### Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai.

The Celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 81st Birthday took place at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Shorey, of Carrickmines, Co. Dublin. It was well attended and our love of Swami was expressed in the many Bhajans sung throughout the evening. It was a happy occasion! Our deepest thanks go to the Shorey family for their kindness in allowing the members of the Dublin wing of the Sai Organisation, to share their home such auspicious an occasion...not forgetting the delicious snacks served afterwards!

On the occasion of the "Akhana Bhajan 2006", members of the Dublin Sai Centre were invited to celebrate it in the pleasant atmosphere of the home of Jagan and Bindu Muttumula, and later a meal was served. "Akhana Bhajans" are carried out throughout the world every year, to pray for world peace and harmony. We extend our sincere thanks to Bindu and Jagan for their hospitality.

We are all aware that non-vegetarian food and alcoholic drinks are not permitted within the confines of Prasanthi Nilayam. It is now reported in the *Times of India*, that this ban is now extended to a radius of 9kms around Puttaparthi, to maintain the holiness of the international spiritual centre. This new law will be enforced by the Puttaparthi police, who stress that they are not harassing people, but councelling them to observe the holiness of the Centre.

At least 12 of the 15 owners of the liquor shops in the surrounding villages, have been advised to cease trading in liquor. Equally, hotels outside the ashram have also been asked to stop serving nonvegetarian food.

Officials said, Puttaparthi town, with a population of 20,000 people, never had a liquor shop but visitors used to be served by the local belt shops.

Meanwhile, the President of India, A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, attended the 81st Birthday celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai

Baba at Puttaparthi on November 23rd. He gave a short talk the Annual Convocation Ceremony and also attended the inauguration of the Indoor Stadium, which was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore, (1.73 million euro, approx.).

The first game to be played in the new Stadium was a Badminton match between India and Indonesia. India won! This was followed by the Harlem Globe-trotters and the New York Nationals, playing a friendly basket ball game with impressive skill.

Prior to the sports programme in the Stadium, Swami indicated to the President, Dr. Kalam, to address the gathering. After his short talk Dr. Kalam, and before his leaving, he gave a poem he had written, to Prof. Anil Kumar, to read on his behalf.

### Entitled, Earth Shining In Glory:

"Our Milky Way is shining, with millions and millions of stars.

Our beloved star Sun, along with eight other planets around,

Orbits the Milky Way, finishes one orbit in two hundred and fifty million years.

Somewhere in the galaxy, echoed a voice in surprise. 'See there the Earth shining in glory: how come it got its light?'

A sweet and soft reply came: 'It is not the mere light, It is the Light of knowledge, It is the Light of service, It is the light of Peace. Specially radiating from Prasanthi Nilayam when Earth completes its eightieth orbit carrying a Great Soul in its bosom.'

Ed.

Dedicate all your thoughts and aspirations to God and surrender yourselves to the Will of the Divine. Surrender may appear to be difficult, but it is not so. It is in fact like keeping your money in the bank. You will be able to draw money from the bank whenever you need it. Similarly when you have entrusted all your concerns to

Bhagavan, you can draw from Him whatever you need. Some time or other your wealth will go. But once you have earned the grace of God, you can feel secure and satisfied. BABA.

### **Educational Concerts**

The following was published in the Times of Oman.

MUSCAT, -The Middle East Nursery has conducted their educational concerts based on the philosophy of Educare, recently.

Dr. Aminul Islam, board member of Bangladest School, Muscat, Father Chacko from the Ruwi Church and Mr. Gopakumar from Kalamandalam, were guests of honours at the programme.

The children brought out the divinity in seasons through their talks, songs and dances. There were Summer, Spring, Winter and rainy seasons and the message of diversity in creation and its essence was glorified.

Another group of children brought out the message of unity and faiths and how the various religions help to make their own life fruitful by restoring their eternal relationship with the Creator and secondly to make all persons aware that they are all the Almighty's creations, so that they would live in peace, love and harmony. The children in their talks about Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrian-ism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism made reference to the founders, holy books, holy places and quotes. Finally, the show ended with a Peace song and a song stressing unity of faiths.

"The programme was conceptualised on the basis of Educare where the knowledge and the values that is within each child, is brought out to its fullest capacity," said Chithra Narayan, Director of Middle East Nursery and E14V trainer in her welcome address.

Middle East Nursery has adopted education in Human Values in its entire curriculum and the founder of Human

Values programme is renowned educator, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This curriculum needs no change of syllabus.

It emphasises in change of attitude to see things from bad to good and wrong to right

Without sorrow, there can be no wisdom. It is pain that teaches many lessons to man. BABA.

### Both Different, One Form.

Mr. Sudhakar, a business analyst working for Senryo Inc., in Madison, USA. He has many experiences of the Divinity of Bhagavan, he narrared the following:

"I have been feeling the presence of Bhagavan with me all along my life. I have wonderful experiences and the moment I think of Him, He comes in some or other form to me. He always listens to my prayers and He is kind to me. I believe in Karma, but just by uttering Sai's Name, the Karma is washed away.

"A few days ago, my brother sent me a photograph of Shirdi Sai Baba appearing in a marriage that had recently taken place in the USA. I took that photograph, formatted, and had a close look at Baba. The way He stood is exactly the same as how he stood in a black and white photograph dated 1916, with Bapu Sahib Boutte and Nemenkar.

"Then, for a moment, I thought if it was real; did Shirdi Baba really come for the wedding? If He had come, why no one had noticed Him. In that mindset I was checking mv e-mails. To astonishment. I found a mail in which Satya Sai tells His devotees, 'I have no form or shape, don't try to evaluate Me. I can be anywhere anytime.' It was amazing to have the mail from an unknown source just at that moment. It only establishes that Sri Satya Sai is no other than Shirdi Sai; both of them differ only in from.'

Man has been enslaved by money. He lives a superficial, hollow, artificial life. This is indeed a great pity. Man should seek to possess only as much money as is most essential for his living. The quality of riches one earns, must be compared to the shoes one wears; if too small, they cause pain; if too big, they are a hinderance to physical and mental comfort. When we have more, it breeds pride, sloth and contempt for others. In pursuit of money, man descends to the level of the beast. Money is of the nature of manure. Piled up in one place, it pollutes the air. Spread it wide; scatter it over fields, it rewards you with a bumper harvest. So too, when money is spread in all the four quarters for promoting good works, it yields contentment and happiness in plenty. BABA.

**God Amongst Us** 

The following are extracts from a variety of sources.

# "Compendium of Information on Sathya Sai Baba" page 207

"...He has assured us that Sat Yuga shall start from 1999 and during during the days of His next Avatar as Prema Sai, will be from 2030 onwards...However, from now (?) till 1999, there will be many natural calamities, but He will exercise His powers and influence as Avatar, to prevent nuclear war. He has said to His devotees in earnestness not to leave His Sai Organisation fold, not to try to get out of the umbrella of His Divine Protective Grace, lest they should be subjected to any harm at the hand's of Nature's fury which will be raging till 1999, i.e. till Satyuga starts."

Swami's Discourse: 13th Sept. '99

"Never be disheartened when you are faced with difficulties or suffering in life. Have firm faith in the power of the Atma. One who recognises the power of the Atma will not suffer. The panacea for all suffering is chanting of God's name. Have the firm conviction that you are God. Never be under the mistaken notion that God is the Master and you are His slave. You do not have a Master; you are the Master! Master the mind and be the mastermind. Never forget God's name!"

### "Seeking Divinity" page 191.

Hislop stated:- "Swami says it is not of value to engage in various techniques and practices, such as a large variety of meditations, because when you take up such practice, you are, in effect saying, 'I am outside trying to get inside. I am not God, I am trying to get close to God.' So, that is self-defeating. He says the only true meditation is thinking of God, loving God from the moment you awaken to the time you go to sleep; to keep your mind and your attention always on God.

## "Sanathana Sarathi" Discourse Jan. 2000.

"Modern scientists have dug deep into the earth and made explicit several potent capacities that are resident inside the earth. By such indiscriminate acts, they are disturbing the balance of the earth and exposing the world to great danger. This imbalance has grown to such an extent that it can cause threat to the very existence of the world. Today we almost worship science and technology. What is this science and technology that you are so proud about? All this knowledge is already within you. Proper enquiry and discrimination will reveal all these truths to you."

# "Sai Sruthi" Kodaikanal, discourse 28th April 1999.

"At one time, someone questioned Shirdi Sai Baba, "Are you God?" What was His reply? "All are the forms of the

Divine. I am not only Divine, but also the Divinity that is present in the Divine", said Baba. "So, the same Divinity is present in every being as all are the forms of the Divine. But people are not able to realise the Divine because they drink intoxicating wine of worldly desires. Wine leads to ignorance but not to the Divine. So, you should consume something that promotes Divinity. What is it? It is Love."

### The Lord And His Devotees

While one is seated at darshan, one is infused with Cosmic Energy from the mere look by Sai Baba in one's direction. No matter what the distance may be, His look penetrates the void between Him and His devotees, bringing enormous mental, emotional and physical changes to anyone fortunate enough to be within His gaze. Despite the fact that there could be as many as 50,000 other devotees present at that darshan, His powerful 'look' wings its way towards the particular person in need, as happened to a lady seriously ill with cancer. She was brought by ambulance from the Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, at her own request, and her stretcher was placed at the entrance. She was to be returned to the hospital as soon as the darshan was over.

Her cancer had spread all over her body and she could hardly breath. Doctors thought she would die at any time; that was why they asked her if she had a last wish, "I wish to have Swami's darshan, please!" was her reply.

Swami's gaze rested on this lady for just a moment, and that gaze cured her instantly!

The 50,000 people present witnessed this miracle, as she got up from the stretcher and became absolutely normal. Proof, if proof is needed, that Swami's darshan could heal a devotee in an instant.

How blessed we are as Sai devotees to be able to have Swami's darshan. When one thinks of the many days Jesus spent in meditation, fasting and in prayer, before He was able to experience the Lord. We journey to Prasanthi Nilayam or Bangalore, and there stands the Lord in all His Glory. How fortunate we are, indeed!

Many devotees have Sai been associated with Swami over many lifetimes, He has said, "You are not aware of this, but I know it all. These sacred associations have been maintained over many lifetimes. Without such association in the past it would not be possible for all of you to come here. Thus many of you have from time immemorial had links with the Atmic Self. This link is unbroken. It is eternal, infinite. Such sacred relationships should never be given up. All should return to the place where they came from. That is the strident declaration of the Bhagavathum, 'It is natural for every living creature to go back to the source from which it came'. You have come from the Atma and you must merge in the Atma. Till the goal is reached, you must not treat lightly the sacred journey of life."

"Many approach Me and ask, 'Swami, show a way.' I tell them, 'There is no need for Me to show you a path. You go back by the route you came.'"

Truly these beautiful, hopeful words diminish the dogmas of hell, eternal damnation and everlasting separation from God! Swami's teachings offer hope to mankind and particularly to those people raised under the Damoclean sword of God's 'judgment and condemnation'.

I cannot but help thinking of the many, many people who 'crossed over' without the sweet, comforting words of Swami ringing in their ears, "You are all saved!" Ed.

Mankind can find happiness only in unity, not in diversity. BABA.

#### "Call It International Centre"

The magnificent Sai Centre in Delhi, was finally completed in 1998, after six years of construction. It stands majestically surrounded by well-tended green lawns and colourful flowerbeds.

Its inauguration took place on 12th March 1999, when Sri Sathya Sai Baba delivered the following discourse;

Today we have inaugurated the International Sai Centre. We should cultivate broad and noble feelings. I will certainly come to Delhi every year, provide you develop broad feelings, and put them into practice. In a Sai Organisation, there should be no differences of opinion. All should live like brothers and sisters. More than a hundred years ago, when Vivekananda spoke at a religious congregation in Chicago, addressing the audience as brothers and sisters, he was greeted with a thunderous applause. In olden days, brothers and sisters attained the supreme state of mind living in harmony with each other. But, today brothers and sisters go to courts for lack of amity.

Develop love. Devotion bereft of love is no devotion at all. You may undertake any number of spiritual practices, but love should be the underlying principle. Friendship is one of the nine paths of devotion propagated by the culture of Bharat. So, develop friendship with God. God is not separate from you. You are God. God is in you and around you. God is all-pervasive just as an atom. Conduct yourselves with the firm conviction that God is everywhere. Only then Bharat will regain its pristine glory and the position of being the leader of all nations.

Sai Baba was asked initially to suggest a name for the Centre, "Call it International Centre," was the reply. It is emerging as a 'spiritual super power' to move mankind to a global civilisation.

Reported in the 'Sai International' newsletter there was an initial concern of the committee how to make the institute financially viable, since Swami had told

them, "Do not ask money from anyone. I will send."

Money came in an unexpected way when a long-time devotee of Sai Baba visited the Institute and presented them with a cheque from his daughter, a doctor in the USA, for Swami's seva. The cheque amounted to Rs twelve lakhs, (lakh = Rs100,000) and after five years, the Centre is now self-reliant and no burden on the Central Trust. A great credit to all involved!

The Centre consists of a Hall of Silence on the ground floor, residential rooms to accommodate 30 persons, Auditorium with a capacity of 600 persons, a basement accommodation for 800 persons, large research faculty room equipped with six computers, Conference room for 36 persons and three classrooms. A library, bookshop, reading room and a Sai Primary School on the third floor offering free education to 60 children from slum areas. And finally, free medical clinic with free medicines

The website of the Centre, www.sai-international.org, is regularly updated "...and it is envisaged that the same will be eventually converted into a virtual university for propagation of Baba's message on Human Values at the global level'. *Ed.* 

### Free Medical Clinic

A community service activity by members of the Sathya Sai Centre, of Gaborone, was established by the Trust of Botswana. The services of the Clinic will be offered free to walk-in patients without discrimination of race, colour, gendre, national-ity or religion.

The scope of services are free medical check-up, prescription and guidance, referral to specialist doctors where needed. The Clinic stocks basic medications like antibotics, pain killers and medicines for common ailments like fever, colds, and 'flu, all free to patients.

Children of Immortality! Remember that you are created in My Image and Likeness. Perfect! Live up to this Image in all planes. Live like Masters! Walk this Earth with your heads held high, your Spirits soaring, your hearts open to Love, and believe in yourself and God with you. Then all will go well. See Me everywhere, talk to Me and Love Me who is in each. Then from each I will respond and bring you into Glory. BABA.

### Sai Baba in Africa

The only trip Swami made outside of India, was to several African countries, in 1968. He gave a discourse to a large crowd gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, telling them that "their Reality was the Self, a wave of the Overself". Further, He stated that, "The one object of human existence is to visualise that Reality. All other activities are trivial, shared with bird and beast. Man has uniquely clambered through all the steps in the ladder of evolution to inherit this high destiny. Man's unique faculty of reasoning should be used to discover the Truth of everyone and everything: God. The same God shines through everybody. Those who see differences are deluded. Love is how the Self Principle expresses itself in man. The practice of Love regulated by Truth will win for man his ultimate prize. The human body is a gift from God to be used as a raft on which to cross the sea of change. Launch the raft soon, before you are overpowered by illness. Establish yourself in unruffled peace. I have come to light the Lamp of Love in your hearts. I have come to tell you of this universal unitary faith, this Path of Love. All hearts are motivated by God; all faiths glorify the One and Only God: adore Him with love. Cultivate Oneness between all men. Foster Love, Live in Love, spread Love and Love will grow in vou."

Referring to the Continent of Africa and its awakening, before He emplaned for East Africa from Bombay, Swami said, "I

have resolved to enfold the people of the world in the fostering care of Universal Love as laid down in the Vedas. For the world is My mansion and the Continents are the halls therein. I have come to inscribe a golden chapter in the history of humanity, wherein falsehood will fail, truth will triumph, and virtue will reign. Character will confer power then, not knowledge or inventive skill or wealth. Wisdom will be enthroned in the Councils of Nations.

"Do not be misled. It is not My purpose to strike men dumb by the display of miraculous might! I have come to confer the boon of blessedness, the benediction of bliss, as the reward for genuine spiritual endeavour, and to lead mankind into Liberation, Light and Love."

Arriving in Nairobi, Swami was welcomed by thousands of yearning hearts, and was whisked away by Dr. C.G.Patel from the welcoming sound of the Bhajans, and sped to the capital city of Uganda, Kampala, -the state known as the "Pearl of Africa". Outside Dr. Patel's bungalow, 2000 people gathered singing their Bhajan welcome and hoping for the Divine Darshan, as He walked slowly amongst them. The following the crowd had increased, with not only Indian devotees, but also a large congregation of Africans standing on the margins of the assembly. Blessing all, He said, "I have no need to see places. I am everywhere, always!" Swami told His entourage, "You may drive around. I have My work, work for which I have come." But Dr. Patel persuaded Him to visit the Hindu temple, the Bahai House of Worship and the television Tower Hill. While being driven down, Swami summoned a sixfoot Police Constable acting as a motorcycle escort, and created for him a charming locket with the picture of Christ, to be worn around around the neck. He knew the officer was a Christian

Swami had no barriers, no bounderies or walls separating 'ism from ism'. He selected the sick and disabled, the deaf and the dumb, the blind and the maimed and took them inside the bungalow to speak to each with love and tenderness. He spoke in Swahili, English and in Hindi and blessing each withVibhuti, talismans, lockets with His own picture or that of Christ, or some other sacred design. All left the room with a smile and a ray of sunshine in the heart, and one who was deaf left the room amazed at the many sounds of the world. A boy with polio came prancing outside, a wheel-chair patient walked out, hands on the shoulder of his companion, while a volunteer pushed the empty chair out of the gate.

Later, driving to Nairobi the streets were lined by people of all faiths, all walks of life, all eager to see and hear Him. His discourse emphasised within each being, "...the spark of the Divine Effulgence, a wave of the Divine Glory. This habitation of flesh and bone, of fear and feeling, of doubt and desire, is the residence of the One Indivisible, All-pervading God."

One evening He sat with others, watching television. The programme that was on later led to a discourse by Baba on the evil sown by that medium. He said that it blunted the higher impulses and activated the lower. "The aim of the sponsors is to bring more and more people before the receivers; so standards get more and more vulgarised and this valuable instrument of education is reduced into televisham (telepoison)," He said. Swami is a relentless opponent of films, comic strips and horror serials that sow the seeds of sensualism, anarchy, greed and blood-thirstiness in virgin minds.

On one occasion Swami pointed out to those present, how the beast is wiser than man, in the art of living. "We slaughter our own kind, for the greater glory of ourselves!" He said.

During a visit to a vast gathering at Kampala, Swami said, "Here in Kampala, I shall pinpoint the basic requisits for a good, contented and happy

life." He continued, "Love is Power; Love is Bliss; Love is Light; Love is God."

During a group meeting of students from Makrere University, He was asked, "If there is a God, why cannot we see Him?"

Baba replied, "Why should you seek to see God? You are God. There is nothing that is not He. Experience Him that way." "How can we be happy always?" Baba said, "Derive joy from within. You are the Atma, the eternal spring of Ananda. Love all; no one will then hate you or envy you." He said to the doctors: "Jealousy is the professional disease of doctors and lawyers! Be glad when another doctor earns a good reputation or remuneration; honour the affirmations you made at the Convocation where you took your degree."

At a public meeting ar Kampala, He multi-racial, multi-credal gathering, "Just as the same bloodstream circulates in all limbs of the one body, the *One Divine Principle activates the entoire* Universe. Do not get too involved in the turmoil of living and ignore the kinship in God that you have with all beings around you. Do not over-emphasise individual variations, but fix your attention on the Universal kinship. Ignore the beads, contemplate upon the unifying eternal ever-present thread." This was well received with enthusiastic approval by Muslims, Christians, Bahais, Hindus and Parsis, alike.

Swami postponed His departure following many letters and notes He received, pleading with Him to stay a little longer. More than 25,000 people gathered the following morning for the Bhajans, and for over two hours Swami walked slowly among the lines of lonely, love-seeking, eager hearts, giving each person a handful of sweets and a packet of Vibhuti. To the amazement of the recipients, most of them discovered inside the packets, amidst the sacred ash, enamel or metal portraits of Christ, the Cross, Krishna or Sai Baba himself.

At one gathering of Africans and Indians, Swami said that man alone among the animals had strayed from his allotted tasks; the rest stuck to their Dharma, whatever the obstacle. The tiger will never stoop to eating grass; the elephant can never be tempted to have a meal of fish or flesh. But man, the crown of creation, is grovelling in the mire of bestiality and, withal, proud of it.

Upon His return to India, He addressed a mammoth gathering at Dharmakshetra, saying that racial conflicts and animosities spring from sheer ignorance of the basic brotherhood of man...

"All men are brothers; they owe love, service and reverence to one another; but they are not aware of this Truth, and so they hate, they fight, they kill, they poison themselves by revenge...Triumph over another is only another name for self-humiliation," Swami said.

"It was this Truth, this Unity, often misunderstood as diversity when seen through ego glasses, that was propagated by Me in East Africa," He declared. "The people whom I met there and those who listened to My discourses and talks had a glimpse of the Reality upon which the waves of joy and grief, of gain and loss, of travail and triumph, alternately rise and fall.

"Many of them told Me that the vision of the Indian Sages alone can save them and fill the heart with Peace. The splendour of the genuine culture of India will spread in this manner from continent to continent, from country to country, from community to community, continuously in the days to come. That is My task. That is My Will."

The Light that Sathya Sai Baba brought to the continent of Africa, is the same Light that He offers to all peoples, in every land. And the message is always the same; "Cultivate Love, and share that Love with all. How can you give one person less and another more, when they are both the same as you?...See the Self in all; Love sprouts; Peace descends like dew. You are embodiments of Love."

## FESTIVALS IN PRASHANTI NILAYAM FOR 2007

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**Annual Sports & Cultural Meet.** --.Jan.11 Makara Sankranti -Jan. 14 Maha Shivarathri - Feb. 16 Ugadi - Mar. 29 Sri Rama Navami - Mar. 27 Tamil New Year Day - Apr. 14 Vishu - Apr. 14 Buddha Purnima - May 2 Easwaramma Day - May 6 Ashadi Ekadashi - July 26 Guru Purnima - July 29 Krishna Janmashtami - Sept. 4 Ganesh Chaturthi - Sept. 15 Onam - Aug. 27 Vijava Dasami - Oct. 21 Deepavaii - Nov. 9 Global Akhanda Bhajan - Nov. 10 & 11. Ladies' Day - Nov. 19 Convocation of SSSIHL - Nov. 22 Bhagawan's Birthday - Nov. 23 Christmas - Dec. 25

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The Grace of God is like insurance. It will help you in your time of need without any limit. BABA.

## EVEN BIRDS HAVE INTERVIEWS

Mr. Peter Rae (65) a documentary filmmaker from Australia and frequent visitor to P.N., went for a routine medical checkup. It revealed that he had bowel cancer and was admitted to hospital in Melbourne for surgery.

Surgery went well and he was removed to his hospital-bed, and awake to find Swami standing at his bedside. "I slowly lifter my hands in reverence, and smiling, He drew very close to me. I could feel the soothing touch of His hair on my face," Peter Rae said. "As His ear was near my mouth, I whispered: 'Swami! Please! You hug me! This is serious business!' He put

His arms around me. Instantaneously I was filled with bliss. Tears rolled down from my eyes. Then He vanished. My arms, which till then were hugging Swami, were holding air. He had gone! Ever since, I have felt like a thirty year old young man. Cancer has not bothered me again."

A friend had given him a gift, years previously, of an empty vibhuti container. That night he kept the gift in front of Swami's photo. The following morning upon leaving his friends house he found the vibhuti container overflowing with vibhuti!

On another occasion, when he was called for an interview at P.N., Swami asked for questions, and before anyone spoke everyone could hear the 'squeaks' of various types of birds in the room with them. While they could see no evidence of birds with them in the room, Swami smilingly said: "Not only you, but several other beings like birds will always be making requests and representations to Swami. You have now just heard a few of them."

You consider everything that you see in this objective world as true. but, in reality, nothing is true in this world. Truth is that which is eternal, beyond the three periods of time - past, present and future.

That is God. BABA.

Learn to give, not to take. Learn to serve, not to rule.

BABA.

All Sai Blessings to you and yours, this Christmas, and for 2007

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For Centre & Group Meetings write to:

www.sathyasaieire.org

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