



Dedicated at the Lotus Feet of

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

*On the Auspicious Occasion of
His 82th Birthday*

23rd November 2007

Arati being offered to Bhagavan in Poornachandra Auditorium where Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was performed.



Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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Editor

G.L. ANAND



"You are not separate from God. You are an aspect of Mine. You should recognise your relationship with God. This relationship is eternal. You may belong to any religion, you may go anywhere, but this relationship with God will always exist. Hence, do not observe any differences whatsoever."

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- 19th November Ladies Day**
- 22nd November..... 26th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai
University**
- 23rd November..... 82nd Birthday of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

“NOW you have work at Puttaparthi ... A monthly magazine will start soon ...” that was how Bhagavan Baba recalled Kasturiji from All India Radio, Bangalore in the 32nd year of His Avataric career. He also announced that He had decided to designate it as “Sanathana Sarathi”. Dwelling on the purpose of this instrument born out of ‘His Sankalpa’ Bhagavan said, “This Sarathi will fight for the firm establishment of peace in the world; it will proclaim its victory through reverberating drum-beats. It will ensure, by its triumph, Ananda for all mankind.”

The first edition of this unique magazine, the Inaugural Number, saw the light of the day on Mahasivarathri in February 1958. It is unique not only in concept, but also in texture and spirit as it is enlivened by the breath of the Avatar of the Age. Not only He kept a close watch on its publication, but He also reminded those connected with its editing and publishing even fifteen years later that they have to propagate assiduously, unconcerned with decorative display and profit-loss reckoning, the Integration of Human Race. The Lord conferred His Blessings on it saying, “May Sanathana Sarathi reach its supreme fruition in Sarva-Jiva-Samaikya-Varidhi (All Beings - Integral - Union - Ocean), the Goal of Awareness of the one, without a second.”

“Sanathana Sarathi” has now covered fifty years of its glorious existence as the Bhagavan Uvacha (Thus Spake the Lord), i.e., as the mouthpiece of Prasanthi Nilayam, the Abode of Supreme Peace. As foretold, during all these years, the “Sanathana Sarathi” acted as “the bridge which leads you to Me and brings Me to you.” It is no wonder, the magazine was received by devotees not as a periodic publication, but as “Prasadam” from the Divine.

For several months in the beginning the magazine was, published as bilingual both in Telugu and English. Later on, they were printed separately. It made rapid strides in the past few decades and from a few hundreds its number of subscribers increased to several thousands – both in English and Telugu. It also serves as a prototype for its publication in eleven other Indian languages, besides Nepali and eleven other overseas languages.

It is a great honour and privilege for the Convener of the Book Trust to publish this special issue of “Sanathana Sarathi” commemorating the golden jubilee year of the magazine on the occasion of the 82nd Birthday of Bhagavan and prayerfully present the same at the Lotus Feet of our compassionate and merciful Lord for the benefit of our esteemed readers.

– Convener

Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

FIFTY YEARS OF SANATHANA SARATHI

An Overview

IN a grand function held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 16th February 1958, the auspicious day of Sivarathri, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba released the first issue of “Sanathana Sarathi” through which He willed to convey His Divine Message to mankind.

In fact, the need for a magazine from Prasanthi Nilayam had been felt by the devotees of Bhagavan since many years. It was not possible for even very ardent devotees to come to Prasanthi Nilayam often, both because of the arduousness of the journey and minimal facilities for stay that were available in those days. Puttaparthi was then a remote hamlet in a most backward and drought-prone region of Andhra Pradesh, and was not linked by rail or road. Moreover, people from far-off places and overseas countries could not come here due to the expense on the journey. The need for a magazine was therefore acutely felt by the devotees in order to keep in touch with Bhagavan and His Message and to know about the happenings at Prasanthi Nilayam. Many fervent prayers were made by the devotees, but Bhagavan waited for an appropriate time to launch the magazine. He had already declared that His first 16 years would primarily show His Leelas (divine play) and the next 16 years of His life will show Mahimas (glories), and thereafter He would spend more time in Upadesh (teachings). He embarked upon His Divine Mission to assume the role of World Teacher after 32 years of His life sojourn on earth. Thus started the era of His Upadesh (teachings) and “Sanathana Sarathi” was privileged to become the chief medium of Bhagavan’s teachings.

Bhagavan clarified the purpose of starting this magazine in its very first issue which contained this historic declaration both in Telugu and English: “From this day, our Sanathana Sarathi is on the march, at the head of its spiritual cohorts – the Vedas, the Upanishads and other scriptures – to subdue injustice, viciousness, falsehood and licence, the minions of ego. May this Charioteer fight for world prosperity and achieve victory! May it spread joy among all mankind!”

Bhagavan willed “Sanathana Sarathi” to be a scripture like the Vedas and the Upanishads and other scriptures of the world. It is, of course, a source of solace, peace and illumination for its readers like all scriptures. But it is different from other scriptures in two ways. First, it is a scripture that has not been labelled as Hindu, Christian, Muslim, etc. Rather, it is a scripture for the followers of all the religions of the world because it preaches an altogether different religion – the religion of

love – which binds all mankind into one. Secondly, it is a scripture which is being handed out to mankind by Living God. It is therefore no wonder that the readers of “Sanathana Sarathi” find in the printed words of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba a divine energy which overwhelms, elevates, enlightens and transforms them. Millions of them during the last 50 years have vouchsafed that reading of “Sanathana Sarathi” is an extraordinary experience.

The very name “Sanathana Sarathi” specifies its purpose. In fact, Bhagavan Himself is Sanathana Sarathi, the Eternal Charioteer of man. In a world afflicted by greed, selfishness, hatred, cruelty and violence, this Avatar has come as the Eternal Charioteer of mankind to steer it on the path of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ananda for the moral and spiritual regeneration of the world. He has stated this truth clearly in one of His beautiful Telugu poems which reveals His identity to mankind:

*Considering what qualities Lord Vishnu had gone to save His illustrious devotee Prahlada;
Considering what qualities the Lotus-eyed Lord had gone to protect the elephant, Gajendra;
Considering what qualities the Vaikuntha Vasi (dweller of Vaikuntha) Lord Vishnu had taken
into His fold the child devotee, Dhruva;
Considering what qualities Lord Vishnu who is extolled by the Vedas showered His grace on
poor Kuchela suffering from abject poverty;
Considering the same qualities, the Lord who is adored by the immortal gods has incarnated
as Sathya Sai in Puttaparthi to protect and foster the afflicted and suffering people in this world.
He is Anathanatha (the Lord of the forlorn), He is Srinatha (the Lord of wealth and prosperity),
He is verily Satchitanandamurthi (the embodiment of existence, knowledge, bliss).*

This forthright declaration of Bhagavan coupled with actual transformation of millions of people all over the world as documented and recorded in numerous books, magazines, films, etc., reassures mankind that He is the same Lord of the universe, who removed the veil of ignorance of Arjuna and showed him the path of redemption through the immortal knowledge of the Bhagavadgita, which has provided succour and light to generations of humanity. The last 50 years of the experience of the readers of “Sanathana Sarathi” reveals that it is the same wisdom, power and illumination that is contained in the pages of “Sanathana Sarathi”. Lord Krishna promised:

*Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya Glanir Bhavati Bharata,
Abhyutthanamadharmasya Tadatmanam Srujamyaham.* (Sanskrit Verse)

(Oh Arjuna! Whenever there is a decline in Dharma and rise in Adharma, I incarnate for the establishment of Dharma.)

Bhagavan reaffirms this declaration of Lord Krishna in His following Telugu poem:

*In order to set right the distorted rules of the Age,
To purify the spoiled conditions of all the worlds,
To protect the depressed saints having been downtrodden by the wicked,
To clarify the hidden truths of the commentaries of the sacred books,
To relieve the enormous burden of Mother Earth,*

*To fulfil the boons given in Treta Yuga,
The immortal Supreme Lord has descended on the earth as the Embodiment of Truth,
Whom you can see in Puttaparthi now.*

The word Sanathana indicates that God has always performed this role of the charioteer of mankind in all Ages since the dawn of history. But man must invite the Lord to take the reins of this chariot. As Bhagavan says, "The individual must install himself in a chariot with the wheels of detachment and truth. The Lord will then accept the position of the charioteer. He will hold the reins (mind) and direct the horses (senses) straight and safe over the road (the path of salvation through self-realisation)." Significantly, the cover page of the very first issue of this magazine had the picture of Lord Krishna as charioteer holding the reins of the horses of the chariot of Arjuna to reaffirm the appropriateness of the name of the magazine as "Sanathana Sarathi".

Bhagavan sometimes makes very stupendous declarations during ordinary conversations. He revealed His Sankalpa (Will) to launch this monthly magazine and name it Sanathana Sarathi during one such conversation with Prof. Kasturi, the first editor of "Sanathana Sarathi". In his inimitable style, Prof. Kasturi narrates this incident in his book "Loving God". It will be interesting to hear the story from him in first person:

"I got the good news pretty quick; Baba had come to Bangalore. He was staying in Sri Vittal Rao's house on the 9th Cross Road, Wilson Gardens, only 5 minutes away from my residence, "Ashoka" on the 12th Cross. Knowing that there was a possibility of His coming to his place, I had tipped the dry cleaner, who attended to the washing and ironing of his door and window curtains, to inform me as soon as he delivered the wash to Vittal Rao. I had noticed that he had the curtains washed and ironed as part of house-cleaning, preliminary to Baba's visit. When the news leaked at last, I posted the little daughter of my domestic help on a slab of stone facing his house, with directions to keep watch for a big car and an orange robe. So within ten minutes of Baba's stepping into his house, Vittal Rao was amazed to find me on his verandah! "Wait! Wait!" he pleaded. But Baba spotted me and came towards me with His palm ready to fall on my shoulder. "Now, you have work at Puttaparthi", He said. "A monthly magazine will start soon. Guess! How is it named?" He asked. I confessed I could not delve into His Will. Yet He drew out from my reluctance a few names: "The Godward Path," "Karma Dharma ..." "Premayoga." He waved aside the titles I suggested and announced that he had decided to designate it as Sanathana Sarathi!"

That name is a clarion call. "Recognise God as the Sarathi, yield wholeheartedly to His direction, reach your Destination in good shape", was the message Baba was conveying through that name. I was elated, elevated."

The first issue of the magazine was printed at a press in Dharmavaram. Later when Bhagavan visited Bangalore, He Himself went to Vichara Darpana Press on Avenue Road along with Prof. Kasturi and Raja Reddy and bought a foot-operated treadle printing machine which had 14-inch diameter plate on which two pages of the magazine could be printed at a time. Bhagavan also bought a case each of Telugu and English types and the other necessary equipment to set up

a printing press at Prasanthi Nilayam, which was to be named Sri Sathya Sai Press. The press was set up in a small room at the eastern end of what was earlier called Pathashala block. In 1973, it was shifted to Brindavan, Whitefield (Bangalore) and was named Vraja Brindavan Press. In the year 1986, the press was shifted back to Prasanthi Nilayam and was set up at a place where now stands Junior Boys Hostel. In the year 1994, it was shifted to its present location.

An old devotee named Narsimhachari handled composing and printing. The entire work of the magazine was shared by Prof. Kasturi and Narasimhachari between themselves. Prof. Kasturi was a versatile genius. He translated Bhagavan's Telugu articles into English, read and corrected proofs, enlisted subscribers, maintained the register of subscribers, pasted the addresses on the covers, took the uncut copies to Bangalore, brought them back after cutting and posted them on the due date. He was a translator, proof reader, circulation manager and even postmaster for some time – all rolled into one. The magnitude of the work done by Prof. Kasturi can be estimated from the following description given by him:

“For about a year, Narasimhachari, the sole helper at the treadle, put together the types, prepared the pages and pedalled away, to get two pages printed at a time. I offered to help him in the composing and in the footwork when I found him delaying or dozing. I was shocked when he accepted the offer whenever I made it! The job was really hard, though he lightened and brightened it singing Bhajans to himself.

“I was kept busy most of the day and even a few hours of the night, since the number of subscribers increased fast. Money was sent by post or paid direct by devotees and pilgrims who realised that the Sarathi was the link between the Chariot and the Charioteer. The register of subscribers became more voluminous with every festival at Prasanthi Nilayam; thousands who came to the holy Presence mired to ensure that the voice of the Lord should enter their doors at least once every month.

For over two years, I and Narasimhachari bore the yoke. We were anxious to post the numbers at the newly opened Prasanthi Nilayam Post Office on the 16th of every month as announced in the very first copy. Devotees, we knew, would welcome it even more reverentially when they find, on the wrapper, on the right hand corner, the circular frank-mark of the Post Office with the euphoria-filled name Prasanthi Nilayam. But a cutting machine which could trim the edges of the magazine was acquired only much later, long after a cylinder press was installed to cope with the 3000 copies we had to print. They had to be trimmed at Bangalore City, 100 miles away.”

Prof. Kasturi performed this arduous journey, using all possible modes of transport – bullock cart, bus, horse-drawn carriage and train – so as to post the magazine on the 16th of every month. For many months, “Sanathana Sarathi” was bilingual and contained both English and Telugu matter. Bhagavan was its main contributor. Every month, He specially wrote an article for “Sanathana Sarathi”. In the very first issue, the first article was given by Bhagavan, which was a part of series of articles proposed to be made later into a book, to be named “Prema Vahini”. Every month, Prof. Kasturi went to Bhagavan to collect this hand-written article of Bhagavan in Telugu, which he translated into English and put both Telugu and English versions of Bhagavan's article in the same issue. Bhagavan continued contributing His monthly article for “Sanathana

Sarathi” every month from its first issue in February 1958 up to October 1984 for 26 long years without any break. This in itself is a stupendous work if we see merely its magnitude. These articles were later compiled into 16 books, popularly called Vahini books.

But that is not all. Even more important is the quality of the articles written. Written in simple and spoken Telugu, they capture the attention of the reader by their direct style which can be called conversational. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that they are simple and easy to grasp, yet they contain depth of meaning like that of the Vedas and the Upanishads. The deepest Vedantic truths therefore get explained in these articles in the easiest language without pedantry and show of scholarship to the benefit of both a layman and a scholar. This is the main reason why these Vahini books have universal appeal and have been translated into almost all the languages of the world. However, the most remarkable fact about these books is that they have not been written after reading other books. They flowed from Bhagavan’s heart as naturally and effortlessly as His breath.

Bhagavan does not need to consult any book to pen authoritative commentaries on the contents of the Vedas and Upanishads, yet the novelty of His interpretation and depth of His thought astonish all scholars. Prof. Kasturi describes his first-hand experience of Bhagavan’s way of writing. Let us hear from him his experience when once he went to Bhagavan to receive the article which Bhagavan wrote for “Sanathana Sarathi” every month:

“Baba has declared more than once that the revival of Vedic studies and research, with the aim of reviving the practice of Vedic ideals, is one of His plans for rehabilitating man. Baba, therefore, decided on a small book on the Upanishads, in order to rivet the attention of the world to the efficacy of Vedanta. As editor of the magazine which published serially the chapters of this book, I had an amazing experience every month for a whole year. After despatching the magazine on the 16th of the month, I would go to Him for the next part of the series. Announcing the name of the Upanishad Himself, He would ask me to wait for a while in His room and proceed along the verandah with a notebook and pen, towards the room where there stood a table with a chair by its side and nothing else besides. Once, it was the turn of the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad to be summarised and simplified. It is the biggest and the profoundest of the ten. I am certain that Baba had never read it or consulted others who could talk on it. And there was no copy available anywhere within miles. But forty minutes after He moved out with the pen and the notebook as His sole possessions, I could descend the eighteen steps from His room with a ten-page dissertation on the truths this Upanishad enshrined! I peeped into the script as I walked towards the press and my eyes fell on the Telugu words which said, ‘The grandeur of the intellect of the Sage Yajnavalkya is impressively evident in this Upanishad.’ I told myself, it is now impressively evident to me.”

All the 16 Vahini books were penned by Bhagavan in a most effortless and natural manner without referring to any book whatsoever. Similar is the case with His Discourses which flow as naturally from Him as His breath. These Discourses and Vahini books are verily the Vedas and the Upanishads, the divine knowledge of which Bhagavan in His compassion is imparting directly to modern man in the same manner as the Supreme Being whispered the knowledge of the Vedas to ancient Rishis.

The spontaneity of His writings coupled with richness of the message given through these articles of various books had such a captivating effect on the readers that the number of subscribers rose from a few hundreds to many thousands in a short time. Along with these articles of Bhagavan, excerpts and summaries of His Discourses also started finding place in "Sanathana Sarathi" within a year of its publication under such headings as "Life Pilgrimage", "The Bhagavadgita", "Upadesh Panchamritam", "Sathya Sai Sweeties" and "Sathya Sai Baba Speaks". The first full length Discourse of Bhagavan appeared in August 1961 issue of "Sanathana Sarathi" under the heading "Inner Temple", which was Bhagavan's Discourse given at Bukkapatnam on 18th July 1961. Detailed summary of Bhagavan's Dasara Discourses finds place in November and December 1961 issues under the title "Mathura Nagar this Puttaparthi".

Though Bhagavan gave informal talks on the sands of Chitravathi and various other places before small groups of devotees, He delivered His first public Discourse during Dasara celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam in 1953. The spontaneity and freshness that marks Bhagavan's writings is seen in His Discourses also. Delivered in conversational Telugu in a style that is informal and intimate, Bhagavan's Discourses are embellished with interesting anecdotes, illuminating parables, Sanskrit verses from scriptures and charming Telugu lyrics, most of which are self-composed and blossom on His tongue instantaneously. In fact, almost all His Discourses begin with a sweet lyric and conclude with a Bhajan; both of which cast a spell on the listeners as He sings these in His golden voice. The icing on the cake are His dazzling poems, epigrams, similes, metaphors and acronyms, which illustrate the deepest spiritual truths in a flash of illumination. These embellishments are used so artistically that they do not diminish the shine of His Message. Rather, they enhance the clarity, comprehension and grandeur of His Message so that it is permanently imprinted on the hearts of the listeners and readers. As His Discourses directly come from His heart and do not have even a trace of artificiality, they are always fresh and charming. The bulk and variety of His Discourses can be estimated by referring to "Sathya Sai Speaks" which runs into nearly 40 volumes at present. Another uniqueness of these Discourses is that they are as captivating and enrapturing today as they were six decades ago. It is therefore no surprise that hundreds of thousands throng to listen to them when they are delivered and read them with avidness and reverence when they appear in printed form in "Sanathana Sarathi".

Since 1984, when Bhagavan concluded the writing of Vahini series articles with the 8th article of "Leela Kaivalya Vahini", His Discourses in "Sanathana Sarathi" have become the chief medium of Bhagavan's message to mankind. This magazine which is now being printed in 25 Indian and overseas languages has subscribers in almost all the countries of the world who read it with reverence like any other scripture. Most of them consider that coming of "Sanathana Sarathi" in their house is as good as coming of Bhagavan Himself as the word of God is God Himself. It is difficult to find another spiritual magazine which has such a large number of subscribers in all parts of the world and which is being published every month in so many languages of the world.

Bhagavan willed "Sanathana Sarathi" to be a purely and uncompromisingly a spiritual magazine to convey to mankind His message of love, unity and peace so as to bring joy, solace

and harmony in their life. Therefore, conspicuous by its absence in this magazine is the business motive which distinguishes Bhagavan's all endeavours from others. In the very first issue in February 1958, it was announced: "No commercial advertisement will be published in this magazine." Bhagavan has always advised those who were assigned the work of editing and publishing the magazine to concentrate on conveying His message of truth and love to the world without any profit-loss reckoning.

It is the great good fortune of the contemporaries of this Avatar that they are not only receiving His Divine Message directly from Him, but are also witnessing with their eyes how He has demonstrated His teachings in His own life. His life is the shining example of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa and all His teachings. But this is not all. He has set up many institutions and started various projects to illustrate to the leaders of the world how ideals can be converted into reality to create a world saturated with love, peace, unity and harmony. His educational institutions, for example, practically show to the world that the end of education is character. Similarly, His hospitals present the ideal of free quality healthcare for all in practical form. His drinking water projects and several other social welfare schemes show the ideal of selfless service to man. Prasanthi Nilayam set up by Him demonstrates to the world the ideal of Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God where people of all religions, nationalities and races live in an atmosphere of unity, love and peace as one race of humanity. In the same way, "Sanathana Sarathi" presents a shining beacon of light to show to the world media how it can perform its duty of teaching noble ideals to mankind without any commercial considerations.

"Sanathana Sarathi" has not only been a powerful source of support, succour and happiness in the lives of millions of its readers in all parts of the world belonging to all nationalities, races and faiths, but it has more importantly elevated, enlightened and transformed their lives during the last 50 years. The unique role played by it for the redemption of mankind has hardly any parallel in the spiritual history of the world. On the golden jubilee of "Sanathana Sarathi", I most humbly convey deep gratitude to Bhagavan on behalf of millions of its grateful readers for giving this divine magazine to modern man for his ethical and spiritual uplift.

– Editor



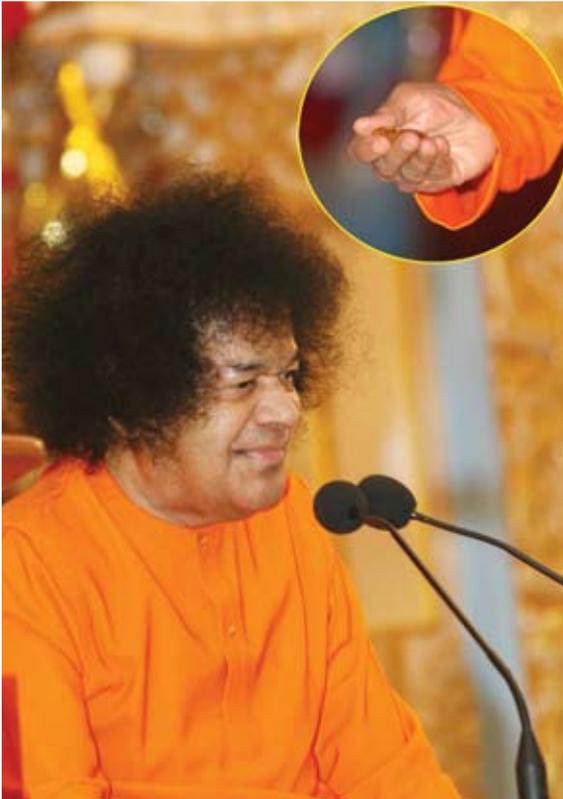
SUFFUSE ALL YOUR ENDEAVOURS WITH SATHYA AND DHARMA

VIJAYA DASAMI IS A FESTIVAL which is celebrated by all. But to some it brought sorrow, because it was on the Vijaya Dasami day that 'old body' (of Shirdi Sai Avatar) was given up. Human body is, of course, physical and temporary.

Spiritual Practices are Useless without Sathya and Dharma

Once when Laxmibai came to Shirdi Sai Baba, he told her, "Laxmibai! Keep these two coins with you. These are gold coins." (While

narrating this incident, Bhagavan materialised two gold coins and showed these to devotees). These two coins symbolise Sathya and Dharma which help man to progress on the path of spirituality. Swami often sings the song, "Sathya Dharmamu Santhi Premalato Nee Nitya Jivana Yatra Saginchu" (Perform the journey of your life adhering to the principles of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema). Sathya is Atma. To follow Dharma is our duty. Therefore, follow Dharma strictly adhering to Sathya. These two constitute the true spiritual practice. They will safeguard you in every way. They will relieve you of all your sorrows, miseries and



If we give prime importance to Sathya and Dharma in our life, they will not only sustain us, they will also protect the whole world. We adopt so many methods for the welfare and protection of the world. But all these are artificial. The real means are Sathya and Dharma. Keep them with you always day and night, and install them in your heart. You limit Sathya and Dharma merely to your speech. No, no. You should imprint them on your heart. Only then will they give you the desired fruits.

difficulties. Since that day, Laxmibai kept those two coins with her. She thought, "These are the coins given by Baba. These are made of gold and are more valuable than even diamonds. There is nothing that is more valuable than these. I do not want anything else except these because these represent both Sathya and Dharma."

Man should not deviate even a bit from the path of Sathya and Dharma while leading a worldly life. If we have Sathya in our heart and Dharma in our actions, we need no other spiritual practice. These two are enough for us. Both Sathya and Dharma are important for man to overcome his suffering and difficulties.

There are billions of people in the world. Crores of people are born in India alone. But the same divinity is present in all. There may be any number of people in the world but the divinity present in them is one and the same. Bhagavan is the only truth (*loud applause*). You may call God by any name – Allah, Jesus, Rama, Krishna, Govinda. But God is only one. These are the names given to their bodies; they are not their real names. Therefore, consider God as one and treasure this truth in your heart. Truth is God. Propagate this truth.

We perform various acts of charity and righteousness. But mere performance is not important. Whatever you do, suffuse it with Sathya (truth). All will be happy if they follow this path. Only one thing exists in this world and that is Sathya. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). Only truth is eternal in this world. Everything else is temporary like passing clouds. Different names and forms that exist in this world are not permanent. Only truth is permanent and changeless. After installing this truth in



Turning the beads of a rosary is not important. Your mind should be turned towards God. Only then will your Sadhana become meaningful. Whatever you do, let it be based on truth. Whatever you speak, let it be suffused with truth. Truth is our life. Dharma is our breath. Our life will be sanctified when we take these two as the basis of all our endeavours. You may listen to a number of discourses, you may study the Upanishads, the Gita and other sacred texts but by doing so you will only be wasting your time if you do not adhere to Sathya and Dharma.



your heart, whatever actions you perform, they will constitute Dharma.

As there are so many youth gathered here, I want to tell you something very important. But you should not take it otherwise. Due to the influence of modern times, youth are tempted by worldly and physical love. But how long does the physical love last even between the husband and wife? Only for a few years. Then there occurs a change. Physical love gives only temporary satisfaction to our senses. It is not permanent.

Human Body has a Time Limit

All are one. Whomsoever you love, it amounts to loving God only. God alone is important and eternal. Love is one and that love is God. Whatever you do with love, it is bound to be a success. Only true love is eternal. It does not undergo any change. Physical relationship exists

only as long as the body lasts. Once the body is gone, who is related to whom? Then there exists no relationship.

The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish sooner or later, but the indweller has neither birth nor death. The indweller has no attachment whatsoever and is the eternal witness. (Telugu Poem)

Body is not at all permanent. Only the indweller is permanent. It is a great mistake to forget this indweller. Do not give importance to the body. Only the indweller is important. It is the indweller who is the embodiment of truth. When you realise the true nature of the indweller, then he will look after you in all respects. We should never forget the indweller who is changeless.

It was Dasami (tenth day of the lunar month) when Baba left his body in Shirdi. Before leaving his mortal coil, he said to the devotees gathered around him, "Do not give importance to the body. It will fade and wither in a short time. Why should you consider such a temporary body as true? Nobody should shed tears when the body is cast off. Death is a natural phenomenon. So long as one is alive, one uses the body. Later, you should consider it like a dream which lasts only for a short time." When Baba passed away, the devotees kept his body as it was and waited in the hope that he might come back to his body. Thereafter, they decided to make a Samadhi for Baba. So, the body was taken out of the Chavadi (a small dwelling place) and laid in Samadhi. Even if the body lasts for a long time, it is temporary only. The body has a limit. Even this body like all other bodies has a time limit. There is no scope for anyone to cross that limit. In the same way, every body has one limit or the other. As



Whatever you do, suffuse it with Sathya (truth). All will be happy if they follow this path. Only one thing exists in this world and that is Sathya. Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). Only truth is eternal in this world. Everything else is temporary like passing clouds. Different names and forms that exist in this world are not permanent. Only truth is permanent and changeless. After installing this truth in your heart, whatever actions you perform, they will constitute Dharma.



the days pass, the end draws near. Therefore, embodiments of love! You should consider love as most important. Treasure truth in your heart. Whatever work you do, do it in accordance with Dharma. Sathya nourishes Dharma and Dharma protects Sathya.

Only Sathya and Dharma can Protect the World

If we give prime importance to Sathya and Dharma in our life, they will not only sustain us, they will also protect the whole world. We adopt so many methods for the welfare and protection of the world. But all these are artificial. The real means are Sathya and Dharma. Keep them with you always day and night, and install them in your heart. You limit Sathya and Dharma merely to your speech. No, no. You should imprint them on your heart. Only then will they give you the desired fruits.

There is no use if you merely talk about Sathya and Dharma.



There are billions of people in the world. Crores of people are born in India alone. But the same divinity is present in all. There may be any number of people in the world but the divinity present in them is one and the same. Bhagavan is the only truth. You may call God by any name – Allah, Jesus, Rama, Krishna, Govinda. But God is only one. These are the names given to their bodies; they are not their real names. Therefore, consider God as one and treasure this truth in your heart. Truth is God. Propagate this truth.

Baba gave two coins to Laxmibai as the symbols of these two important means of Sadhana. You should aspire only for Sathya and Dharma. You may undertake all types of spiritual practices, but Sathya and Dharma should be adopted as the permanent means of Sadhana. Once Laxmibai's daughter came to her and said, "Amma! Give those two coins to me." But Laxmibai refused to do so, saying, "These are to be returned to him who gave them to me. These cannot be passed on to anyone else. I have no right to give them to any other person. They have come from truth and will go back to truth."

You may recite any Name of God, chant any Mantra, perform any Yajna, but Sathya and Dharma are basic to all spiritual practices. Spiritual practices are meant only to sanctify time. Sathya and Dharma are most important and eternal. They are changeless. They follow you even after your death. They remain with you in all your births. You should therefore implicitly follow Sathya and Dharma in your life. When

Even a gramophone record can do that. You should speak from your heart. Only then will these be imprinted permanently on your heart. When once they are permanently imprinted on your heart, they will be in you, with you, below you, above you and all-around you all the time. You should try to adopt these as the primary means of your Sadhana (spiritual practice).

you consider them as the basis of your life, you don't need to perform any other Sadhana. You are undertaking a number of spiritual practices. But all of them will prove futile if you ignore Sathya and Dharma. You may chant the Divine Name 'Ram, Ram, Ram...' You may turn the beads of a rosary and do Japa. But if your mind is not turned towards God, what is the use? Turning the



beads of a rosary is not important. Your mind should be turned towards God. Only then will your Sadhana become meaningful. Whatever you do, let it be based on truth. Whatever you speak, let it be suffused with truth. Truth is our life. Dharma is our breath. Our life will be sanctified when we take these two as the basis of all our endeavours. You may listen to a number of discourses, you may study the Upanishads, the Gita and other sacred texts but by doing so you will only be wasting your time if you do not adhere to Sathya and Dharma. You can sanctify your time by following these practices but they do not make your life worthwhile. Truth and righteousness are very important in order to attain liberation.

You should always remember that you are part of divinity. As Krishna said, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). You are not separate from God. You are an aspect of Mine. You should recognise your relationship with God. This relationship is eternal. You may belong to any religion, you may go anywhere, but this relationship with God will always exist. Hence, do not observe any differences whatsoever. All religions are one. If your Mathi (mind) is good, how can any Matha (religion) be bad? Hence, purify and elevate your mind. Understand the true meaning of religion. Differences are in your mind and not in the religions. Do not entertain doubts in this regard. Always keep your mind suffused with truth and love. Truth is Atma. We often use the term 'myself'. What is the meaning of 'Self'? That is Atma. Follow the principle of the Self. Consider it as your Dharma. One who adheres to this principle will never come to harm. He will see only unity and follow one single path. Once you understand

the truth of oneness and treasure it in your heart, your life will be sanctified.

Unity of Mankind is Imminent

Embodiments of Love!

All of you must install Sathya and Dharma in your heart. Never leave them. Dharma is not limited to acts of charity. You should follow the voice of your conscience. If you adhere to this principle, you will always remain as the embodiments of truth. In fact, you are the embodiments of truth. You are all the forms of Sathya Sai! (*loud prolonged applause*). Install this truth in your heart and lead a divine life. You are feeling that Swami has not addressed you even once during Navaratri. Today is Vijaya Dasami. This is the day of leaving the 'old body'. Having come in this new body, I have given you the proof of all that happened during the time of the 'old body'.

You should continue your Sadhana in spite of all obstacles. Do not join bad company. If you associate with bad company, you will also become bad. Hence, always join good company. What is meant by good company? Sathya and Dharma constitute good company. You may be in any type of company, you will remain unharmed if you have Sathya and Dharma with you.

Very soon, the entire country will be united (*loud applause*). In fact, the whole world will become one. Giving up the narrow considerations of caste, religion and nationality, all will be united and will experience divinity. All will develop the feeling of love and consider each other as brothers and sisters. You address each other as 'brothers and sisters'. You greet each other saying 'hello, hello'. But what is the use if your inside is hollow? Greet

Continued on cover page III ...

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PERFORMANCE OF VEDA Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna, worship of Devi (Divine Mother) in the forms of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Bhagavan's inspiring words and benedictions in His Discourses, illuminating talks of distinguished scholars on spiritual topics during the proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha, distribution of food and clothes to lakhs of villagers in the form of Grama Seva, chanting of Vedic Mantras and rendering of devotional songs and Bhajans in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan lend a unique spiritual and divine ambience to Prasanthi Nilayam during Navaratri (nine days of worship) celebrations. Sai Kulwant Hall and Poornachandra Auditorium, the venues of these events of immense spiritual significance, are befittingly decorated on this occasion and hundreds of thousands devotees taste the ambrosia of this spiritual feast. This year also, all these programmes formed part of Navaratri and Dasara celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

VEDA PURUSHA SAPTAHA JNANA YAJNA

Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna began on the morning of 15th October 2007 in Poornachandra Auditorium where a Yajna Kunda had been made on the stage. On the morning of 15th October 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.15 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants of students and auspicious notes of

Nadaswaram music by a group of musicians. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall on yearning devotees, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Mandir and distributed ceremonial clothes to Ritwiks (Vedic priests) who were blessed by Bhagavan to conduct Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna in Poornachandra Auditorium for seven days from 15th to 21st October 2007. After wearing the new dress sanctified by Bhagavan, the priests returned to Bhajan Mandir, sat around Bhagavan and started chanting Vedic Mantras, creating a beautiful scene reminiscent of Vedic times when disciples gathered around their Guru and chanted sacred Vedic hymns. At the conclusion of these Vedic chants, Bhagavan blessed the Ritwiks who came out of the Bhajan Mandir carrying the sacred Kalasha and proceeded towards Poornachandra Auditorium at 9.40 a.m. chanting Vedic Mantras all the time. They were led by Nadaswaram musicians and followed by a group of Veda chanting students in their ceremonial dress.

On arrival in Poornachandra Auditorium, the Ritwiks made necessary preparations for the commencement of the Yajna. Bhagavan arrived in Poornachandra Auditorium at 10.00 a.m. and lighted the sacred lamp for Devi worship. Soon two Ritwiks started the process of producing the sacred fire in the traditional way by churning one piece of wood on the other. As this vigorous churning gathered momentum, a cloud of smoke arose from it which was fanned to light a fire. With the blessings of Bhagavan,

the fire was placed in the Yajna Kunda which burst into flames with addition of sacred wood and oblations of ghee (clarified butter) amidst Vedic chants. Meanwhile, one priest started Surya Namaskar (worship of the sun), some scholars and a group of students began the study of scriptures and two groups of students started Veda chanting. Simultaneously, a priest and his wife commenced the worship of Devi, while another priest started Sahasralingarchana (worship of one thousand Lingas). Thus began the seven-day long Yajna for the peace and prosperity of mankind in the Divine Presence of Veda Purusha, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who presided over it and received Arati daily during the course of the Yajna. Oblations into the sacrificial fire with chanting of Krishna Yajur Veda by priests, study of scriptures by scholars and students, chanting of Vedic Mantras by priests and students and all other rituals continued for seven days and came to a happy conclusion on the day of Vijaya Dasami on 21st October 2007 with offering of Poornahuti (final oblations) into the sacred fire by Veda Purusha Bhagavan Baba Himself.

On 21st October, Bhagavan came to Poornachandra Auditorium at 10.00 a.m. amidst Vedic chants of priests and students. Soon after His arrival, Bhagavan blessed the precious material for Poornahuti which was put in the sacrificial fire in the Yajna Kunda with chanting of Vedic Mantras and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram music. Oblations of ghee were also offered thereafter into the sacred fire, marking the



Poornahuti (final oblations) being offered in the Yajna Kunda in Poornachandra Auditorium on 21st October 2007 to mark the completion of the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna.

completion of the Yajna. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the priests by sprinkling sacred Akshatas (yellow rice) and Teertham (sacred water) on them who offered their salutations at His Divine Lotus Feet to express their gratitude to Him for giving them this opportunity in His Divine Presence. Thousands of devotees who watched this grand spectacle for seven days were filled with sacred vibrations which the Yajna generated. These powerful spiritual vibrations also purified and sanctified the environment for the benefit of entire mankind.

PRASANTHI VIDWAN MAHASABHA

As the Yajna continued in the Poornachandra Auditorium in the morning, the proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha were conducted in Sai Kulwant Hall in the evening. On 15th October 2007, Bhagavan blessed two distinguished speakers to address the gathering in the first session of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha. The first speaker was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University. Dwelling on the significance of Navaratri celebrations, the eminent speaker



observed that worship of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati during these nine days signified the annihilation of demonic tendencies of man which were the cause of all the problems of the world. Nothing, he said, was more powerful than selfless pure love, which Bhagavan as Divine Mother was teaching mankind to practise. The second speaker of this session was Prof. M. Veerabhadraiah, a faculty member of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University. Narrating some incidents from the lives of devotees denoting Bhagavan's omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience, the learned speaker remarked that faith in Bhagavan's Divinity could lead modern man to the path of redemption. Bhagavan, he said, is the only refuge for humanity which is beset with complex problems today.

On 16th October, Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University, addressed the gathering. The distinguished speaker referred to Bhagavan as the embodiment of Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati and narrated his personal experiences of these aspects of Bhagavan's Divinity. In conclusion, Sri Anil Kumar exhorted the devotees to put Bhagavan's teachings into practice and earn His grace.

In the next session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on the afternoon of 17th October, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker, Sri G. Srirangarajan, a faculty member of the university, referred to Grama Seva as Karma Yajna and outlined the features which transformed even ordinary actions into Karma Yajna for man to attain Atma Shuddhi (self-purification). The second speaker of this session was Sri Natash Shankar Shetty, M.Sc. 2nd year

student of the university, who quoted many incidents as examples of Bhagavan's love of a thousand mothers, and emphasised that pure love was the most powerful factor for the redemption of man. He expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for giving him this opportunity to speak in His Divine Presence on that day which happened to be his birthday. At the conclusion of his speech, Bhagavan blessed him and materialised a gold ring for him as his birthday gift.

Two speakers addressed the gathering on 18th October 2007. The first speaker was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University. Embellishing his talk with an array of interesting incidents from the lives of many devotees, the distinguished speaker outlined the various phases of Bhagavan's Divine Mission which started with Leela and Mahima and culminated in the establishment of Sanathana Dharma to redeem the life of modern man on earth. The second speaker was Sri Krishan Kumar, a 2nd year MBA student of the university, who observed that opportunities provided by Bhagavan to His students to serve others with selfless love had the great potential to subdue their ego and transform their lives.

Smt. Anjali Devi, a famous actress and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan for the last 46 years, was the speaker of the session on 19th October 2007. Reminiscing her experiences of Bhagavan's Divine glory, she remarked that 46 years had passed like 46 minutes by the grace of Bhagavan. Speaking about Bhagavan's recent visit to Chennai, the distinguished speaker observed that the whole city was sanctified by the touch of Bhagavan's Lotus Feet. The second



SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2007

speaker, Prof. A. Anantha Raman, a faculty member of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the university, emphasised the need for adherence to Dharma in the life of man today. Dharma, he said, implied both duty and reason combined with social morality. Man, he said, could reach sublime heights if he based his actions on Dharma.

On the sacred day of Vijaya Dasami, Bhagavan blessed the huge gathering of devotees with a very inspiring Discourse (given elsewhere) exhorting the devotees to redeem their life by following Sathya and Dharma. Narrating the story of Shirdi Sai Baba, Bhagavan also materialised the two gold coins given by Shirdi Sai Baba to Laxmibai which symbolised Sathya and Dharma. Before the Discourse of Bhagavan, two speakers shared their thoughts with the assembled devotees. The first speaker of this final session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was Sri Ajit Popat, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from London. Sri Popat observed that it was the duty of Bhagavan's devotees to obey His command and put His teachings into practice. The second speaker of the session was Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, who referred to Grama Seva as an ennobling and uplifting experience for both, the students who go to each doorstep to serve and the villagers who are attaining emotional and economic empowerment through it. Quality of service was the most outstanding characteristic of the Sai Organisation, which had the biggest manpower of dedicated selfless workers in the world, observed the learned speaker. The grand finale of the proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came with the nectarine Discourse of Bhagavan which followed Sri Giri's talk.

Bhagavan's selfless love with food and clothes in the form of Prasadam was carried to 2,50,000 villagers of 150 villages of Puttaparthi, Bukkapatnam and Kothacheruvu Mandals through Grama Seva performed by the students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai University from 13th October to 21st October 2007. The entire work was carried out in a most methodical and planned manner. While the students of the Anantapur Campus along with senior students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School prepared the food packets and Laddu Prasadam, the students of Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam Campuses divided into six groups of 120 each loaded them in 40 vehicles along with clothes for distribution and carried them to the destined villages, covering nearly



The staff and students performing Nagar Sankirtan in the streets of a village before commencing the distribution of Prasadam at the doorstep of the villagers.

6,000 households everyday to complete the entire work in only eight days. The distribution parties were invariably headed by teachers and senior students. Before starting the distribution of Prasadam, the parties of staff and students carried out Nagar



Bhagavan's Prasadam was offered with love and humility by the staff and students to villagers during Grama Seva.

Sankirtan in the streets of villages in which the villagers also took part enthusiastically. The distribution of Bhagavan's Prasadam was done with love and humility at the doorstep of each household. At every house, the group of students first greeted the inmates with a loving Sai Ram and humbly gave the Prasadam saying that it was Bhagavan's gift of love to them. The villagers also received Bhagavan's Prasadam with great reverence and happily ate together. On the ninth and final day, the staff and students of Anantapur Campus carried out the distribution of Prasadam within Prasanthi Nilayam. The entire work was conducted with selfless love as a spiritual experience, elevating both who served the Prasadam and those who received it.

YOUTH CAMPS, PILGRIMAGES AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

The States of Gujarat, Kerala and Assam, Manipur and N.E.

States held their youth camps at Prasanthi Nilayam in the month of October 2007. Besides, thousands of devotees came from Nizamabad and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh on their pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam.

Gujarat State Youth Camp

More than 600 youth from various parts of Gujarat came to Prasanthi Nilayam to attend a youth camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat from 1st to 3rd October 2007. Besides experiencing the bliss of Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall, the youth participated in the deliberations of the youth camp in the Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam on all the three days.

On the afternoon of 2nd October, a group of these youth presented a drama "Shradhavan Labhate Gyanam" (one with faith attains



The drama presented by the Sai Youth of Gujarat in Sai Kulwant Hall on 2nd October 2007 highlighted the significance of faith in the life of man.

wisdom) in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The drama began at 4.50 p.m. with a beautiful invocatory song sung by the Sai Youth of Gujarat. The drama highlighted the importance of faith in the life of man through a very lively dialogue between a modern science teacher and a student who received Bal Vikas training in childhood and experienced the Divinity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai

Baba. The student ultimately convinced the teacher that God has incarnated on earth in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who has performed such stupendous tasks which only God can do. This short but very impressive play concluded with a beautiful and sweet group song sung by the entire group.

At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast, distributed clothes to them and posed for group photos with them. Bhagavan also materialised a gold chain for the youth who played the role of the student and a ring for the one who played the role of the teacher. The drama was followed by Bhajans, which were also led by the Sai Youth of Gujarat, both boys and girls. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.10 p.m.

Kerala Youth Camp

About 3,800 youth (1,600 girls and 2,200 boys) came to Prasanthi Nilayam from various parts of Kerala to participate in a three-day youth camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala from 10th to 12th October 2007. Prior to their coming to participate in this youth camp, all the participants undertook intensive personal Sadhana and performed Grama Seva in their respective places. During the three-day youth camp, the participants experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall and attended orientation classes on all the three days.

The singers (both ladies and gents) among them led Bhajans in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 11th October. Bhagavan blessed the singers and also materialised a gold chain for one of them.

The deliberations of the orientation classes were conducted in a spacious Pandal for male participants, and on the first floor of North Indian Canteen



A section of Sai Youth of Kerala participating in the deliberations of the Youth Camp held at Prasanthi Nilayam from 10th to 12th October 2007.

for female participants. The topics discussed during these deliberations included "God's Own Youth", "Youth and Spirituality", "Glory of Sai Avatar", "Grama Seva", "Journey to God", "Glory of Sai Organisation", "Value-based Personality Development" and "Sai – the Role Model for Youth". On the valedictory day, Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy addressed the combined session of the youth and gave them valuable insights into personal Sadhana to achieve the goal of life.

An Enthralling Clarinet Concert

On the afternoon of 20th October 2007, the penultimate day of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha's proceedings, renowned musician Pandit Narasimhalu presented a clarinet concert in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme began at 6.00 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan. Beginning with a composition in praise of Lord Ganesh, the musician captivated the audience with the tunes of devotional songs and Bhajans including the famous Mira Bhajan "Payo Ji Meine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo". Bhagavan graced the presentation by

His Presence, blessed the artiste at the conclusion of his concert



and gave clothes to him and the accompanying artistes. He also materialised a gold chain for the musician. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

Prakasam District Devotees' Pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam

More than 3,500 devotees came from the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on their pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 23rd to 25th October 2007, experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's Darshan and presented a musical dance drama "Samatha" in Sai Kulwant Hall



Bal Vikas children of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh presented a musical dance drama "Samatha" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th October 2007.

in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan on the afternoon of 24th October 2007. Based on the teachings of Bhagavan, the drama was performed by the Bal Vikas children of this district who highlighted the importance of unity of all religions and peace in the world through a few episodes combined with sweet music and beautiful dances. The drama which began at 4.50 p.m. came to a close at 5.35 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance, blessed the children at the end of the drama and posed for group photos with them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.45 p.m.

Youth Camp of Assam, Manipur and

N.E. States

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Assam, Manipur and North-eastern States organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam from 24th to 28th October 2007 in which more than 450 youth, both boys and girls, came to Prasanthi Nilayam from the States of Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland to participate.

The delegates were blessed with Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall during the duration of the camp, both in the morning and afternoon. The deliberations of the camp were conducted in the Conference Hall where many eminent speakers interacted with them and answered their queries. On the afternoon of 25th October, a group of these Sai Youth presented a cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall comprising two items – Bhortal Dance of Assam and Dhol Dholak Cholom of Manipur. The programme began at 5.15 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first item Bhortal Dance presented by a group of seven dancers captivated the audience by their brisk footwork to the beat of a drum and rhythmic movement of cymbals held in their hands. The second item of the programme was Dhol Dholak Cholom, a drum dance of Manipur which is traditionally associated with the worship of



Dhol Dholak Cholom, a drum dance of Manipur, was presented by the youth of Manipur in Sai Kulwant Hall on 25th October 2007.

Lord Krishna and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu during a famous festival of Manipur. The group of youth performers with drums in their hands showed marvellous acrobatics and won the appreciation of one and all in Sai Kulwant Hall. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the dancers and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold ring for one of the dancers. The dance programme was followed by Bhajans which were also led by the Sai Youth of Assam, Manipur and N.E. States. At the conclusion of Bhajans, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m.



Thrilling dances of the Bal Vikas children of Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh highlighted the impact of the drama presented by them in Sai Kulwant Hall on 29th October 2007.

Nizamabad District Devotees' Pilgrimage

About 2,000 devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam from the Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh from 28th to 30th October 2007 to experience the bliss of Bhagavan's Darshan and seek His benedictions. On the afternoon of 29th October, Bal Vikas children of this district presented a musical dance ballet "Deva Devuni Deenajana Seva" by enacting important incidents from the lives of Avatars. About 100 children took part in this drama which captivated the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall

for nearly 30 minutes by a number of thrilling dances, sweet devotional songs and excellent music. The drama which began at 5.40 p.m. came to a close at 6.10 p.m. Bhagavan graced it by His Presence and blessed the children at its conclusion. He also posed for group photos with them. This was followed by a brief session of devotional songs by these devotees. The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.35 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, (A.P.)

Admission to Class I and Class XI of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.), will take place in June 2008. It is an English medium, wholly residential school. Prospectus and Admission Forms can be obtained from the Principal from 01-01-2008 by paying Rs 50/- either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on State Bank of India, Prasanthi Nilayam Branch (code no.: 2786) in favour of the Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, along with a self-addressed cover size 15 cm x 24 cm with Rs 20/- stamps affixed.

Last date for issuing the forms is 15th February 2008 and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before 1st March 2008.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Phone: 08555-289289

E-mail Address: ssshss@gmail.com

Principal

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD SERVE SOCIETY

*There is no charity greater than feeding the hungry,
There are no greater gods than parents,
There is no greater Dharma than compassion,
There is no greater gain than the company of the good,
There is no enemy greater than anger,
There is no wealth greater than good reputation,
Bad reputation is death itself,
There is no ornament better than the chanting of God's Name.*

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

THE SPEAKERS WHO SPOKE before Me have told many excellent things. After hearing them, there does not appear to be anything that I need to add.

Recognise the Subtle Form of Siva

All the living beings in this world are dependant on food. They cannot live without food. Where does this food come from? The source of food is Lord Sankara who is infinite, beyond the reach of speech and mind and is one without a second. All that we see in this world, whether it belongs to past, present or future, is the creation of God. It was Parvati who realised this truth. Many gods and goddesses came to her and said:

*Oh Gowri! You are very young and
Sambasiva is old;*

*He has matted locks and wears a tiger
skin;*

He rides a bull and is

constantly on the move;

He is adorned with snakes;

How did you court him?

Don't you know all this?

*He has no house of his own and sleeps in
the cremation ground. (Telugu Poem)*

“Don't you understand even this much? How can you think of marrying such a person?” They asked. In reply, Parvati said smilingly, “You are seeing the outward appearance of Lord Siva and are deluded to think that it is his real form. You are not able to recognise his true form which is transcendental, celestial and eternal because your vision is limited to body, mind and intellect. Since you are concerned only with the beauty of the physical form and worldly materials, you see only that and are not able to recognise his subtle inner nature, which is divine. In fact, he is neither the body nor the mind; Linga is his true form. That Linga is not visible to anyone; it is located in his throat. Since I have realised his true form, I want to marry him.



Your innate divinity is packed in the body. You should not be satisfied by seeing just the packing. See the divinity within you and realise that you are the embodiment of divinity. In fact, you are God yourself. God is all-pervading. Similarly, you are also all-pervading. God is present in you and all other living beings. If you want to have the vision of God, you should lead a pure, balanced and selfless life.

them appeared to be a perfect match for each other. All the gods and goddesses were wonderstruck to see this. In this way, people are deluded to think one thing, and what happens is something else. People in the world want only physical beauty and worldly pleasures. They are not able to realise the inner truth of all that happens. Truthful nature is very essential to recognise this. No one can say, God has this or that form.

Is it possible to limit the One to a temple who pervades the entire cosmos? How can one hold a lamp to the One who shines with the brilliance of a billion suns? How can one give a bath to the One who is present in all rivers? How can one give a name to the One who is present in all beings? How can one offer food to the One who has the entire cosmos in His belly?
(Telugu Poem)

You are able to see only the physical form, and that too to a certain extent. But God is not limited to what your physical eye can see. He is *Anoraneeyan Mahato Maheeyan* (God is subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest). When you are able to visualise that cosmic form, you will not at all think about the physical form. You say, Lord Siva is old. But this is not true.”

At that very moment, Siva manifested there. He appeared to be younger than Gowri (Parvati). Both of

God's form is very subtle; it is extremely minute like an atom. That is this (saying this, Bhagavan waved His hand and materialised a Linga). This Linga (created by Bhagavan) resembles that (the one being worshipped by the chief priest).

People with worldly outlook are like crows. Due to the veil of ignorance, they see only the outer form; they cannot recognise the inner reality of anything. Nobody can say with certainty what one should offer to God. Today many English



educated modern people comment, “What is this? You are wasting so much rice and ghee by putting these into fire when so many poor people are starving for want of food. Instead of that, can’t you feed poor people?” Vedic scholars like our chief priest give a befitting reply to such people like this: “Today the farmer puts five bags of paddy in the field. Some time after sowing the saplings in the mud, he carries home fifty bags of paddy. Can anybody say, what the farmer does is not correct? In the same way, the worship and Homas (Yajnas) being performed by the priests are not a waste; they yield great benefit at a later date. Just as five bags of paddy sown by the farmer in the field multiply into fifty bags, all the materials that are offered to God multiply into several times.”

See your Inner Divinity

There is only one thing that is to be offered to God. We harbour many desires in our heart. All these should be offered to God. Even the thought of renouncing the desires bestows great benefits in future. Whatever is offered to God comes back to us thousandfold. But worldly people cannot realise this truth and give importance to worldly benefits only. The vision of such people is limited to seeing only the outer form of things. But the outer form is like a packing. We cannot see the inner object without removing the outer packing. Divinity in Nature is covered by Pancha Bhutas (five elements). Moreover, man covers his innate divinity with Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, infatuation, pride and jealousy). Remove this packing. Then, the beautiful and blissful form of God will become manifest before you. Do not pay attention to the packing, howsoever beautiful it may be.

Unless you remove the packing, you can neither see the object which is inside the package nor know its condition. Attracted by the external appearance of the package, many people get deluded. Our outward vision will show only the body and the external appearance which is like a packing. Divinity cannot be visualised in this way.

Your innate divinity is thus packed in the body. You should not be satisfied by seeing just the packing. See the divinity within you and realise that you are the embodiment of divinity. In fact, you are God yourself. God is all-pervading. Similarly, you are also all-pervading. God is present in you and all other living beings. If you want to have the vision of God, you should lead a pure, balanced and selfless life. The diversity that you see with your external vision is not a reality. Therefore, give up diversity and develop unity. Where there is unity, there will be purity. When you have purity, you will attain divinity.

You are not one person, but three: the one you think you are, the one others think you are, and the one you really are. Not realising that the principle of the Atma is within you, you lead your life on the basis of your body, mind and intellect which are all perishable. I will explain this subject to you in detail later. Sing the glory of the Divine Name. (Bhagavan then sang the song “*Siva Siva Siva Siva Yanarada ...*” And asked the devotees to follow. Thereafter, He continued His Discourse).

The Mantra ‘*Namah Sivaya*’ contains five letters. This is a very great and sacred Mantra. It is *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of



sacredness). Treasure this Mantra in your heart. Seeing outwardly, people generally think that Brahma is the creator, Vishnu is the sustainer and Siva is the destroyer of the universe. But in reality, Brahma, Vishnu and Siva are not different from each other; they are one. If you wish to have a Paan, you require three things – betel leaves, betel nut and slaked lime. When these three combine, they produce red colour. Wherefrom does this red colour come – from betel leaves, betel nut or lime? None of these can make red colour separately. When they all combine, they form red colour. In the same way, unity of Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara makes Divinity. Do not deprave your mind by considering them separate from each other. You should experience the unity of these three aspects of Divinity.

Worldly Possessions have Little Worth

Once upon a time, Parvati wanted Siva to build a house and prayed to him, “Oh Lord! You go from place to place to beg for alms. We have no home-made food nor do we have a shelter over our head. How can I run the family like this?” Easwara then explained to her, “Parvati! What will be the use of building a house? The rats will occupy it before we move in. Then we will need a cat to kill the rats. For the cat, milk will be required. So, we will have to buy a cow. Money is required for buying a cow. Isn’t it? Do you think building a house and running a family is an easy task? No, not at all. We should have no such desires. Once you aspire for me, you should have no other desires.” All the wealth, property and material goods of the world are useless.

Alexander conquered different parts of the world and came to India with a desire to conquer this country. On his return journey, he suffered a grave



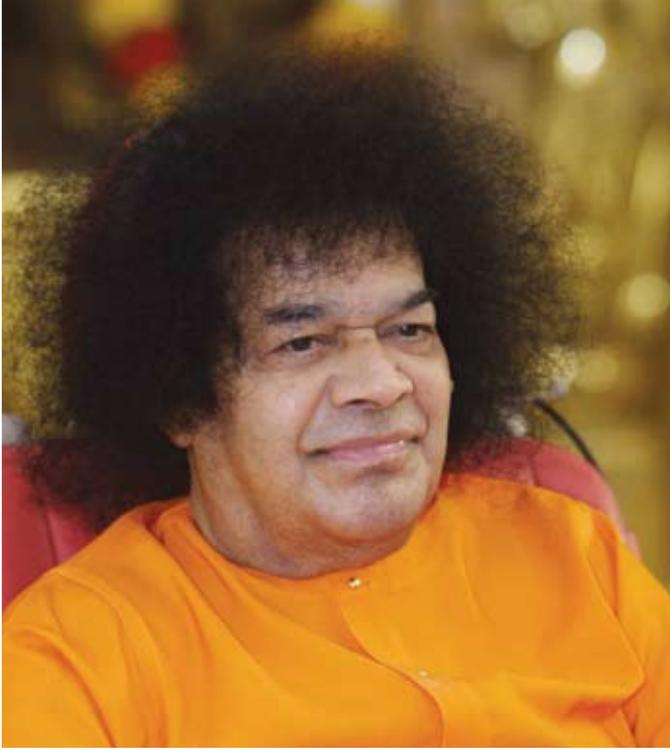
Our students are not only proficient in studies; they are equally good in sports and games as well as music and fine arts. There is nothing that our students cannot do. Whether they go to villages, cities or anywhere else, they are very cautious about their character. Both, the male and female students value their character as their very life.



illness. Sensing that his end had approached, he called all his ministers and generals and told them that he was not going to live any more. He instructed them to take his body to his country after his death. He further told them to expose his hands out of the bier with his palms upwards and carry the funeral procession in all the streets of the city. This was to tell the people of the world that in spite of his great conquests in the world and a great name and fame, Alexander left the world empty-handed. This is true for all of us. Whatever we may accumulate, we have to go empty-handed only. In the ultimate analysis, all the worldly possessions are useless.

Even King Harischandra, who strictly followed the path of truth, had to leave this world ultimately, leaving behind his vast kingdom and riches. Emperor Nala, who reigned over a great empire, could not take with him anything when he passed away. Did King Mandhata, who adorned the Krita Yuga, carry any wealth with him when he left the earth? Even Lord Rama, who built the bridge across the ocean, is not to be seen on the earth today.





Our students from Anantapur, Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam campuses go to villages and help the villagers in a befitting manner. Our students have not come here only for studies. In fact, nobody should come here for studies alone. They should study during the time prescribed for studies. But the main thing that you have to do here is Seva. God has given you this body for doing Seva only.

Many kings have ruled over the earth, but none of them could carry even a fistful of dust with him. Oh noble one! Do you think you can carry the kingdom and its riches on your head when you leave the world?

(Telugu Poem)

Nobody can carry even a naya paisa with him while departing from this world, not even a handful of dust. However, man thinks that he is great and wealthy. Recently, a man bought an acre of land in Hyderabad for forty crore rupees. While returning from the office of the Registrar after registering the land in his name, he left his mortal coil. What is the use of accumulating crores of rupees? Gunas (noble qualities) are important for man, not Dhana (wealth). Develop divine power and divine thoughts. Then you will attain everything in life. No doubt, money is also necessary. We need food to eat. Isn't it? However, excess of money is bad. One may even lose one's life due to this. One should have only that much money which is essential to maintain the family and also to help society to some extent. We live in society; we cannot live without it. Therefore, we should show gratitude to society. Along with maintaining oneself, one should help society. Then only will humanness flourish. So, never be selfish. Be selfless and lead a happy life.

I am always happy. I do not know what sorrow, difficulty or distress means. Once the President of India came here and asked Me, "Swami! Do you have any desire?" I said to him, "I have only one desire. That is to be self-dependant. I should not be dependant on others. I should give happiness to all. I am happy when others are happy.

What more do I need?" Many people come to Me and pray, "Swami! I want peace." But, where is peace? It is within us only; outside, there are only 'pieces' which we do not need. We should manifest peace that is within us. If

we lead our life in this manner, then our life will be sanctified. Whatever Sadhana (spiritual practices) we may undertake, whatever scriptural texts we may read, whatever high academic qualifications we may acquire, we have ultimately to leave everything when our end approaches. Therefore, all should lead a peaceful life. Desire only peace. I wish that you should develop desire for peace. Of what use are all your worldly possessions and wealth if you have no noble qualities?

The student who spoke just now comes from a very noble family. His grandfather's name is Margabandhu. Leaving his college in Delhi, he joined our college three years ago. He is doing his Ph.D. He remains by himself and does not mix with others. He obeys Swami's commands implicitly. Now also he has given an excellent speech. He is studying Adi Sankara's life and philosophy. Everything about Sankara is at his fingers' tips. He came to Puttapparthi to undertake such Tapas (penance). There are many such students in our university. The second boy who spoke today is also our student. All our students are great and noble.

Vedanarayana is also sitting here. True to his name, he has great proficiency in the Vedas. Last year, he received President of India award. While presenting the award to him, the President asked him, "Where will you go after receiving this award?" He said, "I am going back to Puttapparthi and will settle there. I will not go anywhere else." Then the President appreciated his devotion and said, "Yes, dear son! You should live only there. You are a good boy." The President is a Muslim, yet he has great devotion for Swami. Many high dignitaries come to Puttapparthi and speak highly about our students. Every year, about five hundred students join our educational institutions. We

do not advertise our results in newspapers, but all our students secure first class only. Besides, two of our students from Alike secured first rank in Medical and Engineering Entrance Test.

Ideal Students of Sri Sathya Sai Institutions

All our students are like gold; not adulterated but pure gold. They are ready to perform any task that is entrusted to them. Every year, they go to villages and do Grama Seva. They carry with them food packets and clothes for distribution to all villagers. They go to each house and serve all the inmates. The villagers express great joy on seeing our students, saying, "Our Swami has sent them all." On the day of the visit of our students, the villagers clean their houses and decorate their courtyards with floral designs. They receive Swami's Prasadam with great reverence and eat it happily. Time is now coming near to send our students again to villages to distribute Swami's Prasadam. Our students are not only proficient in studies; they are equally good in sports and games as well as music and fine arts. There is nothing that our students cannot do. Whether they go to villages, cities or anywhere else, they are very cautious about their character. Both, the male and female students value their character as their very life.

There are seven hundred students in the Anantapur Campus. There too, all of them passed in first class. They also go to villages to perform Seva. They built new houses for the villagers. Even though they are girls, they did the brick work to build walls, laid the roofs and helped the poor people. When I asked the villagers if their houses were leaking in rainy season, they replied, "No, Swami! Your students have



done such a wonderful work which even the engineers could not have been able to do. Moreover, they have done this work free for us.” The same can be said about our male students. Our students from Anantapur, Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam campuses go to villages and help the villagers in a befitting manner. Our students have not come here only for studies. In fact, nobody should come here for studies alone. You should study during the time prescribed for studies. But the main thing that you have to do here is Seva. God has given you this body for doing Seva only. You should serve all. Service is God. In this manner, our students follow the commands of Swami and earn a good name. They earn the love of everyone wherever they go. When people see our students in their white dress, they praise them, saying, “They are all Sathya Sai students; they are all very good.” Not only do they wear white dress, their heart is also pure and sacred.

You observe daily how these boys hold Me when I come and go. Two of them have completed their MBA. The third one has been admitted into MBBS course. Adi Kesavulu has given him a seat in Vaidehi Medical College. He has given seats to many such boys. One has to pay a huge amount of money for a medical seat outside. Apart from that, one has to pay thousands of rupees as fees every month. But he did not charge even a single paisa from us. He is a man of great sacrifice. He stays near our Super Speciality Hospital in Bangalore. There are costly equipments in our Super Speciality Hospital worth crores of rupees. One has to pay lakhs of rupees for heart operation in other institutions. But many poor people come to our hospital and get their heart surgeries performed free of cost.

I have resolved to provide education, healthcare and life-sustaining water to people free of cost. In East and West Godavari districts, we are pumping water to upland areas through pipes and supplying it to villagers residing in these areas. Sufficient water was flowing in these two districts but it could not reach the people residing in upland areas. They suffered from acute scarcity of water till recently. We have supplied water to all of them through pipes, spending a sum of 100 crore rupees. They expressed their happiness and said, “Swami! So many years have passed since we drank sweet water. Today we are drinking pure and sweet water by Your grace.”

Not only that, we have given water to the people of Chennai also, observing no difference between rich and poor. After receiving water, the people of Chennai came to Puttaparthi in 50 buses. They said, “Swami, How can we express our gratitude to You?” I told them, “There is no need for you to express your gratitude to Me because you are Mine. I have given water to My own people.” Yesterday or day before yesterday, it was published in newspapers that water was supplied from Poondi to Chennai.

People from Mahaboobnagar and Medak districts also came here. I asked them what they wanted. They said, “Swami, we don’t have drinking water.” So, I supplied water to them from the river Krishna. In this way, we are serving all villages, all regions and all countries. Serve all. You should serve everyone. That is My teaching to My students. If you come across a person who is in need of any help, you should serve him even if he is not your friend. If it is necessary, you should even take

Continued on cover page III ...

Pilgrimage to the Throne

This Discourse given by Bhagavan during the Birthday festival on 23rd November 1965 outlines the course of man's spiritual journey to the throne of the Lord in the altar of his heart.

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH MUST become your daily spiritual discipline; every moment must be used for this primary duty. Truth can reflect itself in your intelligence only when it is cleaned by Tapas. Tapas means all acts undertaken with higher motives; all acts indicating yearning for the

(penance or religious austerity) that fosters renunciation and discipline.

This discipline is essential when, as at present, the temptations to deviate are so many. In this Kali Yuga, when darkness is enveloping the mind of man, any little lamp that can light the steps is most welcome. That



The pilgrim must traverse and overstep the vast wastes of Kama (worldly desires), overcome the thick slushy growths of Krodha (anger) and hate and negotiate the cliffs of Dwesha (hatred and malice), so that he might relax on the green pastures of concord and Prema (love). Having thus become master of his inner foes, he has to rest in the silence of his own heart as a yogi, with all the agitations of his inner realm stilled.

spirit; repenting for past blunders; staunch determination to adhere to virtue, self-control; unyielding adherence to equanimity in the face of success or failure. Taapam means heat, burning, intensity, earnestness of endeavour. It is Tapas

is why I advise you to resort to Sathkarma, Sadachara and Sathpravarthana (good deeds, good conduct and good attitude), so that you may be established in the constant presence of the Lord. You must also strive to “hear” (Sravana) elevating



words, to ruminate on these promptings of the spirit (Manana) and then, when the validity is recognised, to meditate on it in profound reverence (Nididhyasana). All other activity is secondary; this alone is edifying, this alone is beneficial.

This day, there is a solar eclipse and many people wondered whether the Birthday festival would be celebrated or postponed. The shadow of the moon falling upon the sun is not the calamity that people should fear; the shadow of Maya falling upon the intelligence is the eclipse that has to be treated as a bad



omen, as inauspicious. The mind is the moon, the intelligence is the sun; see that they do not suffer from eclipse. Then, you are safe. Do not worry when something happens in the outer sky; worry when the shadow of some dark desire, some foul passion, some monstrous emotion, some

foul intention casts its evil gloom over your inner sky. See that the splendour of the Lord, the cool rays of His grace are not dimmed in the recesses of your heart.

I find that someone has upset the usual seating arrangements; the women are on the left and the men on the right. That is to say, the women have most of the scorching sun and the men are under the shade of the tree. So, I shall not keep you longer. I shall unfurl the flag, which is the symbol of Prasanthi, the higher equanimity when all dualities are superseded and man gains the supreme joy of calm balance, unaffected by ups and downs,

The search for truth must become your daily spiritual discipline; every moment must be used for this primary duty. Truth can reflect itself in your intelligence only when it is cleaned by Tapas. Tapas means all acts undertaken with higher motives; all acts indicating yearning for the spirit; repenting for past blunders; staunch determination to adhere to virtue, self-control; unyielding adherence to equanimity in the face of success or failure.

pain and pleasure, when the waves are stilled and the storms rage no more. The flag contains the picture of the emblem that is represented in concrete shape in front of the porch here; it is the summary of the progress of the pilgrim to the throne of the Lord in the altar of his heart.

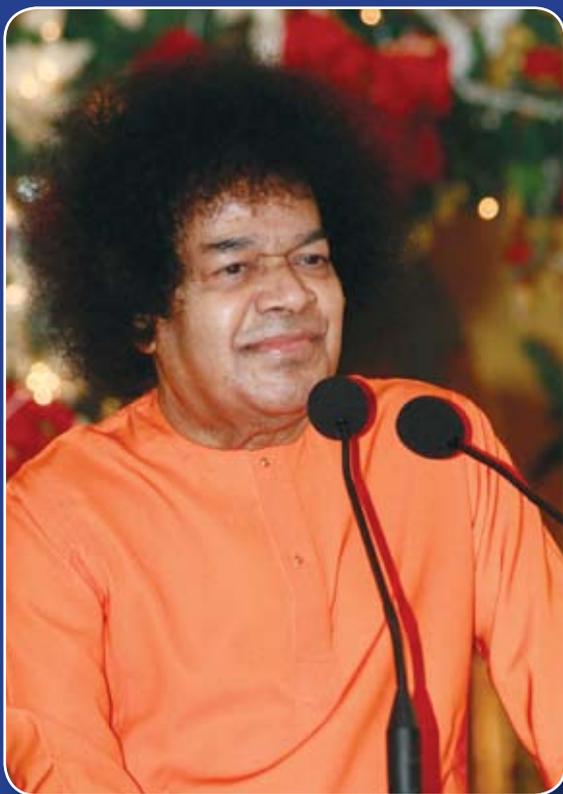
The pilgrim must traverse and overstep the vast wastes

of Kama (worldly desires), overcome the thick slushy growths of Krodha (anger) and hate and negotiate the cliffs of Dwesha (hatred and malice), so that he might relax on the green pastures of concord and Prema (love). Having thus become master of his inner foes, he has to rest in the silence of his own heart as a yogi, with all the agitations of his inner realm stilled. That is the meaning of the six-ringed pillar in the centre of the circle here; the six rings are the six Chakras (centres of energy) of yogic discipline in the central spinal Naadi (nerve current) of man.

Fixed in the undisturbed calm of his deepest consciousness, man finds that the lotus of the

heart blooms into a thousand petals and then, the flame of awakening into the truth lights itself as Prasanthi. That moment, the seeker knows that he and all else are one, that the One is Brahman. This progress that everyone has to make, today or tomorrow, in this life or in the next, is outlined as a clear picture in the symbol on the flag; so, when it flutters above this Prasanthi Nilayam, resolve to hoist it on your heart too. Take the first step today, in this long pilgrimage. Give up, in order to gain; restrain, in order to receive; become blind (to the external view), in order to see more clearly (the inner vision).

**Prasanthi Nilayam: Birthday Festival, 23rd
November 1965**



*Prema, when you cultivate it,
will remove the weeds of anger
and of malice. It will blossom
into peace and calm. My teaching
is Prema, My message is Prema,
My activity is Prema and My
way of living is Prema. There is
nothing more precious than love
within human grasp.*

– Baba

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

KAZAKHSTAN

FROM 23RD TO 31ST JULY 2007, a children's camp was held at the idyllic Lake Maloye Chebachiye in Kazakhstan. The camp was attended by 80 participants from Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. The



The children's camp held from 23rd to 31st July 2007 in Kazakhstan was attended by 80 participants from Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

theme of the camp 'Unity of Cultures' was reflected in all the activities and visual aids. Adults and children built a metaphorical ship called 'Harmony' in which participants visited four countries: Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and India. Through their imaginary travels, they were acquainted with the cultures, parables, spirituality and lifestyles of these countries. They were then divided into three large 'families' which participated in daily activities. Bhajans were held twice a day. Children took part in Sai Spiritual Education (SSE)

related activities, an exhibition and a puppet theatre. There were two parenting seminars on 'The Role of Spiritual Education of Children' and 'The Age Peculiarities of Children'. There were also workshops for teachers on educare, on the importance of using prayer, meditation, story-telling, group singing and group activities, on the power of love for children and on discipline and patience. During the camp, Guru Purnima was celebrated with stories of Swami, music concerts and Bhajans. The children displayed hand-crafted articles made in the workshops. On the final day, each of the 'families' summarised the activities and pointed out the unifying factors in every culture.

CANADA

The Unity Church in New Westminster, British Columbia is a non-denominational church which embraces and honours all religions. One of the congregants of the church had seen the film "His Work" in 2004 and wanted the church devotees to see it and hear about Bhagavan. On 3rd June 2007, two Sai devotees made a PowerPoint presentation on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life, work and teachings. This was followed by a screening of the film "His Work". Many in the audience were moved to tears by the acts of pure love by Bhagavan. A thank you note from a visitor read, 'Words from the heart touch the heart'. Several books on Bhagavan and a copy of the DVD "His Work" were donated to the library at the Unity Church. These were gratefully received.

U. S. A

On 21st July 2007, 36 Sai devotees together with several other volunteers gathered for an annual event called 'Day on the Beach' at the Cowell's Beach in Santa Cruz, California. This event included assisting individuals with physical and mental disabilities to participate in water sports such as kayaking, canoeing, surfing and scuba diving. About 185 children and adults with special needs participated in the event together with an additional 325 family members. During the day, over 900 meals were



Sai devotees organised 'Day on the Beach' programme at the Cowell's Beach in Santa Cruz, California on 21st July 2007 for individuals with physical and mental disabilities. During the day, over 900 meals were also lovingly served to all the participants.

lovingly served to all the participants. In his letter of gratitude to the Sathya Sai Organisation, Sri Andersen, President and Founder of Shared Adventure, an organisation facilitating outdoor activities for challenged individuals, excerpted a comment from a volunteer, 'I especially loved watching a child, aged 3, and his mother as the volunteers took them in the beach chairs running around the beach. The look, laughter and happiness it brought to the child's face was so overwhelming, it almost brought tears of happiness to my eyes and I could read his

mothers lips saying 'thank you' as they went by. There is nothing greater than the act of kindness you have brought to so many on so many levels. I am still so overwhelmed by this.'

LAOS

The Southeast Asian country of Laos is located near Thailand. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Laos together with Dr. Naren Chellapah from Australia organised a dental camp for blind and needy children from 7th to 8th July 2007. Preventive dental check-up along with scaling, filling and extraction services were provided. About 50 blind and 30 needy children were seen at the camp. The camp was visited by the Ambassador of India to Laos.

A seminar on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values was organised on 4th August 2007 by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Laos in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos. Around 400 people participated in this seminar including more than 50 Buddhist monks and officials



Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Laos organised a seminar on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values on 4th August 2007 in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, which was attended by about 400 participants.

from several ministries. The main speakers of this event were Dr. Art-ong Jumsai and Lorraine Burrows. Currently SSEHV classes are organised daily in Laos with about 100 students in attendance.

U. K.

The National Sathya Sai Education Day held at the Winston Churchill Hall in Middlesex, London on 2nd September 2007 was attended by 150 delegates. The theme of the event was 'The Heart of Excellence.' The day began with a ceremonial lighting of a lamp by Sri Maurice Allen, OBE, who was a senior office bearer with the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of U.K. The programme



About 150 delegates attended the National Sathya Sai Education Day held at the Winston Churchill Hall in Middlesex, London on 2nd September 2007 on the theme "The Heart of Excellence".

was introduced by the National Chairperson of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K., Ms. Rosemary Perry, and the Director of the British Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Ms. Carole Alderman. The first keynote speaker was Sri Georgios Bebedelis of Athens, Greece, who is the representative of the European Sathya Sai Education (ESSE) Institute for South Europe. Sri Bebedelis gave

a presentation titled 'Ancient Greek Thought and Sathya Sai Education' in which he drew parallels between the philosophies of Greek thinkers such as Aristotle, Socrates and Plato and the five human values. He concluded that these parallels point the way to Sathya Sai Human Values. In the afternoon, following a musical interlude, the second speaker Dr. Ronne Marantz, member of the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Foundation, USA and member of the Education Committee of Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, spoke on 'Educare: A Process Approach to Eliciting the Human Values Within'. She collected anonymous statements of personal issues from the audience and then asked everyone present to think about those problems in order to identify a human value that would address a solution. Her talk was interspersed with anecdotes and personal experiences. This was followed by a summary of the day's events by Sri Ishver Patel, Central Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. and Ireland. The programme concluded with the 'Prayer of St. Francis'. The entire audience was touched by the presentations and talks.

SLOVENIA

Nestled between Austria and Croatia on the Adriatic Sea is the Alpine country of Slovenia, the capital of which is Ljubljana. The first SSEHV seminar was organised in Ljubljana from 8th to 10th June 2007. Overall, there were 73 participants. Lectures were embellished with personal experiences and interesting stories and followed by a question-and-answer session. The proceedings were filmed and will be made available at the Sai Centre library.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh : Anantapur district conducted a health check-up camp exclusively for 127 pregnant women of 24 villages of Uravakonda Mandal for the second time at Mopidi on 2nd September 2007 and distributed iron, calcium and B-complex tablets sufficient for one month along with Sai Protein food and food packets. The necessary blood tests were also carried out.

Srikakulam district provided food provisions to 36 leprosy patients in Korasavada on 6th September 2007. It conducted a medical camp, treating 265 patients in Polla tribal village on 19th September 2007 and gave rice packets of 5 kg each to 180 tribal families. The district arranged spiritual programmes for five days at Srikakulam, Sompeta and Kottabommali, consisting of 82 hours Akhanda Bhajan, Laksharchana and Narayana Seva.

West Godavari district brought 54 physically challenged persons from the district to Prasanthi Nilayam and gave them the necessary artificial limbs in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan in September 2007.

Ranga Reddy district conducted a series of eye check-up camps at five places in the district, examined 1,003 patients, selected 251 persons for cataract operations and gave spectacles to 351 needy patients. This district held medical camps in Kowtur slum of Alwal Municipality, treating 557 patients including 89 dental cases.

Prakasam district distributed Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to 95 selected poor families in 18 villages as part of the Grama Seva programme. It conducted veterinary camps at Ramachandrapuram treating 200 animals, at Chinadornala treating 100 animals and at Vennuru treating 167 animals.

A State-level training programme in Indian Culture and Spirituality was conducted at Annavaram, East Godavari district from 22nd to 24th September 2007 for 45 selected women from 9 districts with the objective of making them Group-III Bal Vikas Gurus, lead speakers in study circles and more qualified active workers.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: Mahila Vibhag (Ladies Wing) of Guwahati Samithi has embarked on a commendable task to translate the ideals of self-reliance for women into reality by producing children's garments, handicrafts and consumer goods, and selling them during periodic festivals organised at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Nilayam, Guwahati. The money raised is then utilised for helping destitute women and children. In the next phase, the needy women will be provided training to make them self-reliant.

In accordance with the decisions of the All India Conference of District Presidents and Office Bearers held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 29th, 30th and 31st August 2007, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Assam, Manipur and N.E. States has selected three villages, namely, Sapara, Uparhli and Rani for integrated village development programme. Office bearers and Sai Youth of the State including the youth of the local villages showed enthusiasm and came forward to associate themselves in this noble task to provide immediate basic needs of the villagers, viz., safe drinking water, sanitation, low cost latrines and smokeless Chulas (ovens).

Haryana and Chandigarh: Grama Seva was organised in Babain village, Kurukshetra district on 9th September 2007. During this, a multi-speciality medical camp was held wherein over



1,500 patients were treated by a team of 30 doctors and paramedical staff belonging to various specialities, namely, medicine, paediatrics, orthopaedics, dentistry, dermatology, gynaecology, ophthalmology, ENT and drug de-addiction. Testing laboratory staff and pharmacists assisted the team of doctors. Sixty-five patients were identified for operation of cataract in M.M. Medical College, Mullana. Till 20th September 2007, 13 eye operations had been conducted. Others will be operated upon as and when they report for operation. The patients needing follow-up treatment have been entrusted to the respective local Bhajan Mandalis for providing necessary assistance. Patients, their assistants and devotees numbering over 2,500 were offered food after the camp.

Besides, Mahila Seva Dal cleansed the compound of the village temple and adjoining street with religious fervour while Sai Youth cleared the garbage of the street and whitewashed the boundary wall of the temple. Both ladies and gents participated in the Nagar Sankirtan taken out in the streets of the village.

On this occasion, 12 families were selected for help in providing means of livelihood. A rickshaw cart, sewing machines and other means for earning livelihood were provided to these families.

A number of medical camps were conducted in many villages, viz., Dhanas, Behlana and Hollomajra (Chandigarh district), Bala Ka Nagla and Naya Gaon (Ambala district), Neoli Kalan (Hissar district), Nasibpur and Nekhri (Rewari district), Moginand and Saketri (Panchkula district) and slums of Thapar High School



During the Grama Seva organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Haryana and Chandigarh, 12 families were selected for providing means of livelihood to them. A rickshaw cart was provided to one of them and sewing machines to others.

(Yamunanagar district), serving nearly 2,400 patients. Free medicines were provided to all the patients.

The Sai Organisation of Gurgaon provided timely help, temporary sheds, three days' prepared food and dry ration, clothes and other necessities of life to 1,000 slum dwellers whose huts were gutted in fire.

Kerala: As a follow-up of three-day workshop held at Prasanthi Nilayam on Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme, district-level workshops for office bearers of the Sai Organisations were conducted in 13 out of 14 districts of Kerala. The participants were apprised of the new holistic approach on Grama Seva.

To give Onam kits to needy families for Onam celebration is an activity organised during the

past many years. This year, thousands of families were given Onam kits for Onam celebration. Each kit contained rice, oil and other provisions. The magnitude of the programme can be estimated from the fact that in Thiruvananthapuram alone this kit was given to 1,115 families and in Trichur to 2,016 families.

In August-September, Sai Samithis organised family get-togethers all over Kerala. In Thiruvananthapuram alone, 1,525 families attended these functions.

Punjab : A free medical camp was organised from 18th to 21st July 2007 during Chintpurni Mela (fair) for devotees visiting the famous shrine. A team of 13 doctors examined the patients during this camp and gave free medicines. Nearly 5,000 patients were served in this camp. Sai Youth and active workers provided assistance in the camp.

A free tailoring centre was started at Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Bagpur, district Hoshiarpur on 23rd September 2007. 25 girls from different villages are being given training under this project. The duration of the course will be six months. After the completion of the course, certificates will be given to the students.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Abohar organised an 82-hour Akhanda Bhajan at Arorvansh Dharmashala from 1.00 p.m. on 26th September to 11.00 p.m. on 30th September 2007 as part of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 82nd Birthday celebrations. About 10,000 devotees participated in this Akhanda Bhajan. Food was served to all the devotees. A blood donation camp was also organised by this Samithi at the same venue on 30th September 2007, wherein 82 units of blood were donated by

Sai Youth. A team of doctors rendered selfless service during this camp.

Tamil Nadu: On the holy occasion of Ramzan, Sai Youth of Chennai Metro performed community service in Makka Masjid, Chennai. They helped in the cleaning of the mosque to make it ready for the final prayers at the end of the month-long Ramzan. The spotless cleaning of the mosque premises both inside and its surroundings were much appreciated by the Imam of the mosque as well as other Muslim members of the community. Banners with Sai Organisation's emblem and greetings of Id Mubarak were displayed in the mosque. At the conclusion of Id Ul Fitr prayer, Sai Youth served cool drinks to about 2,500

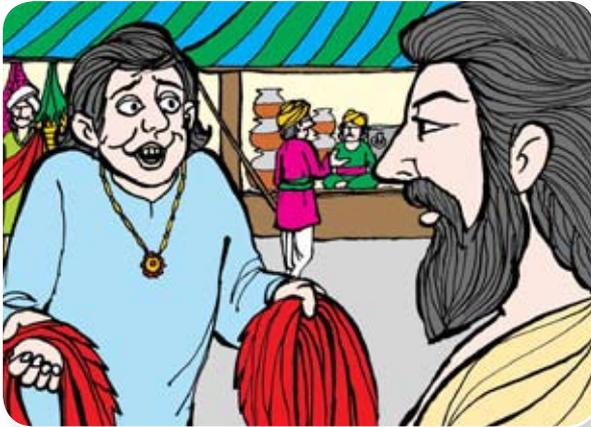


Sai devotees offering cool drinks to their Muslim brothers in Makka Masjid, Chennai at the conclusion of the Id Ul Fitr prayer on 14th October 2007.

Muslim brothers on the morning of 14th October 2007, and offered Id Mubarak greetings to them. At the conclusion of the festivities, the Imam and other members of the management committee of the mosque invited Sai devotees inside the mosque prayer hall where the devotees explained the humanitarian work of Bhagavan and His teachings on the unity of all faiths.

Equanimity

THIRUVALLUVAR IS A FAMOUS name in Tamil literature. The writings of Thiruvalluvar earned the appreciation and respect of both scholars and laymen. Thiruvalluvar practised and taught ethical conduct and spiritual thinking. By profession, he was a weaver. His life proves that leading the life of a Grihastha (householder) does not cause any obstacle in the path of spirituality.

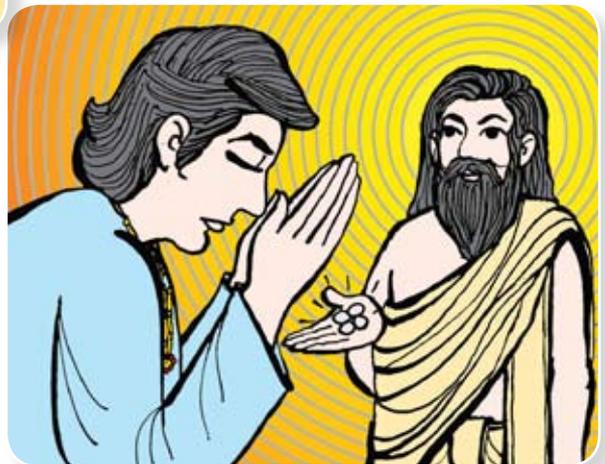


The egoist young man tore the Sari into two parts and then asked Thiruvalluvar, showing him one of the parts, "Now, how much is its price?" But Thiruvalluvar remained unperturbed.

Once Thiruvalluvar went to bazaar to sell the Sari woven by him. In that town, there lived the son of a wealthy man. He was very egoistic and proud. He delighted in humiliating elders and making fun of them. Pretending to buy the Sari from Thiruvalluvar, the son of the wealthy man accosted him. In fact, the young man had no intention of buying the Sari. Having heard the fame of Thiruvalluvar, he thought of insulting him. What transpired between the two is as follows:

"Sir, what is the price of this Sari?" Asked the son of the wealthy man. "Oh dear one! The price of this Sari is four rupees (This was the price in those days; it would be equal to two hundred rupees now)," Thiruvalluvar replied. The young man took the Sari in his hand, tore it into two equal parts and asked Thiruvalluvar, showing him one of the parts, "Now, how much is its price?" Totally unperturbed by this vile act of the youngster, Thiruvalluvar said, "You have torn it into two parts. Therefore, the price of half of it is two rupees." The youngster tore the two parts also and made them into four pieces. He then asked Thiruvalluvar rudely, "What is the price of this one piece now?" Thiruvalluvar calmly replied, "One rupee."

The young man was surprised that Thiruvalluvar did not show even a trace of anger although he had torn his new



The young man realised the greatness of Thiruvalluvar, apologised to him and paid him the full price of the Sari..

Sari into pieces and had insulted him by speaking disrespectfully to him. Recognising Thiruvalluvar as a man of great wisdom, the young man offered his salutations to him and said, "Sir, I have done a great mistake. Please forgive me." Saying this, he gave him the full price of the Sari. Krishna says in the Gita:

... *Continued from page 375*

each other with a smile on your face. Do not flaunt loud hollow laughter, 'hahaha ...' Smile softly and sweetly. That is the real smile. On the other hand, if you laugh loudly, you will be merely spreading noise pollution.

You are all very fortunate. Today I have explained to you the inner meaning of the two gold coins given to Laxmibai by Shirdi Sai Baba. Many people tried to take away those gold coins from her. But she did not give them to anybody. A few days before Baba left his mortal coil, she put those gold coins in Baba's hand, saying, "Since you gave these coins to

... *Continued from page 390*

leave from your college and help him. I do not want to praise My students by saying this. But the fact is that they are doing much more than what I have said. They are helping others selflessly. We are preparing such students who are endowed with the qualities of self-sacrifice and selflessness. That is why they are making progress in all fields of life.

There are 1,200 children in our primary school. Even those children have joined our school for whom it is very difficult to bear separation from their parents. However, in a few days, they give up all their home sickness and become totally attached to the school. When their parents

"He who is alike to friend and foe as well as to honour and ignominy, who remains balanced in heat and cold, pleasure and pain and other contrary experiences and is free from attachment is dear to Me."

Thiruvalluvar set an ideal to the world by putting into practice these teachings of the Gita.

me, they belong to you. Neither my children nor anyone else has anything to do with them."

Relationship between the mother and child comes from birth while the relationship of wife and husband is formed after marriage. If there is no marriage, there is no husband and no wife; no son and daughter either. Truly speaking, no one is related to anyone. Everyone has to follow his own path.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the song, "*Bhaja Govindam, Bhaja Govindam ...*")

– **From Bhagavan's Vijaya Dasami Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 21st October 2007.**

come, they feel very happy and say, "Aha! What a great transformation has come in our child!" We give more love to the children than even their parents.

Whatever we may say in praise of our students is not enough. Do not consider them ordinary children. They are endowed with great qualities and are destined to be the future leaders of the country. Students should become ideal. That will make Me happy.

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 16th August 2006 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.**

