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Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER
NOV-DEC 2012**

Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

The common bond of love that exists within the Sathya Sai Organisation is something unique and not generally experienced elsewhere.

I was blessed to have had this experience of love recently on my October 19th - 22nd, visit to a small but dedicated Sai Group near Welwyn Garden City in the UK. My hosts were Amir and Pathma (Mr. & Mrs. D. Amirthanandan), whose home is itself, a sanctuary to Swami's love. I gave a talk to the small group present, about my own journey to Sai and my experiences related to it over the years, since I first heard His name, back in 1974.

After many bhajans and Aarathi, prasad was served and conversations exchanged. I extend now my deepest gratitude and love to them both for having me in their home and sanctuary of peace. Bless them. - Ed.

You as body, mind and soul are a dream. But what you really are is pure existence, knowledge and bliss. You are the God of this universe.

-BABA

Gandhi on God

"Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this walked the earth in flesh and blood."
- Einstein.

One of the surviving sound recordings of Mahatma Gandhi's voice was recorded on the 17th of

Oct. 1931, in Kingsley Hall, London. Gandhi was visiting London in connection with the Second Round Table Conference, to broker a peace between colonial Britain and the broad Indian freedom movement. It was just before he would be jailed again after the breakdown of the Gandhi-Irwin pact, Shivakumar Gopal, recalled.

The title of the talk was, "My Spiritual Message", and you can listen to the Mahatma with the following link:

<http://www.harappa.com/gandhi.mp3>

Should you be unable to listen to it, the following is a full transcript of his wonderful talk.

"There is an indefinable mysterious power that pervades everything. I feel it though I do not see it. It is this unseen power which makes itself felt and yet defies all proof, because it is so unlike all that I perceive through my senses. It transcends the senses. But it is possible to reason out the existence of God to a limited extent. Even in ordinary affairs we know that people do not know who rules or why and how He rules and yet they know that there is a power that certainly rules.

In my tour last year in Mysore I met many poor villagers and I found upon inquiry that they did not know who ruled Mysore. They simply said some God ruled it. If the knowledge of these poor people was so limited about their ruler I who am infinitely lesser in respect to God than they to their ruler need not be surprised if I do not realise the presence of God - the King of Kings.

Nevertheless, I do feel, as the poor villagers felt about Mysore, that there is orderliness in the universe, there is an unalterable law governing everything and every being that exists or lives. It is not a blind law, for no blind law can govern the conduct of living beings and thanks to the marvellous researches of Sir J.C. Bose, it can now be proved that even matter is life.

That law then which governs all life is God. Law and the law-giver are one. I may not deny the law or the law-giver because I know so little about it or Him. Just as my denial or ignorance of the existence of an earthly power will avail me nothing even so my denial of God and His law will not liberate me from its operation, whereas humble and mute acceptance of divine authority makes life's journey easier even as the acceptance of earthly rule makes life under it easier. I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever changing, ever dying is underlying all that change a living power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves and recreates.

That informing power of spirit is God, and since nothing else that I see merely through the senses can or will persist. He alone is. And is this power benevolent or malevolent? I see it as purely benevolent, for I can see that in the midst of death life persists in the midst of untruth, truth persists, in the midst of darkness light persists. Hence I gather that God is life, truth, light. He is love. He is the supreme Good. But He is no God Who merely satisfies the intellect, if He ever does.

God to be God must rule the heart and transform it. He must express Himself in every smallest act of His votary. This can only be done through a definite realisation, more real than the five senses can ever produce. Sense perceptions can be and often are false and deceptive, however real they may appear to us. Where there is realisation outside the senses it is infallible.

It is proved not by extraneous evidence but in the transformed conduct and character of those who have felt the real presence of God within. Such testimony is to be found in the experiences of an unbroken line of prophets and sages in all countries and climes. To reject this evidence is to deny oneself. This realisation is preceded by an immovable faith. He who would in his own person test the fact of God's presence can do so by a living faith and since faith itself cannot be proved by extraneous evidence the safest course is to believe in the moral government of the world and therefore in the supremacy of the moral law, the law of truth and love.

Exercise of faith will be the safest where there is a clear determination summarily to reject all that is contrary to truth and love. I confess that I have no argument to convince through reason. Faith transcends reason. All that I can advise is not to attempt the impossible."

**All that you are, you owe to
society.
Show your gratitude to it by
rendering service.**
-BABA

Swami's Unfathomable Love

Prof. Anil Kumar recalled an occasion when Swami was paying more attention to one particular student and spoke to him to the surprise and envy of the others.

One day during one of the discourses, Swami said, *"Everyone is thinking I am paying more attention to this boy. He is from Kerala. He lost his mother a few months ago. He used to sit alone and cry. His mother's last wish was to gift ear rings for her daughters. But she is no more. Now I am their mother. I fulfilled her last wish. I consoled his father who was very frustrated after his wife's death and even tried to commit suicide. I took a promise from him that he would never repeat it again. From that day the boy started smiling. My love for you all is pure and unfathomable. It is equal to thousand mother's love!"*

Each and Everyone should try to understand what true devotion really means. Devotion means an all-absorbing love for God.

When you develop devotion and turn all your love towards God, everything that is necessary will be added unto you.

You will develop the capacity to sacrifice yourself. You will expand in love.

Love is the very life breath of a human being. Without love you cannot live. Love is a very sacred quality.

-BABA (1976)

Dr. Voleti Choudhary - the new Director of SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram

The current chairman of the Cardiac Sciences in the Prashantigram and Whitefield Hospital units, Dr. Voleti Choudhary, has taken charge as the Director of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences.

Prior to joining SSSIHMS in 2005, he practised Cardiothoracic Surgery in the U.S. for more than 25 years, in New York, and Los Angeles hospitals.

Many Sai devotees in this country will recall his visit here a few years ago, when he gave an illuminating address and shared his initial connection with Swami.

An interesting fact he shared with me was that he was born and lived in an area not far from P.N., yet in all that time he had never heard of Swami, until he lived and worked in the United States!

I know you will all join me in wishing him well in his new position as Director.

...thus Lord Rama behaved as a man but within Him was full Divinity. His body was an instrument just like ours.

We take ourselves to be the body and so we do not recognise Divinity.

-BABA

Values Education

Rosemary Marron (c)

Abstract: Contemporary international research argues values education is a pedagogical imperative. The *new* values education states a discourse of human values and pedagogy of student well-being develops the whole person and markedly improves the academic performance of students not reaching their potential. The knowledge of values is identical with the knowledge of one's essential being. Intrinsic human values profoundly influence a person's life. Understanding values and their continuous refinement across the lifespan, bestow meaning to existence.

In the world today there is much unrest and a perceived crisis in values. The concept of the 'empty self', presents an urgent need to address problems arising from political and cultural absences, including social fragmentation in families and communities.

Traditionally values education was considered a technical exercise with values inculcation as the model of teaching. Moreover the fostering of student's personal values at all levels of the educational system is left primarily to the implicit and/or hidden curriculum and therefore remains un-critiqued and un-assessed. Studies to date conclude that these approaches will not do in the 21st century. Education by its very nature is intrinsically values laden and therefore schools need to move from the current dominant discourse of accountability to include a discourse of human care.

Neuroscience asserts the educational environment and experiences of learning are more essential ingredients in the development of the brain's capacities rather than the genetic inheritance of the student. Students who experience an encouraging ambiance of learning and an explicit discourse of human values display deeper learning and reflectivity.

The Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) model of values education comprising a philosophy of *Educare* and five core values - truth, love, peace, right conduct and non-violence, is designed to nurture human flourishing and the unity of thought, word and deed. This model while integral in nature also draws on 5 experiential learning strategies. SSEHV presents a scaffold for the student's development of the affective domain. The modelling of respect, courage and empathetic love by the teacher helps the student to internalise the qualities they most need.

Data from students identify the expression of *care* and *trust* in their relationship with the teacher as the key values contributing to their learning and the production of superior outcomes. This expression of 'relational trust' observed between teachers, students and parents/guardians significantly improves educational outcomes particularly among disadvantaged youth.

The SSEHV model of values education in its profound simplicity presents a rich tapestry in its design and resource materials that may be integrated in primary, secondary and tertiary systems of education

throughout the world. This secular integral values education model comprising a discourse of human values, experiential learning strategies, quality teaching and service learning, fosters development of the student's 'intrapersonal resilience', and well-being.

A life lived in love and humility will gain the respect of all and will also be full of peace.

Do not ask for only joy and happiness, but, take cheerfully all that comes to you.

You cannot insist that the doctor gives you only sweet medicines. Have the heart to bear sorrow as you bear joy.

Remember that death is inescapable, that life is but an interlude.

-BABA (18th July 1961)

The Creator of the Universe

All the Universe is His, from the largest human to the smallest insect.

Once in Trayee Brindavan after morning darshan was concluded, Swami called a group of devotees for an interview. As Swami was walking towards the interview room, He noticed that a large group of ants had formed a long line and were in the process of picking up the remains of a dead moth. What Swami did after that was absolutely stunning! He lifted His robe and jumped over the long line of ants. Then, beckoning the devotees to come, He stood near the line of ants

and was requesting all the devotees to jump over too! Once the devotees had gone in, He beckoned the students and said, "*Papam, let these ants finish their work, don't disturb them!*"

For the Creator of the Universe, the entire Universe is His own. He taught us that day that one should expand to encompass each and every sentient and insentient thing into one's orbit. "*Others' pain becomes My own. Therefore how can I hurt anyone? ...Expansion is My life!*" A. Anantha Vijaya, alumni, SSSIHL.

God will support any service venture that is moved by sacred intentions.

-BABA

"He is the Light in all our lives"

One very hot afternoon, back in the 1990's in Whitefield, many people had decided to skip the afternoon bhajans because of the oppressive heat. This enabled those who did turn up to be seated closer to the front and closer to Swami.

At the end of the bhajans and just before Arathi, a Seva Dal volunteer climbed on to the stage to light the Arathi lamp. He fumbled for ages trying to find his matches, but realised he had forgotten them. Swami pointed towards the lamp with His finger and suddenly there was a brilliant flame - the Arathi lamp was lit!

Swami, without much ado, turned to leave the stage in His usual way!

Every being is a *sadhu*, for all mankind is an embodiment of love, peace and bliss. By allowing the crust of ego to grow thick and fast your real nature is tarnished.

- BABA

Benedictory Discourse

The following comes from Swami's Benedictory Discourse, Convocation at SSSIHL, 22nd November 1986.

I am on the search, I am on the search

For one who ever cling to moral path.

Can tree cotton fruit ever mango be?

Can any stout cane claim sugar within?

Can pebbles that shine ever candy become?

Let not form deceive; see the nature and judge!

The human body, fitted with skills, capable of great adventures, is a gift from God to each of you.

-BABA

"If you are depressed, you are living in the past.

If you are anxious, you are living in the future.

If you are at peace, you are living in the present."

- Lao Tzu

Who Is Sai Baba?

Who is Sai Baba? This was a question asked of a saintly devotee, Anandamayi Ma, and her response is certainly impressive; "This body will speak on this question only once; don't ask again. Sathya Sai Baba is the most powerful incarnation of God ever to come to the Earth. And there won't be another at His level for another sixty centuries."

Life is a combination of light and shadow. Without sorrow there can be no happiness.

Only when you walk in the hot sun can you experience the pleasure of a shady place.

In such a life, it is not possible to experience pleasure alone all the time.

-BABA

New Hospital

Upon Swami's Birthday this year, a new 200-bed hospital will be dedicated by the President of India, Sri. Pranab Mukerjee. This new edifice situated in Chattrisgarh, and a further 100-bed expansion will be constructed later.

As with the previous Super Speciality Hospitals, this one will also give free medical treatment, and will be named Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital.

An interesting feature of this new hospital is that if one can view it from above, one can see that it is constructed in the shape of the human heart!

This is yet another sacred gift to mankind from our Beloved Sai Baba.

One's true worth can be measured by efforts they take to reform themselves.

-BABA

Christmas Day

This day is a holy day, the day on which Jesus was born.

He announced Himself as the Messenger of God. In fact all humans are born as messengers of God.

The sole purpose of this human career is to propagate the Omnipresence of God, His Might and Glory. No one has incarnated for merely consuming quantities of food and catering to their senses. Human life is much more precious than that.

That is why the capacity to appreciate beauty, truth and goodness has been endowed only to man. - BABA

Swami's Message received by Lucas Ralli in Meditation, Mar. 1987

What is new in the world? *Nothing.*

What is old in the world? *Nothing.*

Everything has always been and always will be.

What comes and goes is illusion, the creation of man's mind, and yet at the time it seems all-important,

absorbs his attention and distracts him from the truth and the reality of life.

A house must be built on solid foundations if it is to survive, and the same principle applies to man, otherwise he too will sink back into the soft ground all around him and become swallowed up by illusion.

That is why the Avatar is here today to act as your guide and teacher. He is here on earth for your benefit, to give all mankind the opportunity to learn the truth and establish those solid foundations for future growth. It is an opportunity which you may never experience again and you should take it while it is there. The Avatar shows you the way but leaves you to exercise your own free will, the choice of whether or not you are ready to follow the path that will lead to your own salvation.

With every tide, you witness the ebb and flow, and so it is with your own life, an ebb and flow of opportunities. Yet another opportunity is offered to you today. What is that opportunity? It is the chance to move away from the present pattern of life, and escape from illusion, an illusion which constantly obscures the truth. And what permanent happiness can you ever find, living in the twilight world of illusion?

Awake My children and see the light. Seize the opportunity which you have. Follow the Master and experience that utter bliss which comes from union with God, a life lived in complete harmony with the Infinite.

Learn the truth, live in truth, open the heart, let your life be filled with love, then you will experience absolute joy, peace and unity with all mankind.

Who are the real devotees?

The real devotees are those who sing with real devotion with a pure heart, constantly contemplating on the Divine Name.

There are thousands of people taking part in Bhajans. But not all of them are real devotees.

Their body may be present in the Hall but their mind is not fixed on God.

That is not real devotion.

Wherever you sit, whether in the prayer hall or elsewhere, if your thoughts are fixed on God, then you are a true devotee, and you will attain His Grace.

- BABA

Swami Teaches Us the Value of Gratitude...

Once Swami made a visit to Horsley Hills for presiding over a short duration Summer Course, He stayed in a house on top of a hill. As there was water shortage at that time, a buffalo was used every day to draw water from a well and this was taken to Swami's residence.

At the end of the stay, when Swami was leaving, He went to the buffalo and said, "*Bangaru, you have done a great service...*"

The value of Gratitude! Swami teaches us many things in His own simple and Divine ways...!

Learn today to give up attachments to the things of the world and seek the love of God.

-BABA

Learning a Lesson

(excuse the slang, Ed.)

Arjuna; "*Krishna, how on earth can just Love alone get rid of the bad guys?*"

Krishna, with a smile; "*That is the beauty about Love! You see it does not get rid of the wicked people, but removes the wickedness in people; got it!*"

Birds and beasts are content to live on what they can get. Man alone is afflicted with insatiable desires.

- BABA

The Blessing Palm that Protected

Everything was unusually quiet; we were speeding towards the City of Kano, in Nigeria, late in the night on the 22nd Dec. 1980. When we were entering the city, I saw a crowd standing in the middle of the road; could they be armed robbers?

The Nigerian driver managed to stop and tried to reverse as fast as possible before we could be trapped. But it was too late, the crowd came shouting at us to stop. I told the driver to stop because running away

may cause unpredictable damage to the car and life.

I had a picture of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba with the car documents and the Passport. I collected them in my hands. The Blessing Palm of Bhagavan appeared to reassure some strength into me. Within seconds we were surrounded by fully-armed people. Two had heavy iron crowbars, and they stood on either side of the bonnet making two deep dents on it. An elderly man was shouting a volley of questions at me in both Hausa and English, he cooled down when I told him that I had come to collect my wife and children who were to arrive at the Aminu Kano International Airport, the next day. He indicated to the others around the car not to do any further damage.

We drove on slowly only to be faced by another crowd who stopped us, in spite of the shouting and waving of those who allowed us to proceed. This new group examined our boot thoroughly -and us-, and told us to proceed on our way. They knew there were other groups waiting along the road, so they advised us to go and stay at the Central Hotel, or the Daula Hotel and spend the night.

An old man, with his face painted white, stepped forward and volunteered to take us to a safe place, pushing our driver to one side and took the wheel, and drove the car off the main road and through narrow bush roads and villages. The barricades on the way were removed by the people standing guard at these places. Finally, the car stopped under a tree, in front of a mud house. The driver seemed to be

the owner of the house as he went inside, while we waited at the side of the car. Although it was about midnight the place was awake and active, with even children around the car, curious to know more about us.

I took the licence book with Swami's photo and started sending Bhagavan an S.O.S. In this way I could shut out torturing thoughts presented by the unexpected set of events. Furthermore, I assured my friend - who was highly upset - that Swami was with us and there was nothing to worry about.

The old man returned with two mats and suggested we relax under the tree, and we asked him to get a place for our driver to sleep somewhere inside.

The old man seemed to command the respect of all the people present there and he spoke a few words to the owner of the house. Looking at us he said, "You appear to be worried. Would you like to spend the rest of the night at the police station?"

We gladly accepted the offer. He took the front seat and asked the driver to drive. The crowd marched in procession in front of the car and removing all obstacles on the way to allow our cars to pass. About two hundred people were following the car and were replacing the barricades in position.

This procession through the bush was for about a mile and took about 30 minutes. At the police station the man introduced us to the officer in charge who was standing outside with a gun in his hand. We greeted the officer and turned to thank the

old man who brought us safely there, but he was nowhere to be seen and we had no opportunity to thank him.

The police officer pointed to a body lying in the darkness at a short distance and said he had to shoot him only a few minutes back. He was trying to escape in spite of the order to stop and surrender. We managed to relax inside the car till 6.00 am the next morning. We hurried out only to find burnt-out cars and charred human bodies, some still burning!

The morning papers carried the news of a foreign reporter who was killed with a poisoned arrow on that night. The two dents on the bonnet of my car are there to this day; I treasured them as marks of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Grace that protected us all through.

- M. Pathmanabhan. (Hatfield Sai magazine -1987)

Fear is nothing but a bundle of negative thoughts.

Counter it with positive thoughts.

- BABA

The Master Plumber

On the third day of the big freeze in mid-January 1987, the cold water pipe had frozen. I prayed to Lord Sai for His Grace and protection from burst pipes inside the house.

I used bottled water for meals and melted snow for washing up. My neighbour called to enquire if I needed any help, I told her about the frozen pipes. "We have plenty, do not worry." She fetched a large

container of water from her house. Two days later she called in to say, "I'm sorry I cannot bring you any more water, the pipes in my house are frozen too!"

On rising that morning, I turned on the cold tap and lo and behold, the Master Plumber had solved my problem! What more proof of His Omnipresence?

I had searched for God in my life in many places and religions, but to no avail. It was at the point when I had given up the struggle that the greatest event of my life took place. I was told by a friend of a Holy Man in India, Who cured all kinds of diseases and conditions; this friend had met Sai Baba 20 years earlier. I was crippled from a long illness and as a result was losing my sight in both eyes. I rapidly became seriously ill and began to accept that death was close at hand. I talked to God about my utterly useless state on earth, spending all my time and energy in coping with the intense pain. (No medicine was ever taken). It was at this stage that Sai Baba restored my sight with special healing following on.

Yes, All Merciful Lord had heard my call!

With my sight restored, I made contact with a Sai Centre two years ago. Their lending library of Sai Books and cassettes became a vital part of my life. I have not been to India, nor to any Sai Centres, so reading books and listening to His Divine Messages on tape, are the means of learning of His Teachings.

We have the greatest medicine ever produced – Vibhuti - at our fingertips.

Remember to take it regularly, dear readers. You are here and everywhere, dear Lord God!
- Marie Violet. 1987

“Egoism is the most dangerous illusion that has to be exploded and destroyed. Arjuna too suffered this ego. One day when Krishna brought the chariot back to camp, Arjuna wanted that like all charioteers, Krishna should get down first and open the door of the chariot for him. Krishna refused and insisted that Arjuna should alight before He does. At last Krishna won and Arjuna got down. As soon as Krishna left His seat and touched the ground, the chariot went up in flames! The fact was that the various fiery arrows that had the power of burning the chariot had actually hit the target, but due to the presence of Krishna, their igniferous powers could not manifest themselves. Realising this, humbled Arjuna; his egoism had a rude shock. He also realised that every action of Divinity was full of significance”
-BABA (1964)

Amazing, Divine Miracle

Her name was Subbi (short for Subbamma), and she became the centre of an amazing - and Divine - miracle. In 2003, in Melakavatti village, in Ooty, Tamil Nadu, it was a golden moment, when something momentous, miraculous and totally unexpected, happened. This fifty year old lady, who had no sensation in her hands and legs, and who had been confined to her bed for the past 20 years. Suddenly, and without the help of anybody, or without anyone being conscious of it, she raised herself up to sit on the bed. Slowly,

she put her feet on the floor and stood up! She moved her hands as well! She moved towards the place where Bhajans were being sung in front of Baba's picture!

All this began soon after the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Niligiris, selected this village for their three-year Seva activities, prior to Swami's 80th Birthday, little realising that a miracle was about to be played there. The group visited every house there and gave out pictures of Swami, a laddu and vibhuti as prasad. At the end of a lane they entered an ancient and dilapidated house to hand out prasad. They were shocked to the core by what they saw. On the damp floor an elderly lady was lying on sacking cloth and wherever they looked they could only see signs of abject poverty and neglect.

She was extremely poor and had been orphaned at a very young age. The little plot of land that she inherited was the only source of a meager income to keep body and soul together. Having no near and dear relatives to arrange her marriage, she remained a spinster.

At age 30, she suddenly lost the use of both arms and legs. The Seva Org. decided there and then to adopt her and take care of her, by giving her a bed, blankets and was moved from the damp sacking cloth on the floor. Also, they arranged to have one member to bring her food every day and stay with her and care for her the full day.

The villagers now felt ashamed that it took outside volunteers from distant Ooty to take care of one who had dwelled amongst them for so long. A village committee was

convened, and thirty people came forward to care for her. All the days of the month were thus covered and a specific date for each family was written on a paper and kept near Swami's picture in their pooja room, as an offering at the Feet of the Lord Sai.

The service continued and, in time, eagerness to serve spread and soon everyone in the village wanted to do something. They renovated her house, cementing the floor, painting the walls and repairing the roof. They also began cooking her food in the renovated kitchen and thus she was able to eat hot meals, which were a welcome change for her in Ooty's cold climate. A healthy competition began between the villagers so that each month lots had to be drawn to assign thirty families for performing Seva to the paralysed lady. The dark dismal house became transformed into a shining centre for all activities in the village. Instead of the competition between individuals, thus started the link that bound them together into Unity which spread Purity among them. Can Divinity be far behind?

In Sept. 2004, the Samithis in the district planned to hold bhajans in 80 villages. With one voice all decided that the lady's house would be the focal point for all their activities. Accordingly, a well decorated shed was erected in front of her house and bhajans started in the evening. All the villagers participated and in singing the praise of the Lord Who had brought the village together.

Then something miraculous happened. The 50 year old lady who had no sensation in her hands and

legs, and had been confined to bed for the past 20 years, suddenly, and without any help, she raised herself up to sit on the bed. Slowly, she put her feet down and stood up, moving her hands as well! Nobody realised what was happening as they were immersed in singing the bhajans. All of a sudden they saw her coming to the front of the house unaided, raising her hands in homage to the visible Lord and beginning to dance in ecstasy. All were struck with wonder seeing the lady dancing before their eyes!

The lady explained to the assembled gathering that Swami had appeared in her dream the previous night and had massaged her hands and legs, thus removing her paralysis!

Today the 300 families are closely knit into one Sai family. Even the village chief, who was shocked by what he saw, resolved then and there that he would never touch another bottle of liquor, in that pure village where God was present. He had been a confirmed alcoholic throughout his entire life! Amazingly, it took the paralysis of one woman to change the lives of so many villagers.

Where the Lord has taken residence is surely a place filled with Ananda and Peace everlasting!

Tell me your company and I shall tell you what you are. Never be in bad company. Always be in good company.

- BABA

Violence is Preventable

In his book, "Quest for Gandhi", Balwant Bhaneja has an interesting item on the subject of wars, and violence in general. Allow me to quote this singularly interesting chapter.

"There was another level where my travel (in India) showed a change of thinking, it was in a new way of perceiving political success and victories of war, not through how many wars a nation could win or how much weaponry a nation could amass. It was more focused on how many people - men, women and children that a nation state was able to save from killing and premature deaths. There was a growing recognition that most conflicts today were results of local cultural issues. Compared to 192 nation/states, there were about 7,000 cultures worldwide, each coping in their own ways with technological and material onslaught of unevenly distributed wealth and knowledge.

Even some military generals (from NATO countries) seemed to accept that there are no longer clear-cut military victories like achieved through 'industrial wars' such as the Second World War in which over 50 million lives were lost. Military solutions to global conflicts were of limited success as conflicts now were occurring at the peoples level, and the foreign occupying forces thousands of miles from their home countries had little knowledge and skills about how to deal with the root causes of issues at the ground level, and no training and skills to resolve local issues. In the first decade of 21st Century, these unresolved battles and wars as well

as stockpiles of armament, both nuclear and conventional had begun to show limits of power through old-fashioned militarism.

For prevention of violence, one needed well-resourced institutions for peace building at local, national and global levels. Beyond United Nations, responsibility for peace work in absence of an infrastructure of peace was presently being dealt with by ill equipped voluntary organisations on ad hoc basis. The problems of conflict required more serious attention from individual governments in provision of peace education, human rights enforcement, prevention of arms build up etc. and most of all a trained cadre of personnel with skills and expertise in prevention, mediation and reconciliation of conflicts at home and abroad. The violence prevention required from national governments structures to recruit, train and deploy specialised peace professional as is done by these governments for its tax-payer funded military sector. A Ministry or a Department of Peace building and Disarmament for example headed by a Cabinet Minister made sense who could balance the advice received by a Head of State from a Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign affairs. Similar institutions could be created at local levels to inspire development of peace cities and peace provinces. Gandhi's work showed unending creativity for nonviolent peace structures and actions."

Such a peace institute has now taken root in Canada, and it is hoped other countries will follow on in time.

**Conflict and discord in the world
will cease when people learn to
practice sense-control.**

- BABA

**Baba's Reply to a Medical
Researcher**

The following was an article published by Peggy Mason, in 1986, on the use of animals in medical research.

"Readers would like to know what Baba said to a medical researcher, who had a growing concern about ethically unjustifiable experiments, so he asked Swami, 'If work is worship and our work involves the use of animals in research, can such work be dedicated to God?'

Swami shook His head and said, "*No, it is not good. There is life in everything.*"

The researcher pressed further by asking, "When animals are sacrificed to develop drugs to benefit mankind, can this work be carried out?" Swami replied, "*No. You have the Buddhi (intellect, mind) to discriminate between right and wrong, good and bad. You are taking life and God is in everything.*"

The researcher pushed the matter still further, by asking if post-doctoral research in this field could be pursued. Again Swami signified His disapproval by saying, "*Not good.*"

Now it so happened that during this researcher's visit to P.N. he received literature on alternative research techniques which do not exploit animals! How splendid. The Avatar has said that "*Man must be un-made and re-made.*" But Dr.

Robert White, head of Neurosurgery at the Metropolitan Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, appears to take this quite literally, for he envisages the time when a person with a good brain, but a diseased body, could exchange with someone else's good body but whose brain was damaged!

I wrote about this monstrous modern Frankenstein sixteen years ago when he was busy exchanging dog's brains for monkey's brains. But now, in furtherance of his dream, he has 'progressed' to exchanging the whole heads of monkeys, but as he cannot yet connect the spinal cords the monkeys are left paralysed. Yet twenty-five out of fifty were awake and functioning. "They could follow us with their eyes," he said, "They could chew and could perceive pain." (*Daily Telegraph, June 30th, 1986*)

Who is funding, with billions of dollars over several decades, this diabolical research? And could not the Pope restrain this member of his flock? We appeal to Sai devotees in America to raise their voices in such matters, so diametrically opposed to Sai's teachings.

Baba says, "*I ask you to promote love, sympathy and compassion to ALL beings; God is present in every one of them. It is your duty to revere God in each of them.*"

**Birds and beasts are content to
live on what they can get.**

**Man alone is afflicted with
insatiable desires.**

-BABA

HUMAN VALUES IN BUSINESS

MANAGEMENT

There are many ways in which the basic human values - Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence - can be practised in the day-to-day conduct of business. There are different aspects of management such as marketing, finance, industrial relations, etc., but the most important aspect is "man-management".

There is specific need for MBA students of the Sathya Sai Institute to infuse management practices in India with the cardinal values of *Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa*. All the values are interrelated. For example, a burning electric lamp can be compared to *Peace*. For the lamp of love to burn, there should be a bulb. That bulb is *Santhi*. The bulb had to be connected to the electric wire. That wire is *Dharma*. And then the current has to flow in the wire. The current is *Sathya*. With the current of *Sathya* (Truth) flowing in the wire of *Dharma* (Righteous conduct), connected to the bulb of *Santhi* (Peace), the lamp of *Prema* (Love) burns and sheds its light. *Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema* constitute a single whole and not separate values. All the four values have to be adhered to equally.

Honesty in business is a form of social service.

With regards to Truth, it is often said that to be truthful in business will result in loss. This is not so. Though initially there may be some difficulty, the course of time integrity and honesty will bring their own reward. The MBA students

must convince their chiefs in their respective firms how truth in accounts and audit helps to raise the image of the firm. They should be content with reasonable profit margins. Even if this policy does not pay in the beginning, in the long run it will be most rewarding. This is the way to inspire confidence. Running a business honestly must be regarded as a form of social service and spiritual *sadhana*.

In the practice of *Dharma*, marketing practices should be fair to the consumers and there should be justice in the dealings with the workers.

In the observance of peace, the MBA students should realise that they should not get ruffled by any kind of difficult situation. They have to maintain their calmness and try to pour oil on troubled waters. They should use the weapon of love in such situations.

Fraternal relations bring industrial harmony.

Prema must express itself in the business world by the executives developing the feeling that all engaged in the business - managers, workers and others - are members of one family. They must develop fraternal feelings towards all. With mutual love and regard, industrial harmony can be achieved.

As regards *Ahimsa*, in the context of industrial management, it has a wider social meaning than merely avoiding causing harm to others. The avoidance of pollution of the atmosphere or of natural resources like rivers, is one of the ways in which an enterprise practises *Ahimsa*.

In these different ways, a great deal of good can be done to our people and nation by business managers who adhere to basic human values and who adopt a spiritual approach to the tasks of the business world.

MBA students should develop firm faith in God and carry out their duties in the business in which they may be employed with a sense of dedication to the business and a spirit of service to the community.

(Discourse at a seminar in Madras for students of the Faculty of Business Management, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, on 10-2-1990)

Man has to realise how much he owes to God who has provided so many things for his life and comfort.

Prayer is the expression of man's gratitude to God. It is also the means of awakening an awareness of the eternal Divine within him.

The Upanishads beckon man to realise the bliss within him.

Prayer is essential for developing love for God.

- BABA

Tsunami of Divine Grace on Japan

March 2011 will long be remembered by the people of Japan. It was a most turbulent time in its history, when Japan was hit by one of the worst natural disasters, earthquake and tsunami, and suffered greatly. In the midst of their suffering, Swami stepped in to

protect the country with His Divine Grace.

Ms. Kayoko Hira's Ladies Day 2012, talk in P.N., which I now reproduce here vividly describes the occasion.

"First of all let us pray for people who are suffering from hunger, poverty, war, conflicts, diseases and domestic violence, all over the world.

On March 11th 2011, a tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. Fifteen thousand people died and three thousand missing. Four lakhs people (400,000) became homeless. Suddenly small children became orphans, young brides became widows, homes were destroyed and nuclear power radiation gave fear of disease and death for millions.

We, Japanese never forget that aid groups from all over the world came to Japan for rescue. Many countries sent relief to earthquake victims and innumerable people all over the world offered prayer for Japan. India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, offered at parliament. 254 countries and international organisations sent official letters of sympathy to our Emperor, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Today, Japan is on the way of recovery. Many people lost their homes and jobs but the government provided housing and people survive on public assistance. It is a phase to focus on their employment stability and mental care.

There are millions of episodes. Please let me share some of the most unforgettable ones. There was one

Japanese youth working in one poor village in Africa. When the villagers heard about the calamity in Japan, they wanted to do something to help Japan. The village head told her that, 'We cannot send money to Japan. In this village, we can harvest only beans. Please send our beans to the earth-quake victims in Japan.' In Africa, 15 countries sent monetary donations to Japan, but ten of them are called the poorest countries as their per capita gross national income is under two dollars.

When we heard about this episode, many Japanese shed tears. Seva is action from bottom of the heart, Love. Quantity is not important. The most important is quality and love. Please allow me to share Bhagawan's grace upon Japanese victims of the earthquake.

"On 14th March 2011, Brother Hira telephoned Sri Chakravarthi from Tokyo, to report the great national devastation to Bhagawan. Hira asked for Bhagawan's permission and protection of life from intense radiation for the Sai Seva devotees to pass through nuclear contamination areas. After a few hours Br. Chakravarthi informed that Bhagawan has most graciously given permission to start immediate Sai Seva to victims. Bhagawan said, 'I shall protect you all. Go.'

"Convoys of Sathya Sai Seva trucks carrying hundreds of tons of relief supplies. 6000 litres of water, hundreds of thousands of meals, medicines, and clothing were arranged in overnight operation. As all the roads were broken down, government had ordered civilian transport curfew. With Baba's grace,

Japan Police gave Sai Seva trucks, 'Priority Pass as Emergency Trucks'.

"Sai Seva Volunteers could not reach the site as Japanese military was trying to make temporary roads and bridges - Sai trucks were stranded - we prayed to Bhagawan intensely. With Baba's blessing we got a message from the police. Although all roads are blocked and broken a special empty cargo ship named "Miura" was especially dispatched overnight by Japan Coast Guard with a helicopter to transport all Sai Seva relief goods immediately to most afflicted areas. The captain of the navy ship thanked Bhagawan.

"Next morning we got the news Sai Seva was the first and best lifeline to be dropped by helicopter in coastal cities devastated by tsunami. Sai Seva devotees then moved to seaside city of Natori where damage and loss of life was the maximum.

"A Japanese Sai doctor named Hosokawa arranged through a nurse for food and water to reach the victims. The nurse said she had not slept few nights and was looking exhausted. Her house had been drowned in the tsunami - her old mother died in the tsunami, still she continued her duty to serve patients. Dr. Hosokawa gave her a photo of Baba saying He is God, He can do anything for you. Pray to Him because you are sad, lonely and exhausted.

After a week, the nurse gave a letter to Dr. Hosokawa and said she prayed to Baba. Her only wish was to get the dead body of her mother from the tsunami washed ocean so she could do her duty of cremation as a daughter. Baba blessed her. She went to the sea shore early morning

and among thousands of drowned bodies, only her mother's body was found and she cried, "Sai Baba is True God".

Dear Sisters and Brothers, although Bhagawan Himself was preparing to leave His very own body in the next few days, yet He answered the prayers of unknown mothers, daughters seeking His grace.

"Sai ladies of Japan though very small in number continue to ardently love and serve Bhagawan. The Sai ladies of Japan have endeavoured to learn and practise Sai teachings which are so different from daily Japanese life style. We have workshops on making Rangoli, cooking Indian Prasad and making Indian style garlands etc. They have also translated Easwaramma books, Divine teachings on foods and a number of Swami's discourses. Over 300 original Japanese language melodious Sai bhajans have been made. Bhagawan loved Japanese bhajans and encouraged us to sing in Japanese language.

"Oh, our Dear Bhagawan, please guide us and inspire us always.

"May all beings in all worlds be happy."
