

2011

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
NOV-DEC 2011**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

Christmas is upon us. A time for reflection and prayer, whether one is a Christian or not, because Jesus is revered by all the major religions. As Swami said, *"Jesus sacrificed His comfort, safety and position. He braved the enmity of the powerful and refused to yield or compromise. He renounced the 'ego' which is the toughest thing to get rid of and we honour Him for all these...The celebrating of His birthday has to be marked by your sacrificing at least a desire or two and conquering the more disastrous urges of the ego."*

All this was said of the Messiah Who came two thousand years ago, but sadly, it seems nothing has really changed for the better in all these years. In fact mankind's values have deteriorated to such an extent that God Himself, has come again in the human form of Sathya Sai Baba, to save man from himself. With His great love for us, a new era, a Golden Age, is being given to mankind that offers him a new direction by which to move forward, and with a new consciousness.

One hopes and prays that this time man will accept the challenge he is now being presented with and live for the true glory of God. *Ed.*

**Let the different faiths exist, let
them flourish and let the glory of
God
be sung in all languages and
in a variety of tunes.
That should be the Ideal.
Respect the differences between
the faiths and recognise them as
valid**

**as long as they do not extinguish
the flame of unity.**

-BABA.

Swami's Christmas Message

The following article is of interest today as it had been when it was first stated back in 1988, when Swami made His Christmas Divine Discourse.

"True devotion lies in obeying the command of the Lord and spreading His message. In spite of innumerable difficulties Emperor Harischandra, never swerved from the path of truth. One has to worship God both in times of pain and pleasure. Unfortunately, due to the effect of Kali Age, people worship Him when everything goes well and accuse Him in times of despair.

"When it was decided that all the devotees of Jesus should be crucified along with Him, even His closest devotees, Peter, Matthew and Paul, refused to identify themselves as His followers. Can these be true devotees? One should be prepared to sacrifice anything for the sake of God and His message. Under any circumstances, do not disobey the command of God. That is determination. Determination gives rise to sacrifice, which leads to immortality."

**I know all that happens to all,
because I am in everyone.
This Sai current is in every bulb.
I illumine every consciousness.
I am the inner motivator in
each one of you.**

-BABA.

The Divine Saviour

Back in 1955, residential quarters for devotees were being constructed for devotees around Swami's residence in Prasanthi Nilayam.

An eleven year old boy called Shankar was assisting in the work of unloading truckloads of bricks. On this occasion, when he had finished, he stood at the rear of the truck shaking the dust off his clothing and hadn't noticed that the truck driver was reversing very fast. Too late the boy noticed, and was being pushed violently backwards and lost his balance, that his leg was crushed under the enormous tyre of the vehicle.

Before he became unconscious young Shankar cried "Swami!" and people came running and pulled him clear and wrapped his crushed leg in a towel. In their distress they didn't know what to do next, when they noticed Swami standing on the balcony looking in their direction.

Before they could tell Him what had happened, Swami directed them to take the boy to the hospital adjoining the residence.

Later, Shankar's brother ran to Swami crying, "Swami, my younger brother has lost his leg!" Swami consoled him, saying, "*Do not worry. Nothing has happened to his leg.*" No sooner had He uttered these words, He pulled back the sleeve of His shirt and showed him His open palm, on which there was a distinct mark of the trucks heavy tyre! Swami told the distraught young man that He had inserted His own palm between the truck's tyre and the little boy's leg, so that the huge weight of the

truck would not bear heavily upon the leg.

When doctors checked the boy's leg they found not a single bone damaged, to their relief.

It was due to Swami's divine Will and immense mercy, that the boy made a speedy recovery.

You are with Sai and Sai is with you. That is why I often say, "I and you are one." The power and glory of God is beyond the ken of human understanding. Develop unwavering faith in him.

Bhagawan Elongates Time

Shri Lal Bahadur Sastry - the then Prime Minister's Personal assistant was Shri Thyagaraj. As he had a serious health problem, he went to Bangalore for a medical check-up. After thoroughly examining him, doctors diagnosed him as a cancer patient and declared his life expectancy to be just a month to three months. A Doctor who was Bhagawan's devotee took him aside and told him, "Sir, There is only one remedy for your disease, and that is to pray at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and request Him to save you. There is no other way. Dr. S. Bhagavantham, Baba's devotee, is presently right here in this hospital. Swami is coming here tomorrow to visit him. You may avail of this excellent opportunity". But Thyagaraj declined the advice. He added, "I am the personal assistant to the Prime Minister of India. I do not need to fall at the feet of any Baba. I can afford to get proper medical

treatment anywhere." He followed his own counsel and went here and there for medical help. After two months, he returned to the same hospital and got himself examined once again. Sure enough, doctors declared that he would live only for another month or so. Only for another month or so! Thyagaraj was now in a desperate hurry to reach Puttaparthi. As he waited for darshan, Swami approached him and said, "Cancer?" Poor Thyagaraj burst into tears and fell at Swami's Lotus Feet. Swami materialized vibhuthi, placed it in his hand and told him to eat it. This was done for three consecutive days. On the third day, Bhagawan said smilingly, "Cancer is cancelled!" Needless to add, subsequent medical tests confirmed no trace of cancer on Thyagaraj! (Saibabaneews)

The All-Knowing Lord

Mr. Forbes, head of the U.S. Harlem Globetrotters Basketball team took a trip to Prasanthi Nilayam and Swami graciously granted the team the opportunity of performing for the Inauguration of the Indoor Stadium, on the occasion of His Birthday. During an interview, Swami presented Forbes with Prasadam, and asked Forbes how many children he had, "Four, Swami," came the reply. "Five" responded Swami. It was then that Forbes recalled that one baby had died in miscarriage, a long time before. He had forgotten, but not Sai Baba! Swami materialised a ring and told Forbes to give it to his wife as she had lost her ring the day before, and to give it to his wife, as Swami was aware that she had lost it and wanted to give her another in its place. Nobody

except Forbes' wife knew of the loss and hadn't mentioned it to anybody. Swami is all-knowing!

**I am the person come to give,
not to receive.**

-BABA.

Rescued From Fire

One day Swami, all of a sudden, developed a high temperature, it was 104.5 deg. F. Devotees present were alarmed but eventually the temperature came down to 99 deg. F. in five minutes or so. Nobody present could understand why the temperature rose so abruptly and then drop down equally quickly.

At about 9.30 p.m., an open-air dinner was arranged on the roof of Swami's resident. The night was cool and pleasant, with beautiful moonlight, as everybody enjoyed the meal and prevailing merriment. Swami turned to a devotee and said, "*When you return home tomorrow, caution your mother to be very careful with fire. At the same time assure her that I will always be with her and protect her from every hazard.*"

This remark stunned everybody. What made Him speak of fire and future hazards? They pressed Swami for an answer, and He explained, "*His mother was praying in her pooja room. A number of lighted oil lamps were around her. As she was offering prayers, her saree caught fire without her noticing it. I had to go to her and put out the flames.*"

After obtaining Swami's permission, some devotees telephoned the lady in question, to ask how she was. She, herself, answered the call and confirmed the

incident. Swami too spoke to her and consoled her, mentioning that it was He who had doused the flames, out of compassion for her.

She anxiously enquired, "Swami, while trying to save me, have You burnt Your own hands?" Swami assured her sweetly, "No, not at all. The flames caused Me no harm. Only My temperature went up a little but soon subsided. Do not worry."

Life without desire brings Divinity to man; and those who seek My Grace must shed their desire and greed.

Riches provide a fatal temptation. They are the source and cause of human bondage.

-BABA.

Christmas Is For Everyone

On one occasion Sathya Sai Baba created a cross and the figure of Jesus upon it, that showed, Swami said, how Jesus looked at the time of leaving His body. Swami never failed to remind us that Great Teachers belong to all mankind. It is wrong to think to believe that Jesus belonged to the Christians only, and that the festival of Christmas is to be celebrated only in the West. To accept one of them as one's own and discard the rest as belonging to others, is a sign of pettiness.

Christ, Rama, Krishna, etc., are for all men everywhere. The Masters arrive in answer to man's prayer, 'Thamaso maa jyotir gamaya' (Lead us from darkness unto Light).

Swami stated the following; "Jesus taught simple practical lessons in spiritual advancement for the good of

mankind. He manifested Divine powers to instil faith in the validity of His teachings and He charted a path, which would confer the sweet nectar of Ananda on men. He exhorted people by Precept and example, to cultivate the virtues of charity, compassion, forbearance, love and faith. Let us pay attention to the sacrifice that Jesus made while free, out of His own volition. He sacrificed His comfort, safety and position. He renounced the 'ego' which is the toughest thing to get rid of and we honour Him for all these. He willingly sacrificed the desire with which the body torments man and this sacrifice is greater than the sacrifice of one's body under duress. The celebrating of his birthday has to be marked by your sacrificing at least a desire or two and conquering the more disastrous urges of the ego. His followers have been broken into various sects but the life of Christ is a lesson in Unity. When Christ was on the cross, ill-feelings towards the men who tortured Him, troubled Him. Suddenly He heard a voice alerting Him, 'All Life is One My dear Son, be alike to everyone.' This was followed by another voice, 'Death is the Dress of Life.' As one casts off worn clothes and dons another set, so the soul dons and doffs various bodies."

(Vision of the Divine - Eruch B. Fanibunda)

Those attached to God, aspiring for God, aware of God, adoring God, have certain distinct marks by which they can be identified.

Such people have a compassionate heart. If a person turns the rosary on the fingers and is intensely engaged in watching the tip of his nose unmindful of distress that

dances around him, we can at best name him a sloth, that is all.

Get up, place the rosary in its bag and activate yourself in relieving distress - that is the true spiritual path.

Do not waste all your years with stone images, pictures or idols. Learn to see in every living vital active person, the embodiment of all energy, all beneficent, namely, God.

God is subtler than ether, filling the smallest crevice with His majesty, know this and serve His manifestations, wherever you meet them.
-BABA.

Krishna of Dwaraka Has Come.

Baba Sings a Poem (Source - Sai Vani)

To set things right and set them in proper order

***It is in utter chaos and discord
The world needs correction:***

***Seeds of hope, peace and goodwill
are to be sown.***

***To come down strongly on evil
tendencies
And to protect the virtuous and
pious***

***And exhort men to do the right
things***

***And to prevent just that lip
movement without depth:***

To reveal the hidden secrets

***To relieve Mother Earth of Her
burden***

***To fulfil the promises that He had
made in Tretha Yuga***

***The Krishna of Dwaraka, has come
as Sai on Earth. -BABA.***

SWAMI APPEARS PHYSICALLY

There have been a number of reports recently of Swami appearing - physically, to people recently. Dr. Sara Pavan, in Prasanthi Nilayam, reported the following of a lady who had one such incident.

Swami appeared, to a young lady three months after His Samadhi on 27th April 2011, who was a former student at Anantapur Campus, at her home in Bhangalore. She works for a software company and until recently had not revealed the following incident to anyone. She said that Swami appeared to her sometime in August, and had asked her if she knew a particular gentleman, a long time devotee who visits Prasanthi Nilayam often and singing Bhajans? When she replied "Yes", Swami gave her a specific message to give to him. This man resided in another suburb in Bangalore and a family member of his was well-known to this lady. Swami told her, "He is not taking care of his health... he has stopped having breakfast... Ask him not to skip breakfast and to take care of his health. Since I passed away he does not even visit Prasanthi Nilayam and I do not hear him singing Bhajans anymore... Tell him that he should continue visiting and sing Bhajans as usual."

This lady kept this encounter to herself and didn't mention it to anyone, nor did she follow-up Swami's request. However, the following day Swami appeared to her again, asking why she did not

convey His message to this man. Swami said, "You think I am unreal. (stretching out His hand to her) Touch My hand...you must give him this message," and vanished!

She then conveyed Swami's message to the man, who went immediately to P.N. and stayed for three weeks, singing Bhajans, both mornings and evenings every day.

The interesting fact is that Swami appeared to her in her office and upon seeing Swami she stood up immediately. Nobody else in the office could see Swami and He told her to sit down and told her, "Go to an office two floors below and you will see a man wearing a blue shirt as you enter. Tell him that he should 'phone home immediately since his mother was seriously ill."

Following instructions, she did see the man mentioned and gave him Swami's message! The man was taken aback, and didn't know this lady, who was a total stranger to him and he said that his mother was perfectly well when he left home, and since he did not know the lady he wanted to know where she got information. He still dismissed the information and thought the whole thing crazy!

Though he lived in Bangalore, he was not a believer in Baba and scoffed at the message. However, he did ring home only to learn that his mother had collapsed soon after he had left for work and had been rushed to hospital!

Ed: I have no doubt we will become aware of similar astonishing incidents in the coming days and weeks.

God assumes human form to serve and sustain humanity. I am your servant not the Master. Understand this Truth.

I come to you, wherever you are seated, to give Darshan. I never say that you should come to Me...

God renders service to man, so that man may serve his fellow beings.

-BABA.

Something to Reflect On

Once a devout Pundit in Andhra Pradesh was very anguished over his financial condition. One day his wife asked him to write to Bhagavan about his problems, but he refused to do so. Two days later the Pundit was surprised to receive a letter from Prasanthi Nilayam, addressed by Baba Himself, which he read, "Why do you decline the suggestion of your wife? However, it is not the letter through which I need to be informed. Am I not the indweller of every heart? When I protect the whole Universe, am I going to leave your family unprotected?"

I am not asking any good from you; give your bad to Me.

Swami will give you good.

There is a soiled hundred Rupee note. It is fully oiled.

It has all the scribblings on it...

I am ready to receive and accept all your bad thoughts and bad behaviour.

Receive from Me all sacred thoughts in exchange.

-BABA. (1984)

CURIOSITY

A bishop came from France, on a trip to India, intending to travel the length and breadth of the country, but having arrived in Puttaparthi he cancelled his trips and decided to stay there instead for a month.

Swami gave him a wonderful time, dining with him - breakfast, lunch, dinner and tea with him! The car was even sent to him so that he could drive straight to the Poornachandra Hall. People were talking about this bishop, who was experiencing such hospitality and such unbelievable levels of reception.

Everybody was curious about him but were not able to see him, as he only appeared at 8.30 am, by which time most teachers and pupils were leaving, and in the evening he was already seated in the front. But they were determined to see him somehow!

Finally, one Sunday, Swami called a few foreigners in for a group interview and the doors were closed.

This was the perfect opportune time to see the bishop, they thought.

He had the complexion of a mango fruit, a golden complexion, with a white beard, a white gown and a black belt, typical of any bishop. He just sat there while others watched him. Some moved to have a better look and thought he looked like a picture of William Shakespeare or

Rabindranath Tagore. His face showed solemnity and silence. With such serenity on his face, naturally everybody lifted both their hands in offering their humble salutations. He had a kind of effulgence and brilliance on his face.

As they watched him, they saw his disciple also, who was quite tall and wearing a black robe. He had a pointed nose and with a long mop of hair, and was quite handsome. They thought he could easily play the role of Jesus Christ in a film.

As they watched, the doors of the interview room opened and Swami came out! He asked, "*Who are you looking at?*"

Everybody laughed. One said, "Swami, we have come here to see the bishop."

Swami replied, "*When bishop has come to see Me, you have come to see bishop!*

So how can I help you?" Everybody laughed!

Then after some time, Swami granted an interview to the bishop and his disciple, and also the Queen of Belgium and her close lady friend. All four of them were given an interview together.

Then Swami said, "*You also come, so that you can see the bishop for a long time!*" (Laughter)

MY DEARS, the time will come when the whole of this dream will vanish. To everyone of us there must come a time when the whole universe will be found to have been a mere dream, when we

shall find that the soul is infinitely better than its surroundings. In this struggle through (what) we call environments, there will come a time when we shall find that these environments were almost zero in comparison with the power of the soul. It is only a question of time, and time is nothing in the infinite. It is a drop in the ocean. We can afford to wait and be calm. BABA.

(Letter to Students)

God Made Porridge

One day in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal, everybody sat for lunch, in their respective places, awaiting the Divine Lord to join them. After about fifteen minutes He arrived, saying, "You know why I was delayed? A boy is suffering from high fever. I made porridge for him. I mixed some cereals in milk, made that boy eat and made him drink some milk, and then I came down. Now I can join you for lunch. Let's eat!"

God was making porridge especially for a boy suffering from fever? He could have asked any boy or anyone in the kitchen to do it. But He is the Divine Mother. A Mother derives joy by serving personally, not by arranging someone else to do it for her.

Q.&A.

John Hislop: Swami, one has to die. Is there some skill in dying? That is, is there a correct road through death which one can hold to and not get lost in the process?

Sai: *That is not up to you at the time. You are influenced at that time by the net effect of your life.*

JH: Swami says that God acts to save the devotee from perdition. What is meant by perdition?

Sai: *What do you understand from the word?*

JH: It seems to me that it means Hell.

Sai: *That is just mental.*

JH: But the Buddha speaks of Hell as a place.

Sai: *It is a place. A place of the mind. A mental state in which there is much worry and suffering. It is an after-death state. Sai is here to guide His devotees so they do not fall into that state.*

JH: One of Swami's statements is not understood. Swami has said that man is born with a dual gift from God - Discrimination and Conscience. And, that because of Conscience, everyone knows right from wrong: for if he were to do wrong, his Conscience would trouble him.

Sai: *Yes, that is the case.*

JH: But people point out, Swami, that people of one religion kill people of another religion, and they do it because their Conscience tells them it is right to do it.

Sai: *It is not the way. When such things occur, it is because the individual has surrendered his judgement to someone else, or to an idea propagated by someone. If the person were to reject ideas and rely upon himself, his Conscience, even though deeply buried, would be there*

to prompt the person; for Conscience is God, Resident in the person.

JH: Throughout the world, crime is growing rapidly. But in America there is doubt about how to deal with criminals. How should criminals be dealt with?

Sai: *There must be punishment. In areas of the Middle East, for example, if a person commits the crime of theft, the hand is cut off. When a person commits a crime, punishment must follow.*

Those who do not know this entire world as Consciousness, in reality see it as material and drift in the ocean of delusion. (Vishnu Purana 1.4.40)

MORE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. Swamiji, what is the state called "Death"? What is the relationship of our mind with that state?

A. *Death is a state very much like sleep. The individual discards his body like an old worn-out suit of clothes. Only the body perishes. As the mind has no physical form, it does not perish with the body, and thought activity perishes even after the death of the body. The stream of thoughts is the mind. The permanent Atma is like a lamp and Intelligence is like the light of this lamp. Thus, the Intelligence sheds its light and discriminates between right and wrong. Walter Cowan's experiences after death need not be the same for everyone. After the death of the physical body, it is impossible for the disembodied spirit to contact this material world.*

Q: Then Swamiji, what about these so-called Spirit recordings, radiations and manifestations?

A: *These are all false. It is the mind which performs these things by deep concentration. The spirits cannot contact the material world but the mind can produce recordings and material changes in the physical world. The so-called radiation produced from a photograph, is also an activity of the mind. It is a projection of the mind itself and it is also the mind which observes it. The beauty of an object lies in the eyes of the beholder (To some, the object may appear ugly while to others it may appear beautiful. The beauty or ugliness has nothing to do with the object). The mind is responsible for creating this beauty and also enjoying the beauty.*

If you honour your mother, the Mother of the Universe will guard you against harm. If you honour your father, the Father of all things will guard you. Honour your parents, your children will honour you. -BABA.

PAID IN FULL!

One day, a poor boy, who was selling goods from door-to-door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when the lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal, he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry and so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it

slowly and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied.

"Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness," she replied.

"Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strengthened also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Years later, that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, he went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he went in to see her, recognising her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life.

From that day, he gave special attention to the case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final billing to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all.

Finally, she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words:

"Paid in full with one glass of milk..."

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly

Divine Message

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 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.

In this world everybody, both rich and poor, is a beggar. God gives more alms to some and less to others.

One is a bigger beggar and other one is a smaller beggar, that is all.

How much each one gets is decided by their *karma*. Therefore, don't hate or envy others.

Live amicably, work happily, share equally with others and try to please God.

-BABA.

Sai Gayatri Mantra

Om Sayeeshwaraaya Vidmahe

Sathya Devaaya Dheemahee

Than Nah Sarvah Prachodayaat

My body, mind, and soul,

I surrender to Thee.

(Recite this mantra daily)

The full text of **Swami's Divine Discourse**

on 29th October 2009, in Hadshi.

In the Land of Bharat, tolerance and forbearance constitute the real beauty. What is the nectarine feeling more than the feeling towards one's own mother?

How much ever you may learn, still there remains knowledge which is infinite and there is always more to learn.

Bharat is the most sacred land - a land of Divinity. Everyone born in this holy land, Bharat, have a lot of meritorious deeds in their past lives.

What is the purpose of this human life? Human life is gifted to earn God's Grace. The person who receives God's Grace in abundance can bring transformation in society. The modern society is full of anxiety and restlessness. Wherever you go, whatever you encounter, you only find misery.

We have witnessed several natural calamities recently. The calamities we are passing through have nothing to do with God. It is because of man's own mistakes and his own makings. God teaches only Dharma (righteousness). He never wants you to walk the path of Adharma (unrighteousness).

We cannot escape from reflection, reaction and resound. Therefore, we should know that God is one. We give many names to the One and the same God. All are One. Therefore, in the whole world, only One is in existence. This is consciousness in all beings.

In fact we feel we are miserable. If you ask yourself, you will know that the misery is of your own making. It has nothing to do with God. Therefore, never think that everything is given by God. Everything comes back to us because of your thought process. It is only God which confers bliss to all of us, that is not dual, that is ethereal, and one without a second. If we make deep enquiries into our Vedanta, God gives us nothing. Pain or pleasure is of our own making. We are mistaken if

we think that someone else is responsible for our pain or pleasure.

Help Ever. Hurt Never. Love All. Have faith in everyone.

There is no human being without love. Even beasts, birds, animals and insects have love. This love is experienced even in the smallest of creatures. We should have deep conviction that God is present in everyone in the form of the Atma - consciousness.

You are not hating yourself, you are hating God when you hate others. Every human being is like a mirror. In the mirror, you find a reflection of yourself. In many mirrors, you see many reflections of yourself. Reflection. Reaction. Resound.

You are accusing yourself, blaming yourself. Therefore, whoever you come across, have deep faith that they are all God's forms. Man fails to understand this truth. It is not proper on our path to make fun of anyone or hate anyone. Love is the only royal path that takes you closer to God.

Therefore, all noble souls merged in God because of their incessant love for God. Sakkubai went on repeating, "Ranga, Ranga, Ranga". Everyone made fun of her and her husband persecuted her. Ultimately, she merged in God. She always said, "I am not different from Ranga." In all three states of awareness, she thought of Ranga only.

An atheist in Tamil Nadu used to take the idol of Vinayaka and beat Him with slippers. Karunanidhi

used to enjoy this act. But Karunanidhi now declares that Sathya Sai is God. It's quite likely that we commit mistakes out of ignorance. Then we repent. But you have to make amends for your mistakes. True repenyence gives atonement for our sins. Karunanidhi's son, Stalin, believes in God. He comes to Puttaparthi and shares his experience with others when he goes to Delhi.

It is only God Who speaks, walks, listens to every activity.

We go by name and form. We may call it snake or scorpion. God is in every creature. God has given skills to different creatures to protect themselves. The scorpion stings in self-defence and not with an intention to hurt. In a dense forest, a lion hurts only if hurt. Reaction, Reflection, Resound.

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that we correct our own mistakes and do not search for mistakes in others.

People made fun of those involved in the rescue of flood victim. In the same way, the whole community made fun of Sakkubai who kept chanting the name of Krishna. They were finally taught a lesson by Krishna. God is an ocean of love. Out of gross injustice and utter ignorance, we don't understand ourselves and we blame God. The good and bad that we face is the consequence of our own doing. So we have to correct ourselves within.

The Christians believe in 'I'. Cut the 'I' and it becomes a cross. The ego has to be killed. Once we get rid of this ego, then we can realise

the real self. Man today is knowledgeable in all aspects of life. He is conquering space, prepared to count stars. But he fails in simple things. Love is the undercurrent of everything.

There are different kinds of sweets, but sugar is one. The Upanishads say that whomsoever you salute, it reaches God. God is the One, Who gives you everything. Understand your own mind. Realise your own mistake.

Help Ever. Hurt Never. He is a true man who knows this fundamental truth, who has morality and character. If you understand this, you will not put anyone to suffering. Recognise unity in diversity. God is only one - Atma - consciousness, has no name or form. It is the spirit or consciousness which permeates all beings. Several lights exist, but current is one.

We may undertake several spiritual activities but it all comes back to oneness. If you understand the oneness, you will have peace and bliss. You are Atma - the only One - the eternal One. God is only One - never think that He is many. When we face difficulties, we chant many names but when we don't have any problems in life, we don't think of God. We should cling on to 'Soham'. The name given to everyone at the time of birth is 'Soham'. We will redeem our lives, working for liberation, if we know the Divine principle and divine nature.

Many people speak of Swami differently. It is their imagination. Bhagawan has no imagination at

all. All imagination should be dispensed.

Politicians know nothing. If they know the truth, the nation will be a better place. Do not follow politics. There is no relation between what the politician says and what he does.

If anybody does good, follow it. This is the message of Baba to all of us today. The whole world should be happy. Let all the beings be happy. You will acquire this bliss through love. We say, 'Peace, peace, peace'. Where is this peace? Only pieces.

Bhagawan is happy and blesses all those gathered here.

Om Sai Ram.

Swami's Love & Compassion.

On an occasion when Swami was seated in the old Mandir portico, and giving Darshan to the devotees, He gave orders for the distribution of Prasadam in the Mandir. The students immediately commenced distributing the Prasadam, when Swami called one of the boys and enquired if he received it, only to hear the boy reply, "No, Swami!"

Swami immediately called one of the students who was involved in the distribution and took a packet and gave it to the boy saying, "Child, your brothers may forget you, but your Mother will never forget you!"

Spiritual life really means that everyone should think that all people are one and he himself is one with all. True spiritual life is that which

teaches us unity or oneness and makes us lead a life of selflessness and love. -BABA.

Q. & A.

Student: Swami, if everything happens is God's Will, then why does "Good and Bad" exist?

Swami: *True, if you have total belief that everything is God's Will, then there is no "good and bad". However, if you take credit for something and blame God for some things, then you are differentiating "good and bad". In that case you have to face the consequences of "good and bad". To experience that everything is God's Will, you must have 100% belief in it, at all times, and under all conditions.*

Q. What is our role in this life, Swami?

A. *You are only actors on the stage before the footlights. The Director, Who knows the Play, Who assigns the roles, Who gives the cues, Who calls you in and puts you on, is behind the curtain. You are the puppet; He holds the strings. If He must be seen, you have to be His friend or kinsman, merely being an onlooker will not entitle you to appreciate Him and be in His Holy Company. Cultivate His friendship or kinship, by attitude of Love and Dedicated Service.*

Q. Why must I work? Why can I not simply sit under this tree and read about God?

A. *As long as you are in this world, you must be engaged in work. Work is very important for human beings. It is through your work and activities that you learn to harmonise thoughts, words and deeds. Perfect freedom is not given to any man on earth*

because the very meaning of mortal life is relationship and dependence on another. You learn by experience of the buffetings of the World. The World is a very essential part of the curriculum of man. Then community in which yourself is the arena where you can win the victory, the gymnasium where you develop the skill to win.

(J. Hislop asked the following question:)

Q. Swami, the Crusaders were killing infidels because their conscience told them it was the right thing to do.

A. *No, No, Hislop! That is totally wrong. What those people did was to adopt the idea of others, what other people said was right. They had been told it was right to kill the infidels. But had anyone of those Crusaders stopped, put aside every idea they had about the infidels, and asked God directly, in their conscience, whether they should kill the infidels, God would have answered and said 'no'. That Crusader would not have participated in the killing.*

You must have not only freedom from fear, but freedom from hope and expectation. Trust My Wisdom.

I do not make mistakes. Love My uncertainty, for it is not a mistake. It is my intent and will.

Remember, nothing happens without My Will. Be still. Do not ask to understand. Relinquish the imperative that demands understanding.

-BABA.

Baba's Food Energy

A devotee questioned Swami, "Swami, You eat very little. Your body comprises the five elements. Then, from where does it derive its potency?"

Swami gave a very pithy reply,

"The five elements give Me no potency. It is I who gives them their potency."

Among the mother, the father, and the God, the mother is given the top most priority. Modern youth do not care for the mother. They think they are highly educated and that the mother does not know anything. It is a great mistake to think so. Never look down upon the mother.

-BABA.

The Omnipresent Lord

A young schoolboy named Kumar experienced the Omnipresence of the Lord. He had the ability to 'see' Swami during bhajans. Initially he was afraid of the phenomenon, so Swami appeared as a schoolboy, wearing the school uniform and would play with him! Once when Kumar was bored with the class, Swami asked if he would like the class to end soon, "Yes, Swami", he replied, whereupon the bell rang! The teacher thought the class had ended and left the class only to realise, upon looking at her watch, that the bell had rung twenty minutes too early! Later, the 'wrong

bell ringing' was the subject of much discussion in the staff room!

Another event involving young Kumar was that he went down with a bad throat and sinusitis, and was put on medication and was able to attend school after four days. He presented the teacher with an excuse note from his mother but the teacher could not understand, since he was attending class every day!

Swami had been attending class in Kumar's form!

There has been many instances of Baba's love for His devotees, like the elderly lady devotee whom Swami used to help with the household chores, like washing plates, boiling water and even repairing faulty electrical gadgets, all by Swami's invisible hands.

Once she was attended to by her female doctor for a viral fever who prescribed medication and asked her to ring her if she needed help during the night.

The following morning, when the doctor called on her she asked her if she had taken the old bed sheet. "What old bed sheet?" The doctor asked, not understanding the question. The lady went on to explain, "Last night after you gave me the injection, I felt much better and slept well," and said the doctor changed the sheet for a fresh one and wondered if the doctor had taken it. The doctor thought she was delirious with fever, for she had not gone to her house that night and did not even give her the injection she referred to, let alone take the old sheet!

Late in the evening the doctor called to check on her, and again she thanked the doctor profusely for taking the trouble to come to her the previous night, and giving her the injection, and so on, but now the area of the injection was troubling her and asked the doctor to examine it and suggest a remedy. Not understanding her remarks, the doctor duly examined the area on the arm and could clearly see the hypodermic needle mark, now with inflammatory edema around it. The doctor said she had not made a night-call. The old lady became incredulous, "But you did come! You were wearing a green sari and your hair was in a plait... you told her to wash the sheets properly..." pointing to the servant who confirmed all that was said. "We both saw you!"

After the doctor repeated that she was not there, the old lady gradually realised that the night-caller was none other than her Beloved Baba!

Looking at Swami's picture she dissolved into tears of devotion!

Swami had deliberately neglected rubbing the needle site after the injection so that the 'doubting Thomases' be convinced ...!

**The difference between a flower
and a weed, is a judgement.**

-BABA.

Second Sight

This article appeared previously in this Newsletter, in the Sept./Oct. '04 issue, and was related by Sai Sister Denaz Roy.

"Recently a student was cured of blindness after his eyes were burnt with acid while he was performing science experiments in the laboratory. There were no eyes left when he visited the doctor. However, when he went for Darshan, Swami gave him Vibhuti and asked him to remove the bandage the next morning.

The lady doctor could not believe what she saw when she removed the bandages, his eyes had reappeared and he could see clearly!" (*Such is the Will of God. Ed.*)

**Have total faith in Swami's words,
implicitly obey His commands.**

**I do not misguide at any time.
Whatever I say is for your own good.**

**Whatever I tell, whatever I do is good
for you, not for Me.**

Everything is done for your sake.

-BABA.

Refuge of the Devotees

Smt. Sakamma was a devout lady who owned a very large coffee plantation and was charitable; feeding the poor, offering them clothes, etc.

One morning, while performing her pooja, she was advised that some people wished to see her immediately. On going out to greet them she noticed an old car with a sign on it that read, "Kailas Committee", and standing in front of it was a young boy of sixteen, with his hair all scattered. At the back of the car there was an old man, seated

majestically upon a deer skin, with a flowing beard and holy ashes smeared on His body and forehead.

Sakamma welcomed the old man, worshipped Him by washing His feet and offering flowers and fruits. The old man asked her to become a member of the "Kailas Committee" by paying 1,000 rupees, which she gladly paid. She received a receipt and the money back! The old man said He would visit her again, but many years would pass before this happened. Sakamma had to go to Bangalore to visit her friends' houses, and to her utter surprise she saw the same young boy with the scattered hair. As she looked at Him, He transformed Himself into the old man and back again to the boy! She was stunned! Looking at Him closely, she asked, "Were you not the one who came to my place as the "Kailas Committee"?"

The boy replied, "Many years ago, you had to pay one thousand rupees which you did not pay. So I have come to take it from you." Sakamma's eyes welled up with tears and she prostrated before Swami and earned His Grace.

Another incident of "refuge", occurred when Swami was lying on His bed, talking to devotees, when He suddenly shouted, "*Do not shoot! Do not shoot!*"

Swami fell unconscious, and after an hour He arose and told the devotees to send a telegram stating, "*Your revolver is with me. Do not worry.*"

One of the devotees told Swami that the word "revolver" should not be used as it would raise objections from the postal authorities, so they

changed it to "instrument" instead. The telegram was sent, and all wondered what it was about.

Four days later an letter arrived from Bhopal, written by an Army Officer. It was revealed that the Officer had been upset and had decided to shoot himself. He fired one shot in the air to test the revolver. It was at that moment that Swami shouted, "*Do not shoot! Do not shoot!*"

At that moment, a knock occurred at the Officer's door, and the Officer hid the revolver under his bed and went to open the door. His old classmate had come to visit with his wife and servant, and stayed a short while before leaving to visit his neighbour, who was also a friend.

Bolting the door behind them, the Officer returned for his revolver but could not find it. Once again there came another knock on his door, it was the postman delivering the telegram which read, "*Your instrument is with me. Do not worry. - Baba.*"

Our Swami will not forsake, nor let down, whosoever worships Him. One has just to call and He will immediately rush to their aid. His miracle is beyond words.

In the above incident, the Officer's wife was an ardent devotee of Swami!

I will protect you as the eyelid protects the eye. -BABA.

My eldest son, Sri Venkatesh was just one year old and he had an attack of diphtheria. Till late on that

fateful night, we were not aware of the seriousness of the disease. We had recently shifted to a new location, far from the city and 6 km from Thane where there was no hospital or clinic. It was raining very heavily and my son had a very high fever and was unable to take milk.

We took our son to Ms. Tara whom we had known since she was quite young and that she was a devotee of Sathya Sai Baba. My wife had immense faith in her and asked for her blessings. We could only pray.

We had no money with us and we were feeling helpless. My wife was in the house while I stayed in the veranda getting wet. A man on a scooter stopped in front of the house and turned out to be a doctor from the Thane City Civic Hospital. He was a God-sent! I rushed to him and explained about our child being unwell. He examined him and diagnosed Diphtheria and advised immediate hospitalisation as it was a serious case requiring constant medical attention.

I explained to the doctor that I didn't have the money to hire a car, let alone for the medical expenses. He looked straight at me and told me not to worry, that he would give some medication for temporary relief while he went to the city to get further medication, at his expense.

The doctor returned and stayed the whole night as he had to administer the medication and monitor the child's progress.

We believe all this; the doctor's arrival, giving the medication, and staying throughout the night with our child, was all by Swami's Grace and Mercy.

I can cure, save, even resurrect people, provided they are in a spiritually receptive condition.

It is like the positive and negative currents of electricity.

My capacity to heal can be compared to the positive current.

Your devotion to Me is like the negative current.

Once the two come together, the devotion provides what is called the miracle of healing.

-BABA.

His Boundless Compassion

Swami once travelled by car from Bangalore to Puttaparthi, driven by a student, while other cars followed carrying groups of devotees. The ground was stony and rough, the terrain hilly, desolate and silent.

A large cobra was crossing the path of the car, and the student driver had noticed it at a distant and couldn't make up his mind whether to stop the car or run over it. Looking back he found Swami asleep and thought if I stopped the car, His sleep would be disturbed. Whereupon he decided to drive on and run over the cobra.

After arriving at the Prasanthi Nilayam, the student alighted from the driver's seat to open the rear door for Swami. As Swami walked towards the veranda of His residence, the student noticed Swami's garment was soiled at the back, and asked Him about it.

Swami's reply was, *"A little while ago, I had to go below the car's tyre in order to save that poor cobra!"*
