and uncertain. However, on second thoughts, I felt that I should attend the meeting and so, later in the day, accompanied by my wife, Sarla, I went to where the mammoth gathering was listening to Sri Sathya Sai, with rapt attention. We sat in a remote corner of the big maidan. I

was swayed by a nameless feeling, a strange inquisitiveness or curiosity, as though I was adventuring into the unknown. The suddenly, the sky became rather dark with thick dark clouds fast gathering overhead. The large crowd became visibly restless, as people feared an impending rain. We ourselves were in a quandary and my host hastened to take us back to the his car. Just then, we saw Sri Sathya Sai raising His hand and saying something aloud to the crowd in the local South Indian language which, however, I could not grasp. My friend said that He was asking the crowd to sit down and that He was assuring them that it would not rain. As He said this, we saw that the rain clouds started disappearing and the gathering darkness was giving way to bright sunshine.

I remained spell-bound. I could not believe that one could disperse moisture-laden heavy clouds by a mere wave of His hand. And yet, our eyes were a witness to this strange phenomenon, the like of which I had read about only in Puranic stories.

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**Truth in the minority of one, is  
Truth.**

**Untruth in the majority of  
millions is still untruth.**

-Mahatma Gandhi.

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### ***Cancer Cured In A strange Way***

Mr. & Mrs. K.R.K. Bhat, lived in India in the 1940's. He worshipped the Krishna, while Mrs. Bhat worshipped Lord Subramaniam, in their household prayer room.

In 1943 Mrs. Bhat developed cancer of the uterus, and her widowed mother told her, "Lord Subramaniam cured your father of cancer without any operation. In the same way He will cure you."

While the young wife remained in bed, her mother-in-law carried out the ritual worship, for six months, as Mrs Bhat grew weaker and thinner.

Then one night in a semi-sleep state she saw a large cobra circling her bed. A search was carried out but no snake was found. However, as soon as she became aware of the cobra it assumed the form of Subramaniam as pictured in her shrine room. He floated above her and pierced chest with His spear, then floated away with her to the peak of a high rocky hill. She knelt before Him and touched His feet with her hands and forehead. He spoke to her, asking if she wanted to stay with Him or return back to the world, which she meant was a choice between continuing to live or joining the spirit life. She thought of her husband and her children and their need for her, and chose to return to them.

*"You are cured of your illness, and will soon grow strong. Throughout your life I will protect you and whenever you think of Me, I will be there. Now you may return,"* Subramaniam said.

She did not know how to return so she asked. He pointed to a long winding staircase that opened at her feet, and she began to descend, and eventually awoke to find herself back in her room. She told her husband and mother-in-law of her experience which she regarded as very sacred.

From that very day the signs of her cancer left her, and she became much stronger. She became to believe that she was given back her life for service to others - helping the poor and needy.

Twenty years later, the family heard of Sathya Sai Baba and went to see Him at His Ashram. She was given a personal interview and Sai Baba told her: *"I spoke to you long ago - twenty years ago."* She insisted this could not be true as it was her first visit to the Ashram, but Swami said to her, *"Yes, yes, but I came to you when you were living in Mysore."* Then He mentioned the street and the city where she had lived when she had cancer and had the vision of Subramaniam.

He then walked partly up the staircase that led to His living quarters above the room they were in, and he told her to look down. She did so and immediately was struck by the sight in her vision so long ago, of the staircase which she had descended to return back to her life in the world.

Next, Swami circled His hand as He does when materialising objects and He produced a photograph of Himself in the chariot of Subramaniam with the cobra circling around Him!

Mrs. Bhat was astonished and realised that God could assume any form at will, and was now standing before her in the form of Sathya Sai Baba.

She fell at His feet, shedding tears of joy.

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**Politics without principles,  
education without character,  
science without humanity,  
business without morality is not  
only useless, but positively  
dangerous.**

-BABA.

.....  
**When You Sing Bhajans...**

During the course of a talk, Prof. G. Venkatarman, Director of Radio Sai Global Harmony, referred to Swami's address on Bhajans, to His students, as follows. (*This is a paraphrase*).

"Dear Students, When you sing Bhajans here, don't imagine that they would impact only the people currently assembled here in the Sai Kulwant Hall. True, the sound waves coming from the various loud speakers would be heard only by the devotees here. True those sound waves would also be heard throughout the Ashram. However, besides these sound waves, subtle waves are also generated. You cannot see them and in fact you do not even know about them. They are ripples in the Ocean of Consciousness.

Those ripples can travel not only all over this planet but to the very edge of the physical Universe and beyond. They will never dampen nor dissipate but remain forever. They would penetrate everywhere, including the pillars, the structures and whatever you see around here. Indeed, the vibrations from every Bhajan that you sing would remain embedded in them forever. Further, every day, there would be fresh additions, as a result of which the

intensity of the built-in spiritual vibrations would steadily grow.

The more passionately you sing, the greater would be the stored sanctity. The more love you add to your feelings as you sing, the greater would be the enhancement of sanctity. Thus, by having sacred thoughts while seated here and by singing Bhajans with Pure Love in your heart, each one of you can leave behind an invaluable legacy."

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**Start the day with Love.**

**Fill the day with Love.**

**Spend the day with Love.**

**End the day with Love.**

**This is the way to God!**

-BABA (Christmas 1998)

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### **Flu Epidemic**

Influenza once spread like wildfire in the Sri Sathya Higher Secondary School, in P.N. some years back. Nearly 200 students were affected.

After the evening Bhajans concluded, Swami asked Dr. Alreja to pay a visit to the school. The doctor found 200 students suffering from high temperature, cough and vomiting. It seemed beyond control. It was 8 p.m.

It was late by the time the doctor was returning to his room as he thought that Swami's room would be closed at that hour and decided to report the following morning. However, at 8.30 p.m. a volunteer came to tell him that Swami was waiting for him to report.

*"I was waiting for you. Why have you not come to Me immediately?"* Swami asked. The doctor replied, "Swami, by the time I returned, it was 8 P.M. I thought that Your door would be closed by that hour. About 200 students are suffering from the 'flu. I find it impossible to arrest its spread. I am afraid, at this stage, no medicine can help. Only You can save them."

Next morning, Swami visited the school and the hospital. He walked through every single veranda and classroom. He went up to the roof, also, despite the Principal's protestations that it was not properly cleaned. Swami then called for a stainless steel bucket filled with water. He materialised Vibhuthi in immense quantities and poured it into the water. He asked one of the teachers to carry the bucket around and serve the Vibhuthi water to every teacher and every student.

The disease spread no further from then on. Within the space of four days, every single patient recovered fully!

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**If you have faith, the Lord who is the core of your being, will manifest Himself.**

**He is within your grasp.**

**Be aware of Him who is the eternal Witness. He sees and knows all.**

-BABA.

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## **Our Reason For Being!**

The question frequently asked is, 'why are we here? Why are we born only to suffer pain, disease, depression, etc. in a world that seems unable to answer such questions?

Swami clarified this for us when, back in 1963, He made the following statement:

*"You have come as man in order to reach God, remember that. 'Why do you go to Mahhur Brindaavan, to Thirupathi, to Puttaparthi?' - people stop you on the way and ask. Nobody asks you, 'Why do you take food?'*

*In fact, one has to seek God just as one seeks food. Both are necessary for happiness. Man seeks happiness, for he is originally and truly free; he is immortal and so he seeks to overcome death."*

It is a long journey, without doubt, consisting many lifetimes, incorporating physical and mental hardships on the way but the goal is decidedly rewarding.

It only requires faith in our Beloved Lord Sai, Who is always there to support and guide us, to the stage of final unity with Him.

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### **Where is Cosmic Energy?**

**The Cosmic Energy is all-pervasive.**

**It is in you, above you, below you and around you. You yourself are the Cosmic Energy; but you are not able to realise it.**

-BABA.

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## **SAI PILGRIMAGE**

On 24th August of this year, "Sai Brindavan Kshetram", in Andhra Pradesh, India, entered the *Guinness Book of Records* for rendering "Om Sai Sri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai", Sainama Sankeertan, continuously for a period of eleven years!

Devotees have been chanting "Om Sai Sri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai" continuously day and night since 24th August 2000. This Sainama Sankeertan was carried out in the Bhajan Hall with the purpose of Human Welfare and to rid the Universe of Violence.

The 45 acres of vast land, in which the Sai Brindavan Kshetram is surrounded by scenic hills and green valleys. Sometime in the future, the Trust plans to construct a 108 ft. tall Bronze statue of Shirdi Sai Baba, in Yoga Mudra Posture, on a 200 ft. high hill. Also, a marble temple of Shirdi Sai Baba and a Tower of Sai Jyothi (Always Burning) are planned on the other two hills.

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**Ganesha is the embodiment of Buddhi (intellect) and Siddhi (achievement).**

**He was approached by Sage Vyasa with a prayer to write down the Mahabhrata, even as he composed the hundreds of thousands of its verses!**

**Ganesha agreed immediately;**

**He brooked no delay, even to secure a writing tool;**

**He broke His sparp-pointed tusk and was ready to start!**

-BABA.

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## The Future Of Puttaparthi

Since Swami attained Maha Samadhi, the question frequently asked is, "What will happen in Parthi now? Will it retain its former glory?"

Prof. Anil Kumar kindly proffered the following answer, by stating that Puttaparthi is now the only place which has developed in the presence of the Avatar. Swami has given us every facility for our future wellbeing. "This place will flourish much better than, Tirupathi, Shirdi or the Vatican, for that matter."

Prof. Kumar shared an incident that happened some years ago, when a group of women, dressed all in white, and he learnt that they were from Iran and were on their way to Mecca. Swami gave them an interview and they informed Swami that they were all going to pray to Kaba, whereupon Baba showed them His palm, and everyone was thrilled and speechless to see Kaba, with this Divine Revelation.

They immediately said the Swami, "You have already given us the darshan of Kaba, so we will not go to Mecca."

But Swami insisted that they went.

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**At any moment, My Divinity may be revealed to you, you have to be ready, prepared for the moment.**

**Since Divinity is enveloped by human-ness, you must endeavour to overcome the Maya (delusion) that hides it from your eyes.**

**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.**

-BABA.

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## PRASHANTI THOUGHT

**10/06/2011**

*Friendship is very important. When somebody greets you, you should also greet him or her. Do not consider that since you don't like somebody, you should not greet them.*

*Consider everyone to be your friend.*

*Do not bear dislike or enmity towards anyone. Enmity is a wicked quality. Everyone should be united. If you really want to see God, first see Him in everyone. You may earn any amount of money, but as long as you are alive, you should give joy to others by undertaking acts of charity. Those who have wealth should look after poor and sick people.*

*Utilise all your earnings in a proper manner. Consider "Social Service" as a service to yourself. Service to society is a sign of nobility. On the contrary, those who do not take the path of service are wicked. -BABA.*

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**Do not repeat the Name of God mechanically like a tape recorder or a gramophone.**

**Recite His Name wholeheartedly with total awareness.**

**You should chant the Divine Name from the bottom of your heart and not merely from your lips.**

**Then you will become pure gold.**

**Practise what you preach, and  
preach only that what you  
practise.**

**This is the fundamental principle  
of purity.**

**When you develop such purity in  
young age, then your future path  
will be a royal road and a bed of  
roses.**

-BABA.

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**"Why Fear When I am NEAR"**

*Experience of Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S.P.  
Mahadevan*

Maj. Gen. Mahadevan retired from India's Armed Forces after a long and distinguished service, and later employed as Chairman of Tamil Nadu Public service Commission.

While on a visit to Hyderabad with his wife, he collapsed, after a severe cardiac arrest. His wife called out to Swami, and He heard her cry, and instantly resurrected the Maj. General.

After several days Swami wrote him a letter by His own hand, that He had saved him and not to worry, adding, "Why fear when I am **near**", and also sending him a basketful of fruits. After a couple of months convalescence, the officer returned to Madras, and later stated, "When I suffered a heart attack on 24th April 1986 during my visit to Hyderabad. Lord Sai not only saved me by responding immediately to my wife's prayer, but also mentioned to some devotees in Prashanti Nilayam on the same day that I had suffered a heart attack, and that He had saved me.

"In addition, in His infinite mercy, He sent me, through the Andhra Trust Convener, who had gone to Prashanti Nilayam, the Divine Vibhuthi Prasad, a basket of citrus fruit and also a letter in His own hand writing, a letter full of His love, compassion and blessing saying, "Don't worry, I am with you and around you guiding you and guarding you."

Later, on 18th July 1986, Bhagavan gave me a pleasant surprised by coming all the way to Madras, unannounced just to bless me and my wife."

On that particular day Maj. Gen. Mahadevan was sitting on the verandah of his home reading, while his wife was talking to a neighbour across the compound wall, when suddenly Swami's car stopped in front of their house. Swami got out of the vehicle and called out to Maj. Gen. who tried to run down to the gate, which was locked. Swami cautioned him not to rush, and waited till his wife rushed to the gate. Swami blessed them.

The Maj. Gen. later recalled, "When I wanted to resign in 1983 as Chairman Tamil Public Service Commission, being very unhappy and agitated due to the political pressure exerted on me by Ministers, MIPS and MLAs for selecting their candidates. Bhagavan's counsel led me not to resign and gave me very valuable advice.

"You need not oblige all the time, but you can always speak obligingly. In Dec. 1977, He saved my youngest son, an officer in the Indian Navy, from a scooter accident, and in June 1985 He saved my second son who is

a pilot in the Air Force from an air crash in 1980. He saved my eldest son, who is an Army Officer, from bullets during internal security duties.

"My wife, who is Sai devotee, does not take any medicines except Vibhuti given by Swami. Time and again Swami had made me realise by His mysterious ways, that He is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscience, knowing all about our past, present and future, and also that He is always residing in our hearts. We are lucky to be contemporaries of the Sai Avatar. Let us pray to this "Living God" who is also the "Loving God" to bless us all."

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Samastha Lokaah Sukhino Bhavantu

*'Let all beings in all worlds be happy.'*

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