

**2012**

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER  
SEP-OCT 2012**

## Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

God takes human form, from age to age, to help uplift mankind and to guide him on his return journey home, to merge eventually with Him. It was 18,000 years ago that Lord Rama came amongst us, while later He came as Lord Krishna, 5,000 years ago, always to protect and uplift His children.

In more recent times, Moses chose to elevate mankind 1,600 years ago and Zoroaster and Confucius in 600 B.C. Buddha Gatama begun his role in 563 B.C. and Mohammed was present amongst us, from 570 A.D.

Many of these noble Beings chose to come at different times and in different forms, but always for the one purpose, to save mankind at times of great spiritual upheaval.

Elijah came, and later took the role of John the Baptist, and in more recent times as Mohammed. Such beings were fired with duty in their service to God and man. Also, I understand Mary Magdalene took the form of the stigmatist, Therese Neumann, 1898-1962.

We have all had our roles to play in God's theatre, assuming many characters in the play of life. Swami once stated that Dr. John Hislop had previously been in the role of King David.

The Comte de St. Germain is reported to have been previously Christopher Columbus, and prior to that St. Joseph. The list is endless.

And now, God has come to our aid again, initially as Shirdi Sai Baba, 1835-1918, and in our time as

Sathya Sai Baba. His third and final incarnation will soon be in the form of Prema Sai Baba.

We, each of us, also have our roles to play in this great drama of life, humble though these roles may be. What a privilege we have been given. This is our noble pact with God. Let's not waste it. Let us, as Sai devotees, do our duty. Swami said, service to man is service to God.

How blessed we are to have roles to perform within God's Divine Play. Ed.

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*"If you want to experience eternal happiness, you have to take refuge in God Who is the embodiment of happiness". - BABA.*

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## Extraordinary True Story

*From book by Sudha Narayana Murty*

It was the beginning of summer and I boarded a train for Bangalore. It was jam-packed with people as I was pushed to the corner berth to a seat meant for three people - there were six of us sitting there.

The ticket collector came and looking in my direction, "What about your ticket?" I replied, "I have already shown you my ticket." "No not you, madam, the girl hiding below your berth. Hey, come out, where is your ticket?"

A girl came out of hiding. She was thin, dark, scared and looked like she had been crying. Aged between thirteen and fourteen years old, uncombed hair, dressed in a torn skirt and blouse, as the collector

pulled her out from the compartment.

"Sir, I will pay for her ticket," I found myself saying.

Slowly she started talking, telling me her name was Chitra, and had lived in a village near Bidar. Her mother had died and her father later remarried and had two sons with her stepmother, but her father died a few months previous, leaving her with an abusive stepmother, who beat her often and did not give her food. She did not have anyone to support her so she left home in search of something better.

Upon reaching Bangalore my driver came and picked up my bags. Chitra was standing there staring at me with sad eyes but there was nothing I could do; I had paid for her ticket but I never thought she would be my responsibility! I told her to get into the car and told my driver to take me to my friend Ram's place. Ram ran separate shelter homes for boys and girls. We at the Infosys Foundation supported him financially and Ram suggested she could go to a high school nearby. I immediately agreed to sponsor her expenses as long as she continued to study. I left Chitra had found a home and a new direction in her life.

My visit to the shelter reduced to once a year, but I always enquired about her well-being over the phone. I was told she studied well and was making good progress. I later offered to sponsor her college studies if she wanted to continue to study. But she said, "No, Akka. I have talked to my friends and decided to do my diploma in computer science, so that I would get a job after three years."

She wanted to become economically independent as soon as possible.

Chitra obtained her diploma with flying colours, and succeeded in getting a job in a software company as an assistant testing engineer and when she received her first salary she came to my office with a sari and a box of sweets.

One day, while I was in Delhi, I got a call from her. She was very happy. "Akka, my company is sending me to USA! I wanted to meet you and take your blessings but you were not here in Bangalore."

Years passed, and occasionally I received an e-mail from Chitra. She was doing very well in her career and had been posted across several cities in the USA and was enjoying life.

Years later, I had been invited to deliver a lecture in San Francisco for an organisation where families speak Kannada and meet and organise events. After the lecture, I was leaving for the airport and the receptionist said, "Ma'am, you don't need to pay us anything. The lady over there has already settled your bill." Upon turning around I found Chitra standing there, with a young white man and wearing a beautiful sari, her dark eyes were beaming with happiness and pride. I was overwhelmed with joy as she hugged me and touched my feet. I was so happy for the way things had turned out for Chitra.

Later I asked her why she had paid my hotel bill. Her reply, between sobs, "Because you pain for my train ticket from Bombay to Bangalore!"

*"Remember, with each act of love and service, you are nearing the Divine presence. With each act of hate and greed you are moving further and further away". - BABA.*

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### **Divine Message**

"You as body, mind and 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 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 simple 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, Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Ram."

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### **The Love of One's Parents**

One day in Puttaparthi, Swami called a young man for an interview. The young man had prayed that Swami would shower His Grace upon him so that he would progress in sadhana. Swami told him in no uncertain terms, "Enough of sadhana. Go back to your place, get employed and look after your mother." The sanyasi said, "Swami, how is it possible? After becoming a sanyasi I cannot go back to samsara. All my sadhana will be wasted." Swami said, "Whatever you had gained out of your sadhana has already been wasted away by the tears of your mother."

He was the only son. His father had passed away and his mother was old. Without thinking about her future, he had become a sanyasi. The old lady had to work to survive. Swami pointed out that when he had not discharged his duty of looking after his old mother and became a sanyasi. God will not shower His Grace on him. Swami sees the love of one's parents as the primary duty of the children, and has touched on this subject on many occasions.

*Source: "Journey with Sai".*

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*"What is all this about seeking personal Moksha? Go out and serve the people out there. God will then come looking for you and grant you liberation, even if you do not want it!"*

- BABA.

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### **Sai Speaks**

"All beings are in the Lord, as air is present in the atmosphere".

"Watch your words. Watch your actions. Watch your character. Watch your thoughts. Watch your heart."

"Let all beings in all worlds be happy and peaceful."

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*"If you need Me, you deserve Me".*  
- BABA.

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### **Swami's Gift to Mankind**

Swami always asks the people to make Him a gift of their misery, their sufferings, their doubt and their distress and take from Him Ananda, the elixir of the eternal.

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Q. "Tell Me, what is the shape of worry?" Swami asked.

A. "Worry has no shape and single intense prayer to God can do away with it," He replied.

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### **The Chosen Gopi**

On the auspicious occasion of Janamashtami, it was revealed that when Krishna was a baby, many thousands of years ago, He rested on His mother's lap as she lovingly fondled Him. At that moment a Gopi watching the scene exuded so much love for Krishna that, there and then, Krishna decided that when He takes birth as Sathya Sai, that Gopi will mother Him.

The chosen Gopi was none other than Mother Easher Amma, who exuded so much love for Baby Krishna.

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*"The Lord bestows a favour when He decides to test you, for He is impressed by your achievement and wants to put upon it the seal of His approval. Rise up to the demands of the test that is the way to please the Lord".* - BABA.

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### **The Meaning of Satsang**

Satsang means experience of unity. Today people think that Satsang means a congregation of spiritual aspirants. People join such congregations and think that they are in Satsang. But it is not Satsang in the true sense of the term because people whom you think to be good may turn wicked. They are bound to change. How can such temporary association confer everlasting happiness? It is impossible.

People have not understood the true meaning of Satsang and its significance. Tell me your company I shall tell you who you are. When you associate yourself with ephemeral things, the results also are bound to be transitory. You should develop friendship with Divinity which alone is true and eternal. Divinity is very much present in you. You cannot find it outside. The external world is subject to change. The world is nothing but a combination of matter. Everything in this world is transitory. Nothing is permanent. All that is seen in this world is illusory. The unseen Atmic principle alone is true and eternal".

*(Taken from Swami's Shivarathri Discourse in 2003).*

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*"Illness is caused more by malnutrition of the mind than the body. Doctors speak of Vitamin deficiency. I call it the deficiency of Vitamin G. I will recommend the repetition of the Name of God with accompanying contemplation of the Glory and Grace of God. This is Vitamin G. This is the medicine."*  
- BABA.

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### **All Are One and the Same**

One day Swami was sitting on a chair in the mandir. A few devotees, including me (K. Ramamurthy), were standing around Him. Swami told us, "One woman of the village offered Me vadas which was poisoned. I ate them, came back to the mandir and vomited everything." I asked, "Swami, why do You allow such people to come to the mandir? You have also sent the big vessels of the mandira to her house for preparing food for the function." Swami said, "Ammayi, this mandir will get amrita in return to visa, (poison). I will not stop anyone who wants to come here. I do not discriminate between people who are good and who are bad. For Me all are one and the same!"

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### **Install God in your heart**

"Contemplate on Him and undertake good deeds. Consider every activity as God's work and act accordingly. Merely feeding the poor and distributing clothes to the needy do not constitute Seva.

Along with this, one has to cultivate love at all times". - BABA (1998)

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### **Swami's Protection**

During Sivaratri of 1949, Swami asked a young man, "Have you joined the army?" The young man answered in the affirmative. Swami said, "I know why you have come here." Though Swami had seen him the previous day, He had not spoken to him. The young man had submitted a fraudulent TA (army) bill, and had gone alone to Simla to attend an interview for the post of clerks. But, he had claimed railway fare for himself and his family. The fraud was noticed later and an inquiry was instituted. This person, belonging to a respectable family, was now in disgrace. He had rushed to the home of friends and requested to be taken to Swami.

Next morning Swami told the friend to call the young man for an interview. Swami said to him, "Since you have done a wrong thing for the first time, I will save you. But do not repeat it in your life. If the police come to arrest you, submit yourself. I will protect you, have no fear. But stay at home." Swami materialised vibhuti and applied it to him forehead. After returning to his place, he started praying Swami incessantly. He had thought of committing suicide if he was not exonerated. The police did not come. But he got the information from his friends in Simla that for some unknown reason the inquiry had been dropped. He had darshan of Swami with his devoted wife once again at the home of Sri Thiruvengadam Setty, in Bangalore. Swami had told him to bring his wife

during the next visit, and it was then that Swami told them, "If the wife is a pativrata (faithful and loyal wife), her prayers to the Lord to ward off dangers to her husband will definitely be answered."

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*"The hallmark of love is sacrifice. Love seeks nothing from anyone. It bears no ill-will towards anyone. It is utterly selfless and pure". - BABA.*

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### **The Maharaja & Baba**

The Maharaja and the Maharani of Sandur were deeply anxious at the major changes that took place due to India's new-found independence. The Maharaji was fearful of losing his five centuries old heritage, while the Maharani worried about her children's education and their future position in life.

Most of the princely states were being merged with the Indian Union, and this gave him sleepless nights. While having faith in his family's deity, Lord Kartikeya, the celestial war Lord. Nonetheless, the worry plagued him day and night, and he collapsed from the pressure he was now under. As he laid in bed, an old man appeared to him dressed in a kafni and a cloth tied on his head. The old man sat on his bed and lovingly soothed his brow, and said, "Don't worry, everything will be alright" and the Maharaja fell asleep.

The following morning one of his ministers suggested to have darshan of Shirdi Sai Baba. The Maharaja was not a religious man and had no knowledge of Baba, whereupon the minister took a photo from his

pocket and showed it to him. It was the same person who had visited him the previous night.

The minister said, "They say there is another Sai Baba, near Bangalore. They say He is the same Baba, but I don't believe it."

Some days later, the first of January 1948, the Maharani was in Bangalore and a friend gave her a gift that turned out to be a photo of Sathya Sai Baba, saying, "You are not keeping well. Let us go to Puttaparthi and take the blessings of this Sathya Sai Baba!" But because she was unwell her doctor did not allow her to go out even for a drive. However, days later the Maharani had a strange dream. Her house in Bangalore was surrounded by many people and a riot was in progress. She wanted to phone the police for protection, for she was scared. After a while she looked out of the window and was stunned to see Shirdi Sai Baba guarding the front of her house. Going to the back and the sides she saw Shirdi Sai Baba on guard on all four sides; north, south, east and west! She was stunned to see this, nonetheless she bolted the door against possible intruders and was stunned to see Shirdi Sai Baba enter the house through a crack in the front door.

Standing before her, Baba asked her to stretch out her hand and placed something in the palm of her hand saying, "This is for your protection."

When she opened her palm she saw a toy pistol, whereupon Baba disappeared, and the dream ended.

Her friend called and suggested she join her at her house as Sathya Sai

Baba was coming to Babaglore. In due course she was standing in front of Baba with folded hands, and thought to herself, "He is God!", though He was only a boy of eighteen! Swami applied vibhuti to her forehead saying, "Amma, don't worry about your state! You will be a hundred times bigger than you now are. Come to Puttapparthi with the Maharaja."

While preparing to visit Puttapparthi, the Maharaja was summoned to Delhi, whereupon the Maharani wrote a letter to Swami explaining that they were unable to make the visit. Not having Swami's address she instructed a man to take the letter by bus and have it delivered personally to Baba.

While the bus was passing through Bukkapatnam, a car coming from the opposite direction stopped the bus. It was Swami in the car calling out for the man with the letter. The man was bewildered, who was calling him? And how did he know he was carrying a letter from the Maharani? Getting down from the bus, Sai Baba said to him, "Give Me the Maharani's letter." Without opening it He told the man, "Tell her to come whenever she can."

Ignoring the command to Delhi, the Maharaja and the Maharani journeyed to Puttapparthi instead, with their retinue. They hadn't sent prior notice to Baba of their visit, and parked their car on the bank of the Chitravathi river and waded across to the opposite side. Much to their joy they found Swami waiting to welcome them, saying, "I am waiting for you. You must stay tonight and go tomorrow. I will look after everything. Don't worry about

anything," He assured them. After that, whenever a problem of state came up, the Maharaja went to consult Swami. At times, Swami guided the Maharaja on the right lines and gave them much hope, at a juncture when they thought all was lost.

Once the Maharaja was suddenly afflicted with facial paralysis, his doctors recommended three months rest and medication. Since Swami was in Whitefield, the Maharaja drove straight there, Swami met with him and upon learning of the paralysis, gave him a gentle slap on the cheek! The paralysis fled and never returned! The doctors could only stare in surprise at what they saw. *"Divine Glory" by V. Balu.*

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*"Prayers without sincerity are like letters without stamps.*

*Prayers without devotion are like letters without addresses.*

*Prayers with sincerity, devotion and yearning are like telegrams".*

- BABA

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### **Oval-Shaped Lingam**

Oval-Shaped Lingam is a symbol of representation of Siva-Shakti.

(Siva is the God Who "blesses beings with the most desirable gift of meaning in the Universe").

The Linga or Lingam, is an ellipsoid, or oval shape symbol representing Siva-Shakti. There is only one Fundamental Power, and that is the embodiment of Siva-Shakti which is all-pervasive, and is the primary

polarity principle of positive and negative forces.

Swami refers to it as the "Secret of Creation". "Just as OM is the verbal symbol of God, the Lingam is the symbolic form of the Godhead."

All creation comes from it and is subsumed in it. It is the Cosmos; that which is the will of Siva concretised, for we are all willed by Siva and formed by Siva Himself. The Lingam is a symbol of the Omnipresent and Omnipotent Lord, "... and has more to do with dimensions of consciousness than with its material substance. It is a symbol of duality emerging out of and merging back into, the One."

Howard Murphet stated in his book "Sai Baba, Man of Miracles" that Siva-Shakti the father and mother of all that is, and that Siva is not only an aspect of the Triune Godhead - the destruction-regeneration aspect, -He is also the highest God, the father of all the gods, -the Cosmic Logos. Shakti is His consort, the female aspect. (Shirdi Sai came as Siva; Sathya Sai came as Siva-Shakti; and Prema Sai will come with the Shakti aspect only.)

Further, Murphet stated that the Lingam comes with the occult property of creating a channel between man and the Divine power on the inner plane it represents. Through such a channel many blessings, benefits and auspicious conditions will flow to the worshippers. But the mystic link must be established by someone with the necessary understanding of the principles, and knowledge of the forms of the ritual required.

The Lingams that Sai Baba has brought forth have been of stone,

metal and crystal. Often the translucent Lingams have an inner light that glows and changes colours.

Dr. Eruch Fanibunda, was present at Mahasivaratri Day, in 1974. He stated the following in his book "Visions of the Divine", after he witnessed, "... this memorable event and photographed this rare unique crystal Lingam, which contained within itself an orange, cup-shaped flame in the form of a TRISHUL (trident). The colour of this Trishul changed every ten minutes, from orange to yellow, to blue, and sometimes changed to almost colourless." Those who are fortunate to possess a Lingam that Swami has materialised, are required to carry out daily worship, saying prayers and mantras, whilst pouring water over the Lingam and distributing the Holy Water to the sick and needy, and many cures have been reported as the result.

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### **Why does water scarcity arise?**

When there is a decline in Sathya and Dharma, the level of water in the earth also declines.

As compassion and love have diminished in human heart, water has become scarce. This problem is not due to divine fury as some people may imagine. It is because of the rise in evil qualities in man. If people strictly adhere to the path of truth and righteousness, there will never be water scarcity. People blame bad times for their misfortunes, but there is nothing wrong with time. There are adequate rains and perennial rivers. But they are merging into the ocean without being harnessed. - BABA.

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## Communion with the Divine

by Lucas Ralli

Love God, love everyone and see yourself as a reflection of God with that wonderful shining light all around you. That is the way to God.

What does "communion" mean? My idea was simply "communication", but my dictionary says, "sharing, participation and fellowship."

However, I chose this subject because I have been able to communicate with the Divine for many years, and like so many others, have been aware of the Divine Presence on my nine visits to be with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The moment I arrived at the Ashram at Prasanthi Nilayam, I felt a completely different person. No worries, no anxieties; in fact nothing except love.

How to Communicate with the Omnipresent Lord?

So, there we are with Swami with the feeling of "sharing, participation and fellowship". That is certainly a good starting point and the closer we can get to Swami and all His teachings, the sooner we will find "liberation", a release from the endless lives that we lead, some of which lead us nowhere. Hence we come back, over and over again, and continue our path back towards our Creator. Hopefully, we will eventually merge again with God and find total liberation.

Every time I am asked to write an article, I cannot escape from repeating the "beginning", i.e. the moment (after a 40-year search) I

discovered Swami. It was November 1979 when I read the following words:

*There is only one religion, the religion of Love.*

*There is only one caste, the caste of humanity.*

*There is only one language, the language of the heart.*

*There is only one God, He is omnipresent.*

Those words confirmed everything I had learnt and I realised that I had found a teacher who knew everything. So I became an instant devotee, especially as I found that I could communicate with the Divine at any moment of day or night and God was always there. Where is "there" and who is "He"? I think the simple answer is the Omnipresent of God and when you have all your worries and fears are forms of illusion. But most of us have them and that is presumably part of the reason why we are here now, some, no doubt, as teachers/helpers, and others to continue on the long spiritual path will eventually lead us back to God.

Although I was always able to communicate with the Divine, I had the problem in the early days when many people thought my messages were "bogus". Hence, I kept a low profile. I remember that in January 1980, I told Swami that I wanted to come to see Him. However, to my surprise, He replied "Not now, later!" Then, in the summer of 1980, when I was on holiday in Greece, He said, "I will speak to you in Bombay." Little did I know at that time that He only

went to Bombay once a year, and only for a few days.

Jean and I came to Swami with His blessings in January 1981 when Swami was at Whitefield, but then He was going to Madras and also to Bombay. After two weeks in Whitefield, He told me in a 'message' that we should go and wait for Him in Bombay, and it was there that we had our first interview, exactly as Swami had told me the previous summer. Although we had many more interviews in the years that followed, this first interview was utterly divine, and time seemed timeless. We went out again in October 1981 when Swami was at Puttaparthi and here again we had some wonderful experiences.

However, we did not go again until 1983 by which time I was the President of the UK Sathya Sai Council. I was in the Verandah and had the chance to ask Swami if all the messages were from Him. His immediate answer was simple: "Where do you think they come from, the sky?" He told me to publish the messages in a book and even chose the publisher. He also told me that Prof. Kasturi would choose the name of the book, and the first name, which he suggested was, "Sai Messages for You and Me". The first book came out in 1985, and now there are five volumes in thirteen languages.

In the early days of the UK Council, there were the usual problems that you get in any organisation. Some of them bothered me. So, at an interview in 1983, I asked Swami what we should do. His answer was in one sentence: "Why do you worry so much? I am you, you are Me, all

one, all god." So I learnt to surrender everything to Him and cease to worry. It certainly seemed to work and for the rest of the 1980's, we had peace in the Organisation. Also, during those years, I travelled around the UK to visit so many Sai Centres where I was invited to give talks. At first, I was very nervous, but I realised very quickly that I was simply a channel and Swami really did all the talking. I never had to think, and yet it all flowed through beautifully. I could actually "see" it coming, and towards the end of a 30/40 minute talk, I could see how Swami was going to end up, which was always brilliant! But that was Swami, and I can only call it "Communion with God". The same thing continued after I was appointed Central Co-ordinator for Europe which meant I had to travel to several European countries every year and give talks at their big meetings. It was a fascinating experience, due entirely to the Divine Presence.

So, where are we today? Surely it is time to come to terms with reality, the truth that God exists and resides in our hearts, and that each one of us is a part of the totality. Can you imagine any other miracle beyond that? God loves us all and that love will never end, regardless of all our earthly experiences, doubts and everything that goes with it. Love God, love everyone and see yourself as a reflection of God with that wonderful shining light all around you. That is the way to God!

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*"The body is the temple of God; in everybody 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 that voice. Obey that voice and you will not come to any harm".*  
- BABA.

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### **Lessons from God**

What happens to a baby's soul after Abortion or Miscarriage?

(Short article by Amarjit Singh Hamrah).

One fine morning at home, I was chanting mantras when Sai Babaji appeared and said, "Amarjit, come with Me," we reappeared in a Gurudwara (temple) with my wife also, sitting next to me in the temple Hall. Babaji looked at me and said, "I have brought someone to meet you."

I said, "Baba, who have you brought?"

Baba said, "Come, meet your other daughter." I was totally confused and said, "Baba, You are mistaken, we have a daughter, we do not have another." Baba replied, "Aha! She is your other daughter. Do you not remember the trauma your wife suffered during the miscarriage fifteen years ago?"

I replied, "Baba, why have You brought her to see us?" I saw this girl standing next to us, tall and very serene, as if she had been touched by God!

Baba spoke, "Amarjit. When the mother has a miscarriage or abortion, it is not automatic that the child's soul ascends. If the parents are constantly immersed in prayers then God intervenes and sends Angels to take the baby's soul to

Heaven/appropriate place, if not in prayers, then the baby's soul can be trapped in Limbo, becoming a Bhoot/Spirit, and normally attaches itself to its mother where it is (at) home. From the mother's body the baby's soul may cause untold trauma to its mother/father, and all around. Many times the soul has no idea that its body/temple has died! The soul watches everything the parents do and interferes with their emotions. Amarjit, this is why it's important to immerse in God prayers always.

"God has acknowledged your prayers and devotion, and interfered to take your baby's soul home!"

Baba took hold of our daughter's hand and the gates of Heaven opened and He disappeared with the Angels.

It's only when the Hand of God touches us, we realise there is more to life than what we perceive. We should open our senses and allow our Inner Godhead to awaken. Baba says, "I am God, you too are God, but you fail to recognise this!"

*Sat Naam Satnaam Om Sai Ram, Amarjit*

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*"Man is born so that he may not be born again and he dies, so that he may not die again".* - BABA.

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### **Man's Place with God**

Swami once stated, "... when God first created the Universe, He felt that one thing was missing and that was an entity which would understand the purpose of Creation

and also know who the Creator was. So, God created man."

Amazingly, He further stated that man is already 85% Divine, and only 15% of contamination. So, it appears we still have some distance to go (By His Grace)!

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"When you plant the seed of Truth in the heart and make faith take deep root, with the rain of chanting God's Name, peace blossoms, yielding the fruit of liberation. Therefore, every human being should sow the seed of Truth in his heart. The deeper the root of faith goes down, the stronger will be the tree of life. You must provide water for the flourishing growth of the tree by means of Bhajan (singing the glory of God) and Daiva Chintana (contemplation) on God. Only then will the flower of Shanthi (peace) bloom and from this the fruit of liberation will be attained". - BABA.

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### **Embodiments of Love**

"To realise one's real nature, one's innate disposition, is the foremost aim of spirituality. This aim is not confined to spiritual practices alone. Man should realise his true nature in every field of activity - temporal, ethical, physical and secular. You are enthusiastic in finding the faults of others but you are not trying to know your own faults. You will be able to improve yourself when you try to know your own faults. Such a man will become an ideal human being. If you behave like a monkey, who will treat you like a human being? At the most, people may show respect to you just for the sake of

courtesy. But in your absence, they may criticise you in many ways. So, you should not tread that path. You should act according to your conscience. You should follow the sacred path and put the divine qualities present within you to right use. You need not go in search of the innumerable aspects of the world. You should strive to know your true nature". - BABA.

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"You should not crave for pleasures. They breed diseases. You should dedicate everything to the Divine through sacrifice.

Bend your body and work hard. Your hands should be busy in work and your mind should be filled with good feelings. If you do so, there will be no greater man than you. Such a human being is true human being.

God is in search of such a true human being". - BABA.

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### **Freedom from Fear**

"Feelings such as fear, envy, hatred, etc., become ingrained in a person if he nurtures them for a long time from an early age in his life. God never endows man with fear. It is one's own weakness that fosters fear, because of some shortcomings in one's self. One who has not committed any wrong or evil will have no fear and hence will not need any protection or security. Fearlessness is the hallmark of divinity. One can become fearless through Thyaga (renunciation). For example, if you have some valuables with you, there is room for fear. But if you give up those valuables, you

will be free from fear wherever you may be, even in a jungle infested with robbers". - BABA.

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### **GANDHI on the GITA**

Gandhi, in his wisdom, had referred to the restlessness of man in this age of Kali. He referred many times to the wisdom of the Gita, and one is reminded of a remark by Swami that "the Age of Kali has become the Age of Kalaha (quarrels)."

"Man," said Gandhi, "is not at peace with himself till he has become like unto God. The endeavour to reach this state is the supreme, the only ambition worth having. And this is self-realisation. This self-realisation is the subject of the Gita, as it is of all scriptures.

"It has been my endeavour, as also that of some companions, to reduce to practice the teachings of the Gita as I have understood it. The Gita has become for us a spiritual reference book..." Swami has said: "Gita is the Messenger of God. Gita is the Universal Mother. Gita is the means for man to cross the ocean of life. Gita is the support for all spiritual seekers."

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### **Once a Britisher found**

Mahatma Gandhi in a very dejected mood and asked for the reason. Gandhi replied, "the hard-heartedness of the educated makes me feel sad."

He was worried about the current education system, which was making man stone-hearted.

*"True education is that which fosters compassion and love and ultimately leads man to Divinity. Such education is the need of the hour".*

- BABA.

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### **Embodiments of Love!**

*("Sanathana Sarathi," June 2000)*

"The goal of man's life is neither happiness nor sorrow. Man can find fulfilment in life only if he can trace the origin of happiness and sorrow. In fact, man attains wisdom from sorrow and not out of happiness. The sages and seers of yore had to face great hardships and troubles before they could set great ideals to the rest of the world. That is why their teachings have left an indelible impression on the hearts of Bharatiyas. Both the individual and the society can achieve progress and prosperity only after undergoing many trials and tribulations. Man has to face not only difficulties, but censure and criticism also. But noble souls will never care for difficulties or criticism. Welfare of the society is their main objective in life."

-BABA.

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"There is no human being in the world without love. However, that love expresses itself in many ways. In a mental asylum, there are people with many kinds of delusions. In a sense, the entire world may be considered as a mental asylum. There are many people in the world who are crazy about money. There are others who have obsessions regarding their health and sickness. Some others are crazy about power

and position. In this manner, every individual is obsessed with some desire or the other. There are, again, some who are obsessed with the idea of God. That is the only commendable obsession". - BABA.

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### **Sai & the Irate Missionary**

*from "Sanathana Sarathi."*

One morning, Giri Naidu shares, I found myself dropped at a convent school run by foreign missionaries in a Himalayan town and the gates closed behind me.

I kept myself at a safe distance from the stern-looking missionaries, and not a day passed without hearing the 'whoosh! Whoosh!' of a cane and uncontrollable sobs and cried of some unfortunate child.

A photo of Swami which I have with me was taken away and locked in a cupboard. In my loneliness I derived consolation from the book, "Sathya Sai Speaks", which was kept well hidden beneath my bed. But one cold night, just before supper, the warden came in with a grim face and announced, "Henceforth none shall keep any books beneath their beds. If books are found they shall be confiscated. Even if any religious books are found, they shall be torn into bits. The boys found guilty shall be caned severely."

My heart leaped upon hearing this and it raced fast. I couldn't eat supper, so I rose and walked out of the dining hall.

An icy wind greeted me. I brooded, "What am I to do with that book of Swami. How could I give it away! It was my only source of joy and

consolation." My mind was now determined that I would continue to keep it beneath my pillow and face the consequences. I knew it was a severe test and my Lord would make me pass.

Nothing happened for a week, but one night, about 10 p.m., I was still wide awake in my bed, as a cold wind whistled outside my window, it made the glass window rattle loudly. All the boys in my dormitory were fast asleep, unaware of the terror that was to strike that night. The lights of the dormitory were suddenly put on, and there stood the Warden with another missionary with a thick cane in his hand that knew no compassion. They pulled the sleeping boys out of bed and the beds were checked. Many comics and fairy-tale books were found beneath their beds. Blows rained down on them and cried for mercy equally kept pace with it.

While it was freezing outside, I was perspiring profusely. I covered myself and lay still, chanting the Gayatri Mantra frantically. I could hear the soft footsteps of the missionary approaching my bed. It was my turn now. I felt a light tap. My lips went dry. My tongue refused to chant any mantram, but I found myself yelling within, "Baba! Baba! Baba!" I opened my eyes to present an innocent look and slowly got off my bed. The missionary gave me a sarcastic smile. I was afraid, not of the cane, as I was cocksure that my soul would jump out before the cane could land on me. I feared the dreadful fate that awaited my book.

The missionary overturned my pillow with his cane and "Sathya Sai Speaks" showed itself lovingly. He

looked at me ferociously. He hit the book with the cane. I felt the blow, a little cry escaped from my lips. Raising his gruff voice, he asked, "What is that I see?" I remained silent. The boys stood motionless in dreadful silence, as tears streamed down the cheeks of some. The angry missionary pounced on the book, taking it in his rough hands. I stood in terror expecting him to tear it into bits. But I found the book still safe in his hands. He was staring at it and kept muttering, "Sathya Sai Speaks! Sathya Sai Speaks! Sathya Sai Speaks!"

After a few minutes he opened the book that revealed the picture of our benevolent Sai staring at him. He gazed at the beautiful picture and it stared back at him. I wondered what had happened to him.

"Who is He!" he eventually asked me softly. I was silent; I felt I had lost my voice. I said, "Sai Baba!" The cane fell from his hand as he stared at the picture with greater concentration. I did not know what was happening to him.

The missionary placed the book gently on my bed, to the astonishment of all, and tip-toed out of the room. Tears of joy and gratitude trickled down my cheeks, for my beloved Lord had made me feel the warmth of His Love even in the distant Himalayan region.

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*"The moment you realise that you are not the body, then at that moment all the attachments and delusions will disappear". - BABA.*

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## **Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital**

... a moving miracle of love.

It was in 2005 when Swami suddenly asked the Secretary of the Super Speciality Hospital, "Is it possible to build a bus with all the modern state-of-the-art medical diagnostic equipment in it?" "Swami, I shall find out," came the reply.

Unknown to the Secretary, the Siemens company had just produced a medical speciality bus, (coincidence?)

This bus was procured and Dr. Narasimhan was made the director of the project. The only advice Swami gave him was simple and profound. "A doctor needs to provide care. Then alone it becomes MEDI-CARE. Otherwise it remains only MEDI-SIN. This is a holy endeavour."

The buses toured the many villages, but also offered entertainment with movies and cartoons for the children.

Swami has said, "If there is entertainment, there will be merriment. If there is merriment, there will be joy. If there is joy, there will be health. If there is health, there will be spirituality."

In answer to the question as to who was sponsoring all of this, the answer came, "It is done completely by the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. But, I must say that the medicines have been donated to the Central Trust by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories. They gave us even the most expensive medicines free of cost."

These buses also carry in a side booth, a 20KVA generator that not

only produces electricity for the equipment on board but also for the lights, fans, X-rays for immediate diagnosis, and an ultrasound machine. In such poor villages, this is considered a luxury.

When Dr. Narasimhan was asked about his livelihood, he replied, "I live off my savings. My wife is salaried and my in-laws also help us a bit. But I cannot live without this service."

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*"Complete faith is most essential if you want to experience Divinity. There should not be even an iota of doubt. One living without faith in the Divine is like a lifeless corpse".*

- BABA.

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*"A man of faith needs not worry about who will take care of him, if he devotes all his time to thoughts of the Divine". - BABA.*

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### **Why fear when I am near**

*by Maj. Gen. S.P. Mahadevan, AVSM  
(Retd) India.*

In 1973, I was lucky to receive a silver ring materialised by Baba while He was travelling with me in a military staff car on the way to Wellington Barracks in Nilgris district to bless the soldiers of the Madras Regimental Centre and their families. Later in 1974 during an interview graciously granted to me and my wife in Brindavan, Bhagawan declared "Why fear when I am near".

I had read about His earlier saying "Why fear When I am here", but His statement "Why fear When I am near" turned out to be a more direct Divine assurance for a military man like me. At that time I was General Officer Commanding of a Mountain Division in the snow covered area of Ladhak facing the Chinese on one side and the Pakistanis on the other. I had my usual quota of anxiety, worries, problems and fear about the hostile weather, inhospitable terrain and the adverse aggressive actions which either the Chinese or the Pakistanis or both could launch without notice. Armed with Baba's assurance, I was able to ensure the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland in spite of numerous ceasefire violations by Pakistani army and many intrusions by armed Chinese patrols.

In Treta Yuga, Lord Rama kept His word given to Sugriva and Vibhishana. In Dwapara Yuga, Lord Krishna kept His words given to the Pandavas. Similarly in Kali Yuga, Lord Sai had been keeping His word given to an ordinary devotee like me. When I suffered a heart attack on 24 April 1986, during my visit to Hyderabad. Lord Sai as "Apadbandhava" not only saved me by responding immediately to my wife's prayers but also mentioned to some devotees in Prashanthi 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 had sent me through the Andhra Trust Convener, who had gone to Prashanthi Nilayam, the Divine Vibhuti prasad, a basket of citrus fruits and also a letter full of His love, compassion and blessings saying "Don't worry, I am with you, in you and around you

guiding you and guarding you". Later, on 18 July 1986 Bhagawan gave me a pleasant by coming all the way to Madras unannounced just to bless me, and my wife.

Whenever I prayed to Him sincerely with full faith in Him, He responded promptly and saved me from dangers, difficulties and near-death situations - once in a helicopter crash over Kardungla Pass in 1974, in a snow-avalanche in 1975, in a head-on car collision in 1982 and also during Bangladesh operations. When I wanted to resign in 1983 as Chairman Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, being very unhappy and agitated due to the political pressure exerted on me by Ministers, MPs and MLAs for selecting their candidates, Bhagawan counselled me not to resign and gave me very valuable advice, "You need not oblige all the time, but you can always speak obligingly". This golden advice stood me well during my full six years tenure as chairman of TNPSC.

In December 1977, He saved my youngest son who is an Officer in Indian Navy from a scooter accident, in June 1985 he saved my second son who is a pilot in the Air Force from an air crash north of Hyderabad, and in 1980, He saved my eldest son who is an Army Officer from bullets during internal security duties. My wife who is a Sai devotee does not take medicines except Vibhuti given by Swami. On many occasions I have received answers to my doubts, queries and worries from Swami either in person during His appearances in dreams or hearing His words directed towards somebody else sitting nearby.

Time and again Swami had made me realize by His mysterious ways that He is Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient, 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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*"No one can fully assess the power of love. Love is infinite, most precious and most blissful. The bliss of love surpasses that derived from nectar. Love defies all definitions and descriptions. It is this gospel of love that Buddha disseminated. It is this love he enjoyed and experienced, and ultimately merged into it at the end of his life". - BABA.*

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