

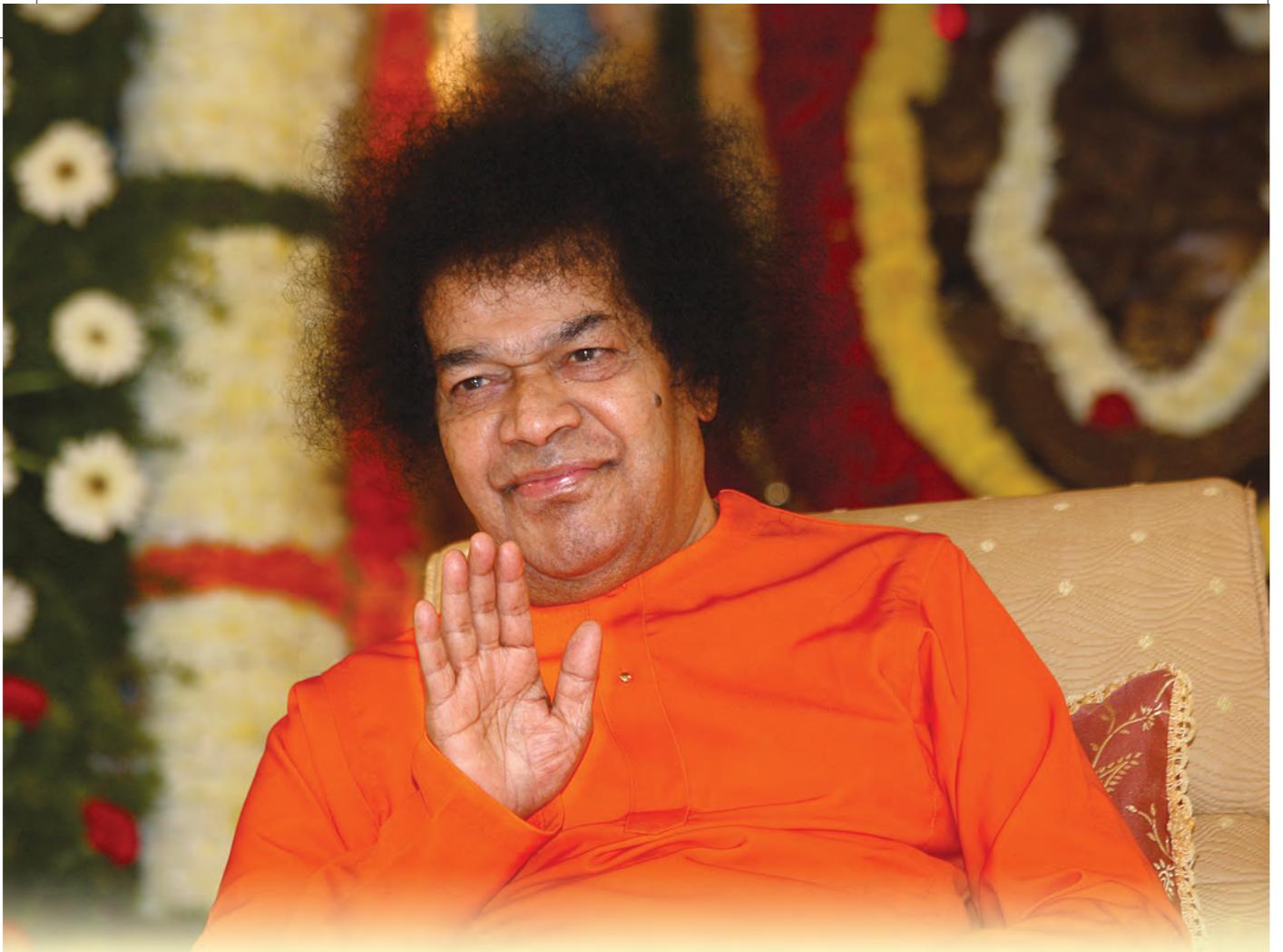


Sanathana Sarathi

Special Issue



NOVEMBER 2008



*Dedicated at the Lotus Feet of
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

*On the Auspicious Occasion of
His 83rd Birthday
23rd November 2008*



Bhagavan offering precious materials in the Yajna Kunda to mark the Poornahuti of the Yajna.

Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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"Many scriptures also declare Sathyanarayana as the Supreme Being and an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Though many people consider Him to be an ordinary human being, yet, in reality, He is not an ordinary person. Whatever He says is truth and nothing but truth! It is the truth of His heart that He utters in His words and demonstrates in His actions."

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Chinna Katha



Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 8th November** **Global Akhanda Bhajan**
(8th Nov. 6 p.m. to 9th Nov. 6 p.m.)
- 15th -17th November** **Sahasra Poorna Chandra**
Darshana Santhi Mahotsava
- 19th November** **Ladies Day**
- 22nd November** **27th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai**
University
- 23rd November** **83rd Birthday of**
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Editor

G.L. ANAND

Cover Page Photograph

Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports



Sahasra Poorna Chandra Darshana Santhi Mahotsava

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Divine incarnation of Kali Yuga, is entering the auspicious **83rd year of His Advent on 23rd November 2008**. This holy event is an occasion providing us a unique opportunity to observe and celebrate it in a grand and auspicious manner.

The sacred programme, which is being conducted mainly for the well-being of mankind and for world peace, will commence on the morning of **Saturday, 15th November 2008** and will culminate in **Poornahuti on Monday, 17th November 2008**. The programme will be conducted by hundreds of Vedic scholars arriving from various parts of India.

As a prelude, talks on the sacred scripture, **Srimad Bhagavata**, will commence on **10th November 2008** and will be conducted for a week.

The celebration of the **completion of 1,000 full moon days of Bhagavan** is a unique and auspicious event. All should avail of this rare opportunity to sanctify their lives by coming to Prasanthi Nilayam to have Darshan of our Beloved Bhagavan and receive His blessings.

Devotees of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Seeing 1,000 Full Moons

ACCORDING TO INDIAN SPIRITUAL TRADITION, A PERSON WHO completes 82 years of his life sojourn on earth is supposed to have seen 1,000 full moons. This is an occasion for great celebration and such a person is accorded Kanakabhishekam (anointment with gold), an elaborate sacred ritual, performed by his great grandsons. Performance of this ritual according to scriptural injunctions is supposed to bestow great merit not only on the individual but also on many generations of his family. Kali Yuga Avatar Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the Divine Parent of all human beings who are His sons, grandsons and great grandsons. Therefore, Bhagavan's 83rd Birthday, when He completes 82 years of His Advent on earth on 23rd November 2008, is a unique and auspicious occasion for celebration by the entire mankind.

What is the significance of seeing 1,000 full moons in the life of man? What, in the first instance, does full moon signify? Let me describe how Bhagavan taught me its meaning in His own unique way when I first came here in 1998. At that time, I was staying in Delhi when one day I received a phone call from my son, then a student of M.B.A. class at Prasanthi Nilayam, "Bhagavan is calling you. Come here immediately." I reached here on 9th February 1998. Next day, Bhagavan called me for interview and told me the work I was supposed to do. At the end of the interview, all at once He changed the topic and said, "Tomorrow is Purnima. Do you know what is Purnima?" Without understanding the real import of Bhagavan's question, I promptly replied, "Yes, Swami. Purnima means full moon day." Bhagavan did not say anything further. But He did come to know the level of my understanding! This question of Bhagavan kept haunting me for a long time afterwards. I wanted to know why Bhagavan had suddenly asked this question. I kept groping in the dark and did not know what Bhagavan wanted me to know and do. Suddenly, one day while I was reading a Guru Purnima Discourse of Bhagavan, the answer was revealed to me. Bhagavan had said in it that Purnima signified total inner illumination and purity, without any darkness of ignorance and impurity of evil qualities. In this way, Bhagavan's one question became the greatest lesson of my life.

Bhagavan undoubtedly is the greatest World Teacher. His way of imparting the knowledge of scriptures to His devotees is totally unique and unparalleled. Therefore, in the light of Bhagavan's teaching, seeing 1,000 full moons in one's life means total inner illumination and purity for a period of 1,000 Purnimas. The person who has passed his life with this absolute purity surely deserves to be honoured and revered. Bhagavan's life is the shining example of absolute purity and sacredness. It is a unique opportunity for mankind to celebrate this most auspicious and historic event. It is also an occasion for us to reflect how we can emulate this great ideal of Bhagavan.

— Editor



SATHYANARAYANA IS NONE OTHER THAN LORD VISHNU

In an epoch-making Discourse on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami, on 9th October 2008, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba made the profound revelation: "Lord Vishnu has incarnated as Sathyanarayana in this world. Therefore, this Sathyanarayana is Lord Vishnu Himself. He is not an ordinary person. You should understand the divine principle of Sathyanarayana." Here is the full text of this momentous declaration.

THE AVATAR REVEALS THE TRUTH OF HIS INCARNATION

Karma is responsible for the birth, existence and death of man. It holds sway over all stages of his life as the very deity of human existence. It is responsible for the joy and sorrow of man.

(Telugu Poem)

PEOPLE EXPERIENCE BOTH happiness and sorrow in this world. When they get happiness, they attribute it to their deservedness. When they experience sorrow, they blame their fate. But, in fact, both happiness and sorrow are the result of one's actions. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as is the feeling, so is the result). Whatever type of actions we perform, we experience the same type of results. Whatever food we eat, we get the belch of that only. Whatever happens in this world is based on Karma (action). Hence, we should perform only sacred actions.

Inner Meaning of Navaratri Festival

Today we are celebrating Dasara festival. What is the meaning of Dasara? It means we should purify all our actions performed by the Dasendriyas (five senses of action and five senses of perception) so that we get

sacred results. Everyone has to perform some action or the other in this world. The primordial cause of all actions is the energy principle symbolised by Devi (Divine Mother). This energy principle is the driving force behind all actions. First and foremost, we should attain the grace of Devi. That is why Devi is worshipped during Navaratri celebrations. Devi manifests in three forms, namely, Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Navaratri festival teaches us to perform the worship of these three forms of the Divine Mother. When we worship Lakshmi, she bestows wealth, gold, food grains and all other materialistic conveniences on us. Similarly, worship of Saraswati develops our power of intellect and worship of Durga surcharges us with divine energy. Therefore, worship of these three forms of the Divine Mother during the Navaratri festival is very beneficial for us.



We acquire divine energy by worshipping Devi. This helps us to perform only sacred actions with our senses. This is the inner meaning of Navaratri festival. For performing sacred actions, the understanding of Dharma is very essential. 'What will I attain by performing a particular action? What will be the consequences of what I am doing?' This power of discrimination is very essential for

Similarly, Sita also had to experience the result of her actions. Hence, we should try to perform only good and sacred actions which benefit others. When we perform these type of actions, we attain all powers and the grace of Lakshmi. Lakshmi dwells in the heart of Lord Narayana and bestows her grace on one and all. Narayana is eternal and so too is Lakshmi. Lord Vishnu assumed the form of Narayana.

Many people do not give due importance to My words and take them lightly. But it is not correct. Whatever I say in any manner is truth and truth alone, even if I say in a lighter vein or in a joke. But people do not realise this; even those who are physically close to Me do not properly understand this. Consequently, sometimes they ignore what I tell them. They do not take My words seriously, thinking that Swami has spoken in a lighter vein. They realise the truth of My words later when they come true.



man. The intellect which is endowed with the power of discrimination is very important. Just as an electric current flows through electric wire, human intellect is the channel for all the qualities of man. Whatever good or bad actions we perform, we have to experience their consequences accordingly. Therefore, everybody should follow the path of Dharma. Even the mighty Pandavas had to face the consequences of their actions.

Here, Narayana refers not to Lakshminarayana but Sathyanarayana. Sathyanarayana walks amidst common people, talks to them blissfully and gives happiness to them (*loud applause*). He may appear to be an ordinary human being, but He is endowed with extraordinary and supreme powers. None can describe His power and glory although He appears to be simple and ordinary. He is Sathya (truth)



personified. Wherever He goes, He teaches only truth. Dharma (righteousness) emerges from Sathya. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). Therefore, He is the embodiment of Sathya and Dharma. He has incarnated only to teach these two principles (*loud applause*). Many scriptures also declare Sathyanarayana as the Supreme Being and an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Though many people consider Him to be an ordinary human being, yet, in reality, He is not an ordinary person. Whatever He says is truth and nothing but truth! It is the truth of His heart that He utters in His words and demonstrates in His actions. Therefore, never consider truth as an ordinary principle.

*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,
Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?*

Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.

(Telugu Poem)

Many people do not give due importance to My words and take them lightly. But it is not correct. Whatever I say in any manner is truth and truth alone, even if I say in a lighter vein or in a joke (*loud applause*). But people do not realise this; even those who are physically close to Me do not properly understand this. Consequently, sometimes they ignore what I tell them. They do not take My words seriously, thinking that Swami has spoken in a lighter vein. They realise the truth of My words later when they come true. Since they don't have any knowledge of future, they take My words lightly. But all that I say will prove to be true in future. Then only will they be able to understand it.

The Same Atmic Principle is Present in All

Though people see Me walking and talking and witness everything



happening in front of them, yet they are not able to understand My words and realise My Divinity. Many of them dismiss My words as a joke. This body is entering its 83rd year. I have not forgotten anything so far. But it may appear to some people that I have forgotten something. They may say, 'Swami has forgotten this or that'. But I do not have even a trace of forgetfulness.

The principle of Sathya Sai is the principle of Soham Mantra which the Jivatma (individual soul) repeats constantly without any break and without forgetfulness in all the three states of waking, dream and deep sleep.

(Telugu Song)

People should understand this truth. It is man's weakness that he misunderstands this transcendental principle. Today I am trying to make you understand this truth as the destined time is drawing near. Sathya has no differences. He has no hatred, no enmity, no dislike or anger towards anyone at any time. All are the children of Sathya. Therefore, all are equal for Me. I do not observe any differences. You may think that I observe differences, but at no point of time have I observed any differences. Our students are very well aware of it. Whatever people may say, even if they talk against Me, I keep smiling. I have never shown anger towards anyone. At times, I may appear to be angry, but in reality I have no anger in Me. Our students are amazed that even though many people pester Swami with many demands and some even criticise Him, Swami always keeps smiling. What a wonder it is! What is the secret of Swami's forbearance?

All belong to the same family. Though the individuals appear to be different, the power working in them is the same. It is the power of the Self. The same principle of the

Atma is present in all of them which is nothing but Atmanarayana (Lord Narayana in the form of Atma). Every human being should try to know this principle of the Atma. There are so many electric bulbs shining here. But the electric current in all of them is the same. When you see the bulbs, you may think that they are different from each other. But it is the same electric current that makes them shine. In the same manner, the divine principle of the Atma is the same in this creation, though there are numerous names and forms. If you put off the main switch, then everything becomes dark. In the same way, it is the principle of the Atma which is effulgent in every being; once it goes, nothing remains.

In this world, God performs many tasks, but whatever He does, it is only to give happiness to His devotees. God does not have any desires. No desires at all! He has only one desire and that is, *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!). People undergo joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain as a result of their actions. It is not possible for all to be happy. Some people have to undergo sufferings and difficulties while others may experience joy and happiness. This is the way of the world. The names and forms of persons may be different and they may have to undergo different types of pleasant



Lakshmi dwells in the heart of Lord Narayana and bestows her grace on one and all. Narayana is eternal and so too is Lakshmi. Lord Vishnu assumed the form of Narayana. Here, Narayana refers not to Lakshminarayana but Sathyanarayana. Sathyanarayana walks amidst common people, talks to them blissfully and gives happiness to them. He may appear to be an ordinary human being, but He is endowed with extraordinary and supreme powers. None can describe His power and glory although He appears to be simple and ordinary. He is Sathya (truth) personified.



and unpleasant experiences, but the Atmic principle in all of them is the same.

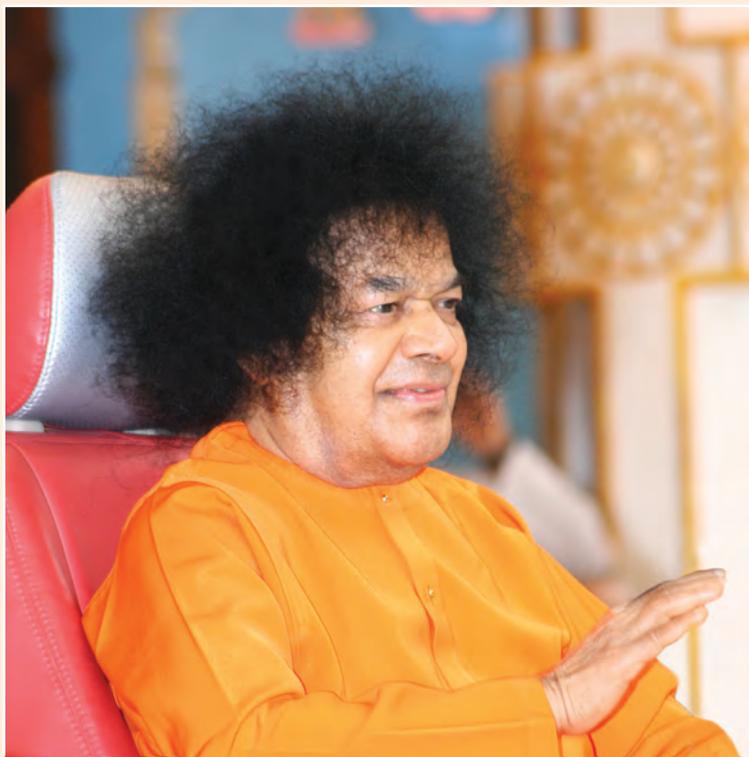
I am beyond all these feelings of happiness and sorrow. I am happy when you are happy. There are many types of bulbs but the electric current flowing through them is one and the same. Only there is a difference in the wattage of the bulbs, due to which some bulbs are dim while others are bright. This brightness and dimness is only due to the difference in

the wattage of the bulbs and not due to any variation in the current. In the same way, the feelings of man's heart are responsible for all his pleasure and pain, happiness and sorrow. God is not responsible for it.

Understand the Divine Principle of Sathyanarayana

Vishnu is referred to as Narayana in the Vishnu Purana which gives a complete description about Him. Lord Vishnu has incarnated as Sathyanarayana in this world. Therefore, this Sathyanarayana is Lord Vishnu Himself. He is not an ordinary person (*loud prolonged applause*). You should understand the divine principle of Sathyanarayana. What is the reason for My not giving any Discourse during the last nine days of the Navaratri festival? People started imagining





These days, most of the students are keeping cell phones with them. What happens when you keep a cell phone with you? You may say that you are keeping it for your convenience. But it is being misused in many ways. Some boys and girls talk to each other and develop bad thoughts; not only bad thoughts, but bad connections also. Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man). The mind of man is the cause of all that is good or bad. To get rid of bad thoughts, we should avoid bad connections first.

various reasons for this. But I wanted to reveal this profound truth. That is why I am sitting before the microphone now.

I love those who love Me and even those who hate Me. I also love those who try



to harm Me by their demonic behaviour. There is none in this world whom I do not love. But people do not try to understand this. Some of them think, "Swami is not talking to me. May be, He is angry with me." I do not have even a trace of anger in Me; I have only one thing and that is hunger for devotees. It is only due to this hunger that I am drawing all of you near Me. God is the embodiment of love and not hatred. Navaratri festival teaches us this truth. Many people worship Me and extol Me in various ways. People do whatever they like according to the feelings of their heart. But I am not interested in this. I do not observe any differences. Similarly, you too should not observe any differences and live like brothers and sisters with love. All are the children of God. Therefore, treat everybody with love. God is the father of all. Men are more valuable than all the wealth of the world. Don't worry if others do not love you, but you should love them and draw them near you. If you do not love them, they will keep distance from you. How long? They will maintain distance from you so long as they do not receive love

from you. The moment you give love to them, it will flow from your heart to their heart like an electric current and bring about transformation in them. I wait for such transformation in you. Thousands of you have heard My

Discourses on a number of occasions and have witnessed My divine powers. In spite of all this, your love is not touching My heart. People may say anything as per their feelings and notions. It is not a mistake. However, those who understand the truth and put it into practice are very few. Those who really understand this path of truth will follow it. Some people deviate from this path and move away due to their anger and differences. But we should continue to treat them in the same loving manner whether they have love or differences. Whoever they may be, you should not observe any differences. But you observe differences, thinking that they don't belong to you. It is a great mistake because they are not unrelated to you. Today they may appear to be unrelated to you, but tomorrow you will realise they are your own brothers and sisters. Therefore, you should love all and treat everybody alike. *All are one, be alike to everyone.* This is My special message to you today.

You may not understand this now, but later on you will definitely come to understand. A tree may have a number of fruits but all of them do not become ripe at the same time. Similarly, all the buds do not blossom into flowers at the same time. At a given point of time, some of them blossom into flowers while others remain as buds. In the same way, among the human beings who are born in this world, some of them bloom like flowers while others remain as buds. However, these buds will certainly bloom one day and spread their sacred fragrance. We have to wait for the time when they are ready to give fragrance. This is My main message to you today.

This is the day of Poornahuti. What is meant by Poornahuti? It means total sacrifice. My entire life is a saga of sacrifice. It is not something I do today and will not do tomorrow.

*Poornamada Poornamidam, Poornat
Poornamudachyate,*

*Poornasya Poornamadaaya,
Poornamevavashishyate.*

(That is full, this is full. When the full is taken out of the full, what remains is again the full.)

(Sanskrit Sloka)

Those who want to understand, they will definitely understand this. Children are like buds and hence they may not be able to understand this now. But with the passage of time as they grow, they will gradually understand the meaning of the words of Swami. Till you attain that mature age, lead your life in a calm and composed manner.

Misuse of Cell Phones is Evil

I want to say something about another important subject. These days, most of the students are keeping cell phones with them. What happens when you keep a cell phone with you? You may say that you are keeping it for your convenience. But it is being misused in many ways. Some boys and girls talk to each other and develop bad thoughts; not only bad thoughts, but bad connections also. *Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshaya* (mind is the cause of bondage and liberation of man). The mind of man is the cause of all that is good or bad. To get rid of bad thoughts, we should avoid bad connections first. We give our phone numbers to all and sundry. It leads to bad path in many ways. Boys and girls dial the numbers of each other and wait whether the other person responds or not. Therefore, do not make use of these cell phones too much. In the beginning, it looks good to use them. But by and by, you understand their

Continued on page 342 ...





VEDA PURUSHA SAPTAHA JNANA YAJNA

VEDA PURUSHA SAPTAHA JNANA Yajna for one week during Navaratri festival (nine days of worship of the Divine Mother), culminating in Poornahuti on the sacred day of Vijaya Dasami (Dasara) is one of the most important and sacred functions at Prasanthi Nilayam. This year, it started with its traditional grandeur on 3rd October 2008 and came to a close on 9th October 2008 with Poornahuti (final oblations) in the Yajna fire. On the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami on 9th October 2008, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba delivered a historic Discourse which will remain memorable forever in the annals of spiritual history of mankind as it revealed the truth of His incarnation. (Full text of the Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

Worship of Devi (Divine Mother) began in Bhajan Mandir by the Mandir priest on the first day of Navaratri, 30th September 2008. On the morning of this day, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.45 a.m. After His usual round of Darshan in the hall, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Mandir and blessed the Kalasha

(sacred vessel), symbolising the worship of the Divine Mother in its three forms of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

On the morning of 3rd October 2008, Bhagavan came to aesthetically bedecked Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.50 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants by the students and auspicious notes of Nadaswaram by a group of musicians. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on a mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to Bhajan Mandir where He blessed the Ritwiks (Vedic priests) and distributed clothes to them which they were to wear during the performance of the Yajna. Bhagavan also blessed the students who were to recite the Vedic Mantras during the performance of the Yajna on all the seven days.

Performance of Yajna in Poornachandra Auditorium

The procession of Ritwiks started from the Bhajan Mandir at 9.25 a.m. Veda chanting Ritwiks carrying the sacred Kalasha followed by the students in ochre dress were led by



finely bedecked Sathya Geeta (Bhagavan's beloved elephant) to Poornachandra Auditorium amidst auspicious notes of Nadaswaram. Soon Poornachandra Auditorium started reverberating with sacred Vedic chants by the Ritwiks and students. Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba graced the inauguration of the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna by His Divine Presence. At 9.35 a.m., Bhagavan inaugurated the proceedings and lighted the sacred lamp for Devi worship. Soon after this, the process of producing fire in the traditional way by churning one piece of wood on the other was started by the priests. After producing the sacred fire, two priests put it in a plate and brought to Bhagavan who blessed it and permitted the Yajna to be started. The priests put the fire in the Yajna Kunda amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. After the initial rituals, four priests seated around the Yajna Kunda started the Yajna by putting oblations of ghee in the Yajna fire while chanting sacred Mantras. Simultaneously, another group of four priests started chanting the Mantras of Krishna Yajur Veda, three senior devotees started the Parayana (recitation) of sacred texts, one priest started performing Surya Namaskar (worship of the sun), another priest started the recitation of Durga Saptashati (a sacred text devoted to goddess Durga), the head priest and his wife started Devi Puja and one priest started Sahasra Lingarchana (worship of 1,000 Lingas). The students also joined the priests in Vedic chants and Parayana of sacred texts. Offering of oblations in the sacrificial fire, chanting of Vedic Mantras, study of sacred texts and performance of allied sacred rituals



Veda chanting students proceeding to Poornachandra Auditorium where they joined the Ritwiks in Veda chanting during the performance of the Yajna.

in the Divine Presence of Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba sanctified the entire milieu, radiating spiritual vibrations in all directions. The Yajna continued in this sacred manner for seven days.

Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna, conducted according to scriptural injunctions under the divine guidance of Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to a happy and glorious conclusion with offering of Poornahuti (final oblations) into the sacrificial fire by Bhagavan on 9th October 2008.



Bhagavan offered Poornahuti (final oblations) in the sacrificial fire on 9th October 2008 to mark the conclusion of the Yajna.

Arriving in Poornachandra Auditorium at 9.20 a.m., Bhagavan first blessed the conclusion of worship of the Divine Mother being conducted by the head priest and his wife during the last seven days. At its conclusion, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 9.30 a.m. After this, the priests went out in a procession led by musicians, returned after a few minutes and sat around the Yajna Kunda for the final oblations. Thereafter, Bhagavan also came and sat near the Yajna Kunda while the students and priests chanted Vedic Mantras. At 9.45 a.m., Bhagavan offered precious material and clothes into the sacrificial fire amidst joyous musical notes and loud Vedic chants, marking the conclusion of the seven-day long Yajna. After Poornahuti, Bhagavan blessed the priests, sprinkled Akshatas (sanctified rice) and Teertham (sacred water) on them and offered new clothes to them. All the priests then sat around Bhagavan, offered worship to Him as Veda Purusha (the source of all the Vedas) and chanted sacred verses in His worship. While the students distributed Prasadam blessed and sanctified by Bhagavan, a group of priests sprinkled Teertham on the devotees in the entire Poornachandra Auditorium. The glorious event came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 10.15 a.m.

Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha

While the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was conducted in the morning in Poornachandra Auditorium, a programme of spiritual talks was organised in the afternoon in Sai Kulwant Hall during these seven days. These talks were held under the aegis of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha, an assembly of erudite scholars of spiritual texts.

The first session of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha was held on the afternoon

of 3rd October 2008 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The speaker of this session was the Mandir priest, Sri Narayana Bhatta who spoke on the importance of Devi Bhagawat, the Purana devoted to Devi (Divine Mother). Not only was this sacred text of 18,000 Slokas (verses) devoted to the worship of Devi, it was related to the daily life of man and taught how to inculcate virtues and develop good character, observed the learned speaker. The Vedas were difficult to understand for a common man, but Puranas like Devi Bhagawat which contained the essence of the Vedas could be studied by all, added Sri Bhatta.

Sri Ajit Popat, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from London, was the speaker in the next session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on the afternoon of 5th October 2008. Sri Popat referred to a dialogue between Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda and observed that what mattered most in the life of the devotees of Bhagavan was that they should be able to touch His heart by their intense yearning, deep devotion, pure feelings and constant contemplation. This, he said, was the way to blessedness and could give them the experience of divine bliss. Commenting on the unlimited desires of modern man, Sri Popat remarked that this was totally futile because what God wanted to give to man none could take away, and what He did not want to give, none could give him.

The speaker of the next session held on the afternoon of 6th October was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University. Sri Narasimha Murthy said that he had been witnessing the performance of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna for the last 40 years by

the Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya



Sai Baba who has incarnated on earth to spread the knowledge of the Vedas, protect Dharma and free man from the shackle of Samsara (worldliness), represented by the evil forces of Adharma (unrighteousness). Narrating an incident from the life of a devotee, the learned speaker observed that Bhagavan has vowed that He would protect His devotees at all times and at all places when they develop total faith in Him.

The speaker who addressed the gathering on 7th October 2008 was Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Explaining the significance of Navaratri festival, Sri Srinivasan said, the worship of the Divine Mother during the nine days of Navaratri in the three forms of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati conferred protection, prosperity and wisdom on man. "As the children run to their mother when they are afraid, we run to our Divine Mother Sai whenever we are in trouble", said Sri Srinivasan and described how Bhagavan was helping and protecting the flood-affected people of Orissa. He also announced that Bhagavan had decided to build pucca houses for those poor people of Orissa who had become homeless due to the devastation caused by recent floods. The distinguished speaker exhorted the devotees to serve the poor and needy to serve Bhagavan and see Sai in one and all.

Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, was the speaker in the session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on the afternoon of 8th October 2008. Sri Giri explained the significance of the Navaratri festival and said that fasting and vigil during these nine days could help man to keep his animal tendencies under check and bring his mind under control. Quoting a few verses from Rudram, Sri Giri observed that

detachment from the world and attachment to God could lead man to the goal of God realisation. Referring to the announcement made on the previous day that Bhagavan had decided to provide houses to the poor people of Orissa who were rendered homeless due to recent floods, Sri Giri observed that the service projects of Bhagavan for poor people were a shining example for numerous billionaires of the world to emulate.

Two speakers shared their thoughts with the audience in the session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on 9th October 2008. The first speaker was Sri T.G. Krishnamurthy, former State President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu. Narrating an experience of his meeting with a minister in an Arabian country, Sri Krishnamurthy remarked that Bhagavan's love is universal and His devotees are in all parts of the world. In fact, His unknown devotees are much more in number than the known ones, the distinguished speaker added. Sri Krishnamurthy exhorted the devotees to carry Swami in their heart at all times which will ensure purity of their heart wherever they may go. The second speaker was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University. Talking about the present economic crisis which had gripped America and the world, Dr. Venkataraman remarked that the mind of modern man was polluted by greed and selfishness which generated destructive environment in the world. Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna which concluded in the morning with Poornahuti (final oblations) was a potent means to purify the mind of man, observed the distinguished speaker. Bhagavan, in His infinite compassion, is showing to the world the path of purity and divinity through the performance of this Yajna and His divine teachings, said Dr. Venkataraman.



In the final session of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha held on the afternoon of 10th October 2008, there were two speakers. The first speaker was Sri Ajit Popat who had earlier addressed the gathering on 5th October 2008. Emphasising the main teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Sri Popat observed that it was the fundamental duty of man to be grateful to God for all that He had given him. Duty, Discipline, Devotion, Determination and Discrimination should be the main guiding

principles of man's life as taught by Bhagavan, added Sri Popat. The second speaker of this session was Sri Raghuram, a student of Sri Sathya Sai University. Narrating how his father was cured by the grace of Bhagavan, the speaker remarked that God was the goal of man's life and it was possible to attain Him through complete surrender and unwavering faith. With this, the proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came to a happy conclusion.

... *Continued from page 337*

ill-effects. Now I am entering the 83rd year of My life. I have not kept a telephone with Me at all (*loud applause*). So many people want to contact Me over the phone. Come what may, I have never kept a telephone with Me till now. That is why I have got the right to tell you all this. Be cautious. Since you are young, you should be all the more careful. If you are not careful, you will become careless. When you yourself are careless, other people will also not care for you. Hence, you should be careful so that others care for you. Your honour or dishonour depends upon whether you are careful or careless.

You may think that you are talking in a proper manner. You must understand whether others also think what you are talking is good. You do not know what meaning other people will take of what you are talking. You should ensure that there is no room for misunderstanding. When elders talk to each other, it is okay; they will understand each other at least to some extent. But when young people of same age talk to each other, there can be misunderstanding. Not only that, there can be complete misunderstanding! When

there is a misunderstanding, you will miss the meaning of what is being said. Hence, it is My wish that you should always remain careful. Better you throw your cell phones into a well. Then you will be happy and relaxed. It would be much better if you don't buy these phones at all. If you have bought one, you should have only necessary connections. You should not have unnecessary contacts with other people under any circumstances.

If you go on gathering information from various people and keep passing it on to others, you will create misunderstanding between them. Some people spoil the minds of others by unnecessary exchange of information. If you don't talk to others, they will think that you are ignoring them. Why all this unpleasantness? Is it not because you are keeping a cell phone with you? Hence, be careful and earn a good name.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

– **From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, on 9th October 2008.**



IDEAL PARENTS HAVE IDEAL CHILDREN

Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring education which cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal.

(Telugu Poem)

In spite of his education and intelligence, a foolish man will not know his true Self and a mean-minded person will not give up his evil qualities.

(Telugu Poem)

BHAGAVAN ANSWERS DELEGATES' QUESTIONS

YOU MAY ACQUIRE AS HIGH education as you can, but if you do not put it into practice, it is of no use. You may earn any number of degrees or titles, but they do not make you a truly learned person. All your learning is flawed if what you practise is different from what you learn. Therefore, put into practice what you learn.

A Teacher should be a Role Model in Human Values

A mean-minded person does not give up his evil qualities in spite of his high education. These so-called highly educated persons are, in fact, much more ignorant than those who are illiterate. Unfortunately, children today imitate and follow such 'highly educated' persons. (After this, Bhagavan answered the questions of the delegates to Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference 2008.)

The first question is: What type of relationship should students have with God? God is not separate from you. He is not outside. He is very much within you. Therefore, you should develop a relationship of love and oneness with God. If God were separate from you, you could form a mundane relationship with Him. But He is not separate from you. He is with you, in you, around you and behind you (*loud applause*). You cannot have worldly relationship with God who is all-pervasive. You should strengthen the feeling, 'God is in me' and develop oneness with Him. This is the answer to the first question.

What are the signs of spiritual transformation? This is the second question. You should examine yourself whether you are leading your life with worldly feelings or with wholehearted faith in God. You should





Teaching of human values should find a prominent place in the school curriculum. Put the children on the spiritual path so that they develop love for God. If they want to put on an improper dress, they should not be allowed to do so. You should observe moderation in everything. Only then can the children be kept in check. It is the responsibility of parents to keep a check on their children. Parents should be made aware of the Sai System of Education. Some of the parents may not be aware of this system. The children can also explain the various aspects of this system to their parents.

have firm conviction that you are equal-minded in both pleasure and pain. There are no special signs of spiritual transformation. But at times, you may have certain spiritual dreams and visions. You should enquire yourself

whether you are progressing or declining in your devotion. Everything depends upon your faith. Other than this, there are no special signs.

The third question is: What should be the qualities of a teacher in the Sai System of Education? The teacher should not give too much freedom to the students. He should exercise control over them with loving and convincing words. He should not allow them to act in an arbitrary way just because they are his students. He should give them freedom in a measured manner, but in between he should apply brakes. He should also punish them whenever it is necessary. He should not punish just for the sake of punishment. He should use punishment only as a deterrent.

How should a teacher conduct himself in this system of education and what sort of discipline should he observe? What efforts should a teacher make to become a role model in human values? This is another question that has been asked. This is a very important subject. A teacher should conduct himself like a teacher. Similarly, a student should behave like a student. The teacher should take care that proper learning environment is provided in the classroom and the students are happy and satisfied.



When the teacher behaves with the students in an ideal manner, the students will also follow him. What you want your students to do, you should show them by your own example. Not only that, the teacher should eat the same food that he advises the students to partake of. If the teacher asks the students not to eat fish and meat and himself eats all these things, it is very bad. Whatever you tell your students, you should first practise yourself. Whatever you want your students to become, first you should become yourself. You should not act in an arbitrary way with the pride that you are a teacher. You should be humble, caring and full of love when you are dealing with your students.

The next question is: How should teachers behave with girl students? If there are only boys in the classroom, it is okay. But if there are girl students also, the teacher should behave in a much more refined and disciplined manner. Consider all the girl students as your sisters. Make them happy and treat them with respect as you do with your own sister. Only then can you inculcate virtues in them. In this way, you should lead an ideal life and become a role model for others.

Children should Make their Parents Happy

How should the parents impart human values to their children and how can we involve the parents in the education of their children? This is the next question. Parents should never discuss family matters in the presence of their children. They may be having financial and other problems, but they should not let their children know about them. They should deal with their problems themselves, try to keep the children as happy as they can and work for their progress.

First and foremost, the parents should put the human values into practice in their own life and then they should encourage their children to develop these values. The parents should guide their children on the right path by their own example. At the same time, the children should not cause any trouble to their parents. Their parents bring them up with great expectations. The children should develop the understanding that they have made progress in life only due to the sacrifice of their parents and hence should show gratitude to them. Howsoever great may be the difficulties that the parents have to undergo, they hide them from their children in order to make them happy. In such a situation, if the children cause even a little trouble to their parents, they will be totally dejected.

Set your life on a course that gives happiness to your parents. Even if you have your own family, see to it that your parents do not suffer in any way. You should not ignore your parents, thinking, "My family should be happy, why bother about the parents?" This is not good. Only an illiterate fool will behave like that; no educated person will act in this manner. From time to time, you should go to your parents, serve them, make them happy and try to fulfil their needs. Giving happiness to parents is the main duty of the children.

But some children associate with bad company and acquire evil qualities. Man is known by the company he keeps. That is why it is said, *Tell me your company I shall tell you what you are*. Therefore, never associate with bad company. You should look after the needs of your parents carefully. Those who do not look after their parents should be condemned. Differences between parents and children are on the rise in today's world.



The tastes of the children are different from the expectations of the parents. If you merely pursue your own tastes, then what about your parents? You have every right to satisfy your tastes provided you fulfil the needs of your parents. It is sheer selfishness to work merely for your own satisfaction and cause grief to your parents. Children should not resort to this type of behaviour. You have your mother-in-law and father-in-law after your marriage. But from your very birth, you have lived with your parents. Therefore, it is your duty to make your parents happy. The children should always pray for the welfare of their parents and discharge their duty towards them. Moreover, you should not interfere in the affairs of others unnecessarily. Before enquiring about others, you should enquire about your parents and try to know their wishes. Parents should also educate their children in this regard. If you pay all your attention to your in-laws and forget the parents with whom you had a long association, that amounts to selfishness and deception. It is due to the rise of selfishness that there is a lack of happy and cordial relationship between parents and children today. However, such selfish children are in minority. Hence, there is no need to worry too much about it.

Parents should Inculcate Human Values in Children

Whatever the parents tell their children to follow, they should themselves adhere to it. Then only will their children become good. Due to the effect of modern times, some children try to keep a distance from their parents and thereby develop tension and temper. But you should control your temper. It is a great mistake if you show your temper on your parents who always wish for your welfare. You should show gratitude to your parents, to God and to

all those who have helped you. You should never do anything due to which your parents may shed tears. When you make your parents happy, you will also be happy.

Bal Vikas is very necessary for children because the children learn human values in the Bal Vikas class. But first of all, parents should themselves develop human values. Then only will they have the right to teach human values to their children. When you yourself do not practise and merely tell the children to follow, then how would they listen? Whatever you tell the children, you should demonstrate by your own example. But you say, you don't have time and you are busy with your office work. When you pay all your attention to your office work, who will look after the children? I have written a poem in this regard.

*When husband and wife go out to office,
who will do the household work?*

*If women go out to teach others' children
in schools, who will teach their own
children?*

*If women also go to work just like men, who
will cook food in the kitchen?*

*Earning money may solve some financial
problems, but how will it resolve domestic
problems?*

*Women can work and earn money but they
cannot lead a happy life if they neglect their
home.* (Telugu Poem)

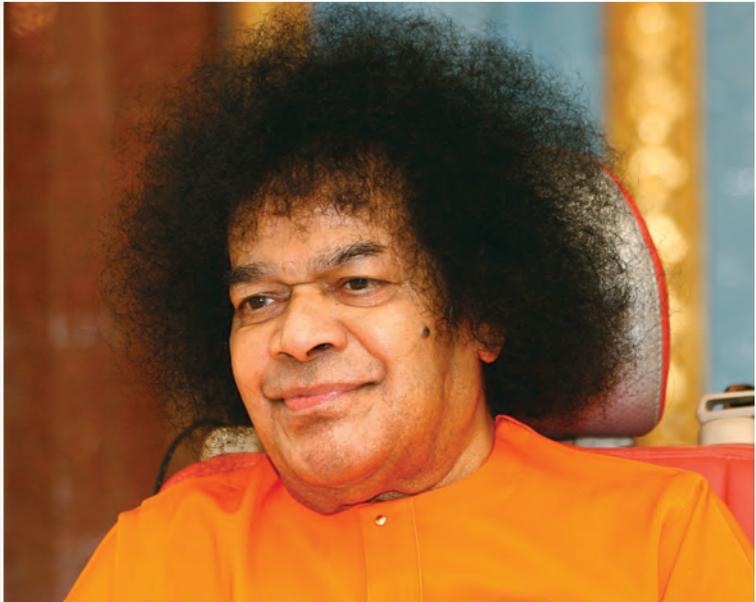
Educated women want to take up jobs. But if women go for jobs, who will do the household work? When both husband and wife go to office for work, then who will look after the children? Some people employ an Ayah (female servant) to look after their children. But can an Ayah look after the children with love like a mother?

No, it cannot be so. Therefore, mothers



should themselves look after their children even at the cost of their jobs. If women also go to office like men, then who will cook food in the house? Here is a small example. Both husband and wife phone from their office to their cook that they would come home at 5 o'clock and therefore he should keep tea ready. But, have they provided the required articles for the preparation of tea? No. For the preparation of tea, milk, sugar and tea leaves are required. Without these articles, how can anybody prepare tea? Besides that, cups and saucers are also required. In the absence of all these, if you ask the cook to prepare tea, how can he do so? In this way, you will lose respect before the invited guests. First of all, you should set right your house, then only should you pay attention to the outside work.

There is nothing wrong if both husband and wife go to work. But they should make sure that the children are not put to any inconvenience in the house. If you leave your children to the care of the Ayah and the cook and go to work just to earn more money, then what is the use? It is of no use because you will have to pay salary to both the Ayah and the cook. Not only that, you will lose so many articles in the house. Then, what is left with you out of your earning? When you yourself look after the children, you save so much money. But the parents do



You have your mother-in-law and father-in-law after your marriage. But from your very birth, you have lived with your parents. Therefore, it is your duty to make your parents happy. The children should always pray for the welfare of their parents and discharge their duty towards them. Moreover, you should not interfere in the affairs of others unnecessarily. Before enquiring about others, you should enquire about your parents and try to know their wishes. Parents should also educate their children in this regard. If you pay all your attention to your in-laws and forget the parents with whom you had a long association, that amounts to selfishness and deception.

not give importance to this. Sometimes, even cups are not available in the house for drinking coffee. In such a situation, what is the use of women taking up jobs outside? Nowadays people are crazy for jobs but they do not care whether any comforts and conveniences are there in the house or not. As soon as the husband and wife come from office, they

engage themselves in reading newspapers, listening to radio and seeing TV programmes. There are some who do not come home and straightaway go from office to clubs where they play some cheap games. How can such people bring up their children in an ideal manner? If the children are not doing well in studies, it is not their fault; it is the fault of their parents. Therefore, women should remain at home and look after their children in a proper way. This is your real income. If you lose this real income and strive to earn some money by working outside, spoiling your children in the process, you will be termed as selfish parents. When your children take to bad ways, you will have to undergo a lot of suffering. It is the main responsibility of parents to look after their children properly.

You should practise human values in your profession and at your workplace. Human values are not separate from day-to-day life. You may be a police officer or a nurse or a doctor or in any other profession. You should perform your duty sincerely. Then everything will become good. But, unfortunately, people do not perform their duty honestly. Consequently, children have to suffer entirely due to the fault of elders. You should engage yourself in good and honest work. Only then can your children attain progress and happiness.

Parents should keep a Watch on their Children

Sai schools can have a corpus fund for their maintenance. They can take the help of parents in running the school. Such mutual cooperation between the school and parents should be developed. Discipline, devotion and duty should be given utmost importance in these schools. Teaching of human values should find a prominent place in the



The students who want to maintain their honour and dignity should sit calmly in the house and engage themselves in studies. The parents should check their children that they do not spend money in an arbitrary manner. They should tell them what is right and what is wrong and make them understand that spending money lavishly is not good. In this manner, the parents should teach them what is good and put them on the right path. There should be harmony between the parents and children at home. What is the use if there is no harmony at home? The parents do not pay heed to their children and the children do not listen to their parents. This should not happen.



school curriculum. Put the children on the spiritual path so that they develop love for God. If they want to put on an improper dress, they should not be allowed to do so. You should observe moderation in everything. Only then can the children be kept in check. It is the responsibility of parents to keep a check on their children. Parents should be made aware of the Sai System of Education. Some of the parents may not be aware of this system. The children can also explain the various aspects of this system to their parents. Only then will the parents understand it clearly. Otherwise, they may have some doubts regarding what is being taught in the school to their children.

Sometimes, the children out of fear may not tell their parents everything correctly. Therefore, the parents should go to the school at least once a week and check

whether what the child is telling is correct or not. The parents should go to school without the knowledge of their children and try to know the facts personally. They should also try to enquire about the studies and behaviour of their children. Some children may tell their parents that they have secured 50 marks, when actually they may have got only 20 marks. Some parents blindly believe what their child tells them and they do not go to the school to check the correctness of the child's statement. I am not saying anything about schools in other countries but this is a common practice in India. Only in villages we find the parents taking proper care of their children to inculcate necessary discipline in them. Whenever it is necessary, they punish their children and put them on the right path. But in towns and cities, the parents, particularly those in the higher strata of society, do not pay much attention to their children. In fact, it is only they who are supposed to be more vigilant.

When the children have time, they should sit quietly and study. But many of them roam in the bazaars. This is not good. The students should not loiter in the streets at all. Only stupid roam in the streets. They behave like street dogs. The students who want to maintain their honour and dignity should sit calmly in the house and engage themselves in studies. The parents should check their children that they do not spend money in an arbitrary manner. They should tell them what is right and what is wrong and make them understand that spending money lavishly is not good. In this manner, the parents should teach them what is good and put them on the right path. There should be harmony between the parents and children at home. What is the use if there is no harmony at home? The parents do not pay heed to their children and the children do not listen to

their parents. This should not happen. They should discuss among themselves what is right and what is wrong and maintain harmony in the house.

More importantly, the parents should be vigilant with regard to the studies of their children. They should know about the types of books they are reading. Some children keep cheap novels in their textbooks and read them. When we see from a distance, we think they are reading their textbooks. But it is not a textbook but a novel of bad taste! Only when we keep a watch on the children will they come up in life. We should throw such books away as soon as we see them. There is not even one such book in our library (*loud applause*). If somebody brings such books, they are immediately destroyed. If you follow this practice in your home also, then your children will become good. We should look after the children carefully and strive for their progress in this manner.

Observe Ceiling on your Desires

Don't waste money, don't waste energy, don't waste food and don't waste time. This is what is meant by ceiling on desires (*loud applause*). It is only when we ourselves practise ceiling on desires can we keep our children in check. But today neither the elders nor the children observe ceiling on desires. Many of the elders do not even know what is meant by ceiling on desires. Only in India, we find some people practising this. But in other countries like America, people do not practise this. In fact, they waste a lot of food and money. They spend so many dollars even on one dinner party. They should observe certain limits. They should feed those who are in need. Ceiling on desires is very important as it can help man to progress in life. Misuse of money is



evil. Waste of food is bad. If you waste money, you may have to face many difficulties. Do not throw away the food which is left after you have eaten. Better you give it to someone who is hungry. Unfortunately, people throw away the food instead of giving it to those who are hungry. Ceiling is necessary in every aspect of life. Even in talking, we should observe ceiling and should not talk too much. Then, we will experience immense happiness. If you make someone happy by giving food to him, your happiness will also become double.

Nobody should waste anything. *Time waste is life waste*. By wasting time, we waste our life. We waste money. What is the use of wasting money? Misuse of money is evil. Therefore, never misuse money. Spend only when it is necessary. Is it proper for you to spend money unnecessarily only because your pocket is full? Is it not a mistake? In this manner, many people

waste money. Those who get fat salaries spend money in an arbitrary way. When you lead your life in such a lavish manner, low income people like sweeper and milkman will also try to imitate you and ask for more salary. We should not set a bad ideal to others. We should follow the path which is beneficial to all. When you have too much money, you don't mind wasting it. But do not spend money like that. You should think before spending, whether you are making proper or improper use of money. With this, all your questions are answered. Lead your life very carefully. Even a small mistake can be blown up by others in society. Therefore, do not make even a small mistake. Conduct yourself in this careful manner.

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 21st July 2008, on the occasion of Sri Sathya Sai World Education Conference 2008.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF VISITORS

Visitors coming to Prasanthi Nilayam are hereby informed that in order to obtain **accommodation inside the Ashram**, each person will be required to produce his / her **Voter Identity Card** (the Identity Card issued by the Election Commission of India).

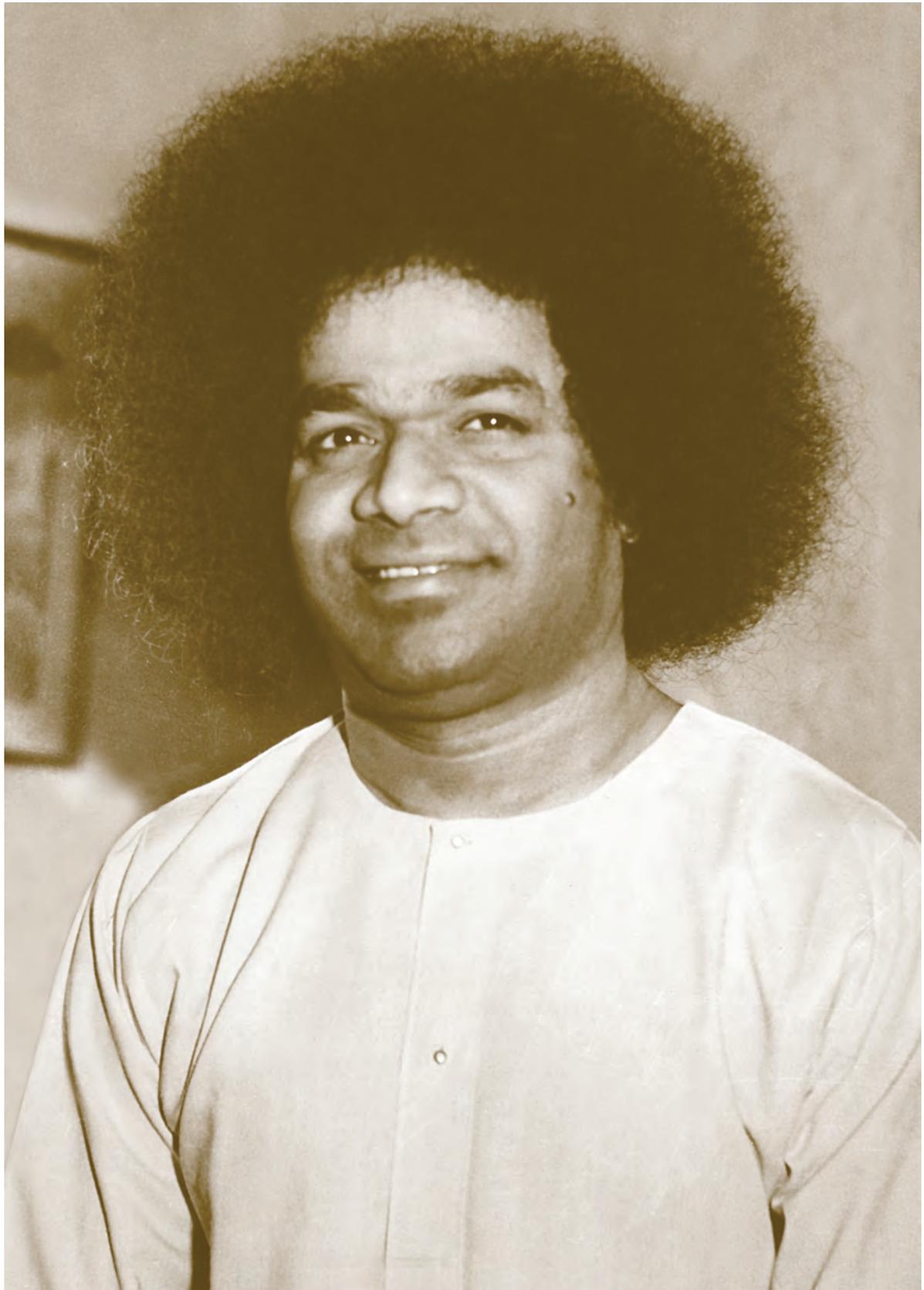
In lieu of the Voter Identity Card, other credible photo identity documents, such as **PAN Card, Driver's Licence, Passport, Bank Pass Book (with attested photograph), etc.**, will also be acceptable.

In the case of a **Group** (representing any wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation) or a Family, only the Head of the **Group / Family** need produce a photo identity document.

Kindly convey this information to others wishing to visit Prasanthi Nilayam so that they will not be inconvenienced upon arrival at the Ashram.

– *Ashram Administration*





MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF BHAGAVAN'S PROTECTION

.....
"Bhagavan's ways are mysterious. How, when and where He would come to protect you, you do not know. But what we should always be sure about is that He will always protect us. He will protect us at the time when we really need protection. That is what we have to understand", said Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations in an interview with Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University for Radio Sai Global Harmony.

SAI RAM AND THANK YOU FOR sparing your valuable time. One of the things that devotees usually like to hear is how different people came to Swami. In your case, you have been with Swami for more than three decades. Can you tell us how you came to Swami?

Thank you Dr. Venkataraman for giving me this opportunity. I came to Swami about 32 years ago. As usually happens in such things, somebody acts as an instrument whom Bhagavan chooses. In my case, it was one of my family members who was persuading me to come and meet Swami. And I was fortunate to see Swami in Chennai (Madras) when He came there in 1970.

That was the time when the incident of Walter Cowan's resurrection took place.

Exactly. It was around that time, and I met Bhagavan in the house of late Sri Tarapur, who was a great devotee of Bhagavan. In the very first meeting, I was audacious to ask Bhagavan a few questions and Bhagavan was kind enough to patiently reply to all these; that somehow struck a chord in my heart.

That was the beginning of this journey of mine to Sai. From that day, there has been no turning back. Within the next month, I came to Puttaparthi. It is entirely my good fortune that I have been with Bhagavan since then. I count every day a blessing that I am part of His Divine Mission, which is growing in grandeur everyday.

I was quite amused when you used the word audacious. Looking back, I certainly will not do or say many of the things I foolishly did when I first came to Swami. I suppose we all go through that, growing up with experience. Talking of growing up, how have you been transformed during these three decades plus?

As usually happens, all of us come to Swami with a lot of baggage, with a lot of preconceived notions about what He is and what we are. As you know, I have been in business for quite some time, and I have run many business enterprises. He has never asked Me to give up my business. Gradually, I have stepped back as He has made it possible for me to do so. But being with Bhagavan gave me a sense of values. I felt that I was not part of the rat



race, which normally many business people get involved in. I learnt contentment to some extent. I learnt that whatever happens is for our good.

Talking of values, I have a very important question. There is somehow a widespread feeling that values and progress in business don't go together. If you practise values, you fail in business, and if you want to succeed in business, you have to give up values. Is it true?

No, it is not at all true. I would emphatically say that business should not be conducted without values. Moreover, as Bhagavan says, a good leader is one who manages by example rather than only by giving long talks or trying to make others do what he wants; he should lead from the front. It is the principle of the army that a good general is one who leads from the front. In the same way Bhagavan has said, if you expect your people to be upright and honest, you have to be upright and honest; if you expect your people to be disciplined, you have to be disciplined. In fact, all the principles of corporate governance which have come to be accepted today were given by Bhagavan long ago to His students as also to industrialists and corporate managers. In this regard, I must mention the Discourse Bhagavan gave to industrialists in Chennai in 1980's. It contains invaluable lessons to all businessmen and industrialists. Fortunately, I was present during this Discourse.

What Bhagavan has been teaching us is so very relevant to every aspect of life as it exists in the world today. It is not that what Bhagavan has said is not relevant to the hurly-burly of today's world. I feel all the more convinced that the more hurly-burly is this life, the more relevant is all that Bhagavan says,

I have found it personally when I went into remote parts of, say, Himachal Pradesh or in remote villages of Haryana or Uttar Pradesh that many people feel vitally the presence of Bhagavan in their huts and houses even though they have not seen Bhagavan physically. Apart from seeing the picture of Bhagavan and hearing by word of mouth about Bhagavan, some of them had dreams of Bhagavan. Some others are related to Bhagavan through an extra-sensory experience which they may not be able to exactly articulate. But they feel that Swami is with them.

whether it is management, education, social structure or government administration. What Bhagavan has said seems to be the optimal solution for the conduct of society, for the conduct of government and the interpersonal relationship between individuals and races.

In fact, Swami's teachings apply to the whole of humanity. Now, slightly changing the subject, you have been with Swami for many, many years. Can you tell us some of your experiences with Bhagavan?

First, I will narrate one experience that happened at Prasanthi Nilayam many years ago. Bhagavan was going into the rows of devotees. He selected an Indian lady for interview who was sitting with a fairly grown-up child, and she was sobbing inconsolably.

It turned out that this child was not able to walk. I think that the child must have been about 10 years or so. I was standing at a little distance away from Bhagavan. This was in olden days before Sai Kulwant Hall was built. I must also mention that these were the days when I was still inexperienced, when I was still not that disciplined; I did not know how to react. Nobody knows perfectly. But I think today perhaps I am a little better than what I was. When Swami selected this lady for interview, she just couldn't get up as she tried to lift the child who was quite a weight. She was struggling. I thought, I would just rush forward to help. As I tried to come forward, I saw Swami visibly angry, and He asked me to get back. I was taken aback and moved away. Then Swami turned to this child and said: "walk". Lo and behold! This child walked, though not in a very perfect fashion. The child who was on his mother's lap, not a child, but a fairly grown-up kid, walked to the interview room after having been unable to do so God knows for how many years. The whole gathering burst into a loud applause. Tears started flowing from my eyes. This is an experience which stands vividly even today in front of my eyes. This shows that Bhagavan can do anything at any time. Sometime, He does not do it instantly; He chooses His own time-table. But if He wishes, He can do anything at any time. Perhaps this was one such occasion. He didn't even wait for the regular interview, He didn't wait for the Vibhuti to be materialised. He just commanded the child in English to walk and the child started walking. It was a very moving experience.

The second incident that I would like to tell also took place quite a few years ago and it was just a week before Bhagavan's proposed visit to Madras (Chennai). Suddenly, I found that I had to make a very urgent business trip to

What Bhagavan has been teaching us is so very relevant to every aspect of life as it exists in the world today. It is not that what Bhagavan has said is not relevant to the hurly-burly of today's world. I feel all the more convinced that the more hurly-burly is this life, the more relevant is all that Bhagavan says, whether it is management, education, social structure or government administration. What Bhagavan has said seems to be the optimal solution for the conduct of society, for the conduct of government and the interpersonal relationship between individuals and races.

Chicago just for one meeting. And it could not be put off; it was very, very urgent. Literally, I was going to fly in and fly out. But I could do so only if Bhagavan gave permission. In those days, Bhagavan was staying in the old Brindavan building in Bangalore. It was the building which was there before Trayee Brindavan. Some people used to call it 'the bungalow'; it had its own charm and sanctity. Just digressing a bit, I was fortunate to witness many times the aura which surrounded Bhagavan's head when He used to give Darshan after morning Nagar Sankirtan at Brindavan. Today we don't have that good fortune. In those days, He used to come out after Nagar Sankirtan. It was a sight to see the halo and the waves which used to flow from Bhagavan's crown of hair.



You know, you are one of the few persons besides Frank Baranowski to have seen the aura. That is really remarkable. May be some time, I have to ask you to talk about that. Presently, we are getting back to what you are trying to say.

It was a building which many of us loved very much. So, I went to take Bhagavan's permission, and I reached there in the evening. I was to leave that night from Chennai. Bhagavan very graciously said, "Yes, you can go and come back. Anyway, I am going to come only after a few days." So, that was very kind of Him.

I suppose you were anxious not to miss Him in Chennai.

Certainly, I would never miss Him. I would have rather cancelled my trip than go if it was not going to be possible. But Bhagavan made everything possible. I was waiting there with my folded hands. He asked me to stop at a particular place during my return journey and meet a particular person. For the sake of propriety, I do not want to mention the name. I said, "Yes Swami, I will do that." I was waiting for Him to tell me what were His further instructions. But Bhagavan just went to His chamber and the meeting that I had was terminated. I was thunderstruck. Here I was going to travel thousands of miles to meet an individual without knowing why I was going there and what I was supposed to tell him. Anyway, I thought, Bhagavan would sort out everything and I flew that night to Chicago. I finished my meeting in Chicago, and during the day I called this person in the city that I was supposed to go to and said, "I am coming to see you." It was a 14-hour flight from Chicago. He sounded a bit curt on the phone and said, "Why are you coming?" I said, "I will tell you when I get there"; I thought, if I told him I

didn't know why I was coming, he would put an end to the conversation forthwith. He sounded again a bit curt. However, I said Sai Ram to him and told him that I was arriving by such and such flight. I left Chicago that evening and flew 14 hours with a stopover for refuelling. I finally reached the city I was supposed to go to. I was quite tired. As I came out of the customs area, I found this particular gentleman waiting there. He appeared to be a very wealthy person, quite aristocratic in his demeanour. He was a devotee and said Sai Ram to me. We didn't have any further talk there, and we went to the parking lot where his Rolls Royce was parked. We just got into it and there was dead silence in the course of the journey. We reached his palatial house at about 2.30 in the morning. When we reached there, he didn't even offer that I could retire to my room and have some rest. He straightaway took me to his drawing room and shut the doors. He sat facing me and asked, "Now, why have you come?"

You two were alone?

Both of us, nobody else in the room at 2.30 in the morning. My answer to his question was, "I have come here because Swami asked me to come and see you." "Yes, yes, yes, what did He ask you to tell me? What message have you brought?", he asked. I said, "I bring no message." He said, "What man, you have come such a long distance without any message, without knowing why you are supposed to come and see me. Are you sure or are you hiding something?" "No, I am not hiding, I am carrying out implicitly Swami's instructions that I should come and see you," I said. He repeatedly quizzed me and grilled me and I stuck to what I was supposed to say, which was the truth. Then he relapsed into dead silence and got into a moody



somnolence. He was as if he was far away, lost in thought.

He was lost in thought for quite some time.

At least, I would say about 15 minutes.

15 minutes! That is a long time. And you sat there!

You can imagine, when two of us were sitting just like you and me, but here we are sitting in far more pleasant circumstances. There was no talk at all, and this man was lost in thought. Suddenly, I saw that he seemed to bend forward and reach towards his right shoe. I was wondering what was going to happen to me. Then suddenly I saw, he withdrew something from his socks, and I found it was a pocket revolver, glinting blue steel. He showed it to me and said, "Do you know what it is?" I said, "I know exactly what it is, but please don't point it at me." Mentally I started thinking, "Perhaps my last moment has arrived." I kept on repeating in my heart, "Sai Ram, Sai Ram, Sai Ram." I didn't know where I was and what I had got into. He said, "This is a fully loaded revolver. Just tonight, I want to tell you, I was going to shoot myself." Then he began like a flood, like a dam that was overflowing. He started telling his story, how he had got into enormous debts in his business, and he was finding it very difficult to repay them. He had decided to take the so-called easy way out. He himself said, "Bhagavan knew what I was going to do and that is why He has asked you to come and see me." We kept chatting for quite some time. I had a return flight to Chennai that day around noon. I just had time to have a wash and a very, very light breakfast in his house, and rushed to the airport. I told him that Swami was coming to Chennai in the next few days. He said that he would be there. So, here I could understand that Bhagavan knows the past, present



Swami turned to this child and said: "walk". Lo and behold! This child walked, though not in a very perfect fashion. The child who was on his mother's lap, not a child, but a fairly grown-up kid, walked to the interview room after having been unable to do so God knows for how many years. The whole gathering burst into a loud applause. Tears started flowing from my eyes. This is an experience which stands vividly even today in front of my eyes. This shows that Bhagavan can do anything at any time.

and future and how every devotee is under His care. You asked me a question whether he was a devotee, and I said, "Yes, he was a devotee." I was very careful in my choice of words because he seemed to have strayed from the fold a bit, but still Bhagavan did not forget him.

Swami sometimes says, "You may go away from me, but I won't leave you."

"I will not let you go", that is what He exactly says. In spite of not having come to Bhagavan for quite some time, Bhagavan remembered him and saved him, and here he was coming to Chennai when Bhagavan came there. To take this incident a little further, when he came to Chennai, Swami first did not look at him, and later when we thought that He is not going to see this person at all, suddenly He called

him into the interview room and asked me also to come in. I was again dumbfounded as to what I had to do at that moment. But Bhagavan has His own method and He knows whom to use as what instrument, at what time. Then He started really to castigate this person. I was feeling very embarrassed to translate some of Bhagavan's words. When I was trying to pass them over, Swami got very angry with me and said, "You are just a loud speaker. Your role is to say exactly what I am telling you to say. No editing whatsoever." Then I exactly followed Bhagavan's instructions. This man burst into tears and wept like a baby. Finally, Bhagavan in His ever-flowing mercy said, "Past is past, forget the past, everything will be alright for you."

This story has a happy ending; this man had a lot of properties which could not be sold due to the crash in the prices which took place at that time. Lo and behold! Buyers came mysteriously from somewhere, and he could raise enough funds to meet all his obligations. This was a unique experience for me and it taught me the lesson that Bhagavan's ways are mysterious. How, when and where He would come to protect you, you do not know. But what we should always be sure about is that He will always protect us. He will protect us at the time when we really need protection. That is what we have to understand.

There are two things that struck me as you were speaking. One is the way you implicitly obeyed Swami's command. This is something Swami asks us to do very often, but we invariably fail. I was deeply impressed how in a delicate mission like this about which you had no clue, you literally followed His instructions, and that I think is a great lesson. Secondly, He is telling those of us who tend to forget that He is always there. He says, "I am with

I would emphatically say that business should not be conducted without values. Moreover, as Bhagavan says, a good leader is one who manages by example rather than only by giving long talks or trying to make others do what he wants; he should lead from the front. It is the principle of the army that a good general is one who leads from the front. In the same way Bhagavan has said, if you expect your people to be upright and honest, you have to be upright and honest; if you expect your people to be disciplined, you have to be disciplined.

you, in you, around you, behind you, below you, above you." We are never alone. He is always with us. Now you mentioned earlier that Swami's mission has moved into a new phase, of leading the whole of humanity, spiritualising the entire world and so on. In your capacity as the All India President of the Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, you have gone round the country and visited many remote places. Can you tell us something of the growth of Sai movement and how ordinary people relate to Swami, particularly those who have never come here and have not seen Swami. They have only heard of Him, yet they have Him in their heart. How does this happen?

I have found it personally when I went into remote parts of, say, Himachal Pradesh or

in remote villages of Haryana or Uttar Pradesh that many people feel vitally the presence of Bhagavan in their huts and houses even though they have not seen Bhagavan physically. Apart from seeing the picture of Bhagavan and hearing by word of mouth about Bhagavan, some of them had dreams of Bhagavan. Some others are related to Bhagavan through an extra-sensory experience which they may not be able to exactly articulate. But they feel that Swami is with them. They see the signs and symbols of His presence – appearance of Vibhuti, footprints, miraculous cure of sick persons. These have given them a vital belief that Bhagavan is with them at all times.

Now, if there is one last remark that you would like to make to our listeners, what would that be? Remember, they are scattered all over Asia, and they don't have the opportunity to see Bhagavan everyday. But you are ever so often in His proximity, physically at least. What is that you would like to tell them and share with them?

The most important thing I would like to say to every single person including myself: Have faith in Bhagavan and have a heart-to-heart connection with Him. Switch on that Radio Sai which is a wireless radio from your heart to Bhagavan's heart. Pray to Bhagavan with full faith and I am sure that you will get that confidence which will bring happiness and fulfilment in your life. I think that this is what we should look for. In essence, there is one single message – faith, faith, faith and prayer.

Thank you for sparing your time and I do hope that you will come again because I am sure that in your long association with Bhagavan, you must have seen many things and had also experiences in different places.

Thank you, Dr. Venkataraman. Sai Ram.

– Excerpted from Sri V. Srinivasan's interviews broadcast on 6th October 2002 and 10th April 2003 on Radio Sai Global Harmony.

**SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, PRASANTHI NILAYAM
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Admission to **Class I and Class XI** of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Anantapur Dist., (A.P.) will take place in **June 2009**. **It is an English medium, wholly residential school.**

Prospectus and Admission Forms can be had from the Principal from **01-01-2009** by **paying Rs 50/-** either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch (code no: 2786) in favour of the Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, 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 2009** and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before **1st March 2009**.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st standard in between 5 ½ years and 6 ½ years as on 30-09-2009.

Principal

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

FIJI

AN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL Conference, jointly sponsored by the University of Fiji and Sri Sathya Sai Organisations of Australia and Fiji, was held at the university campus on 12th July 2008. It was attended by health administrators, general practitioners, medical staff from Latouka Hospital and 43 medical students. The theme of the conference was "Make the Difference". The conference was opened by the High Commissioner of India in Fiji. At the outset, Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice Chancellor of the university, made introductory remarks about the conference. Thereafter, Prof. Umanand Prasad, Dean of the Medical School, addressed the gathering on the theme of the conference. The next speaker, Dr. K. Nadanachandran, medical coordinator of Zone 3 of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, made a presentation on Sai Healthcare, describing Bhagavan's teachings on loving service to be rendered by the healthcare providers. Other distinguished speakers included Dr. Ami Chand, Director of Curative Services in Fiji, Dr. Gyaneswar Rao, Senior Physician at the CWM Hospital in Suva, Fiji and physicians from the visiting Australian Sri Sathya Sai medical unit. Some of the subjects discussed were neural tube defects, osteoporosis, the ageing eye, need for good quality research in healthcare, women's health, infertility, cleft lip/cleft palate and HIV/AIDS.

Following the conference, medical camps were held from 13th to 18th July 2008 in the rural areas of Viti Levu, Fiji. A team of Sai



Medical camps were organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Fiji in the rural areas of Viti Levu, Fiji from 13th to 18th July 2008 in which 3,270 persons were provided free medical services by medical experts from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

physicians and Sai volunteers from Australia, Fiji and New Zealand along with the local health authority team and university medical students provided free medical services for over 3,270 people. The medical camps were set up in a college and local schools in Tavua, Raki Raki, Toge, Ba and Sigatoka. Health education videos highlighting prevention and management of some common conditions were shown. Medical services offered during the camps included consultations, physical examination, diagnostic tests such as screening for diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Free medications were dispensed. Dental services included extractions, fillings and preventive care. They also provided repairs and additions to existing dentures and provision of partial dentures. Comprehensive eye check-up, free prescription eye



glasses and eye drops were given to patients as needed. Many patients had multiple consultations that included medical, dental, eye and gynaecological assessments. After the conclusion of the medical camps, the medical team joined the Guru Purnima celebrations organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in Fiji.

INDONESIA

As part of Guru Purnima celebrations on 20th July 2008, Sai Study Group of Jakarta organised a medical camp and served 869



Sai Study Group of Jakarta, Indonesia organised a medical camp in the Dadap area in Tangerang, Jakarta on 20th July 2008 and served 869 residents of this locality where skin diseases and diarrhoea are prevalent due to paucity of potable drinking water.

people in the Dadap area in Tangerang, Jakarta where personal hygiene is difficult to maintain because of paucity of clean water. Diarrhoea and many skin diseases inflict the young and the old. Sai devotees, doctors, nurses along with local people, formed a team of 75 to provide medical service to the residents. Medications were prescribed and provided free to all patients.

In a continuing effort to reduce the incidence of Hepatitis-B in children in Indonesia,



Sai Youth of the Sai Study Group of Jakarta conducted a series of vaccinations in Cilincing, North Jakarta. Between 13th April 2008 and 29th June 2008, a total of 232 children up to the age of 10 years were given vaccinations. The parents of these children are happy that their children have been protected against Hepatitis-B virus infection.

CANADA

On 16th August 2008, Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centres of London and Windsor hosted the annual spiritual retreat at the Community



Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centres of London and Windsor, Ontario, Canada organised a spiritual retreat on the theme "Food is God, Do not Waste Food" on 16th August 2008. The presentations made in the retreat outlined relevant action for individuals, families and Sai Centres to stop food wastage and feed the poor and the hungry.

Centre in Komoka near London, Ontario, Canada. Over 250 devotees including adults, youth and children participated. The theme of the retreat was "Food is God, Do not Waste Food". The devotional programme included melodious musical rendering by two distinguished artistes – Sri T.V. Hariharan, an alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai University, and Sri Sean McDonald, a professional musician and conductor. A poignant presentation on the theme of the retreat systematically covered aspects of hunger, food wastage, natural

disasters, soaring prices and contribution of the Sai Organisation to alleviate hunger and suffering during natural calamities. Extensively quoting Bhagavan, the presentation outlined relevant action for individuals, families and Sai Centres to stop food wastage and feed the poor and the hungry.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Medak district conducted Parthi Yatra with 1,500 devotees on 21st and 22nd September 2008 and enacted a drama “Sai Rama Nauka” in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan on 21st September 2008 which highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan. On 22nd September 2008, they organised a function in Sai Kulwant Hall in which various implements were distributed with the blessings of Bhagavan to 108 needy persons to enable them to earn their livelihood. The implements included sprayers, sewing and embroidery machines, wet grinders, iron boxes, ploughs, kits for potters, carpenters, electricians, etc., and bicycles. Besides, these devotees organised Nagar Sankirtan with different cultural programmes in Puttaparthi village, conducted a Yajna and arranged spiritual talks on Bhagavan’s message for the devotees of Medak district.

Bihar and Jharkhand: Kosi river, which is historically known as “Sorrow of Bihar”, caused great havoc in eight districts of Bihar on 18th August 2008 when it changed its course and breached the embankment at Kusaha located upstream in Nepal, causing worst ever floods in 50 years in Bihar. It affected 2.5 million people along with 1 million cattle in about 1,000 villages.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Bihar and Jharkhand started the relief work



Seva Dal volunteers of Bihar Sai Organisation engaged in distributing relief material to flood-affected people of village Kushewar in Saharsa district of Bihar.

from 21st August 2008 when flood waters still had heavy currents. A base camp was set up at Saharsa to store relief materials. Sai workers carried relief materials in mobile vans and in boats, covering several kilometres of flooded waterways to finally reach the villagers in the marooned areas. Seva Dal volunteers targeted those areas where no help had reached; they travelled sometimes as much as 30 to 40 km to deliver the relief material.

In the midst of devastating floods, relief materials started coming from the Sai Samithis of different districts of Bihar and Jharkhand. Truckloads of flood relief material was also received by the Bihar Sai Organisation from the Sai Organisations of Karnataka, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. Sai Youth of different districts of Bihar promptly delivered the relief material directly in the hands of flood victims. The relief operations were simultaneously carried out in the worst-affected parts of Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul and Purnea districts. At many places,



specially in Saharsa and Madhepura, the relief operation is still being carried out.

Orissa: Orissa witnessed one of the severest floods since last 40 years in September 2008. Out of 30 districts of Orissa, 18 were severely affected by floods. In this time of calamity, Sai workers worked day and night to save, feed

devastation caused by floods and to supervise arrangements for relief measures.

In His compassion, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has decided to provide new houses to those poor people who have been rendered homeless by these floods. He has granted ten crore rupees and sent a high-level committee



Undaunted by the fury of the floods, Seva Dal members and Sai Youth of the Sai Organisation used boats also to carry flood relief material to the doorstep of marooned villagers.

and console flood victims. Relief in the form of dry food, cooked food, tarpaulins, drinking water, clothes, medicines and other articles of daily need was provided to hundreds of thousands affected by the floods. Relief centres were opened by the Sai Organisation at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Salipur, Puri, Nimapara, Paradeep, Kujanga, Nayagarh, Jatani and Sonepur. The relief work started on 20th September 2008 and continued for 15 days without break. Sai Organisations of the States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Haryana and Chandigarh and Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand provided timely help and sent truckloads of flood relief material for distribution at the centres set up by the Sai Organisation of Orissa. All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Sri V. Srinivasan himself visited Orissa to assess the magnitude of

to work out the details of this housing project in coordination with the Sai Organisation of Orissa.

Punjab: Patti Samithi of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Punjab adopted village Dhagana and organised a medical camp in June 2008 in which 386 patients were served. Bal Vikas classes were started in the village school. As a result of this, the number of school students rose from 45 to 74 in two months. There was a remarkable change in the behaviour of children. They started going to the Gurdwara daily and offering prayers there. They also started offering salutations to their parents and elders. They started singing Bhajans not only in their homes but also in school and streets. All the school problems were solved. Seeing this, the surrounding nine villages approached the Patti Samithi



for doing similar work in their areas also. The Samithi adopted those nine villages with the same results.

As a token of appreciation for the good work done by the Sai Organisation in Dhagana and surrounding villages (border areas), Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (S.G.P.C.), the highest spiritual body of Sikhs, invited the



As a token of appreciation of the work done by the Sai Organisation in village Dhagana and nine villages surrounding it, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee invited the office bearers of Sai Organisation to Golden Temple and offered a Saropa (honour) and a model of Golden Temple to them.

Sai Organisation office bearers to Golden Temple, Amritsar and offered a Saropa (honour) and a model of Golden Temple amidst the holy chants of "Sat Sri Akal". More than 500 persons including Bal Vikas children visited the Golden Temple on the invitation of the S.G.P.C. which provided transportation from railway station to the Golden Temple, gave a copy of Japji Sahib to all children and distributed Sikh literature to all present. Lunch (Langar) was served to all. Special privilege was extended for Darshan also.

Tamil Nadu: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Cooperative Colony, Mettupalayam,

Coimbatore district organised a function on the holy occasion of Id Ul Fitr on 1st October 2008, inviting Muslim brothers to Sai Seva Samithi



On the holy festival of Id Ul Fitr, 36 Muslim brothers performed Namaz in the premises of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Cooperative Colony, Mettupalayam and partook of light refreshments served by the members of the Sai Samithi to break their fast.

premises. 30 Muslim brothers attended this function, performed their Namaz in front of our Beloved Bhagavan's photo kept at the altar of the Samithi and broke their fast with light refreshments served by the members of the Sai Samithi of Mettupalayam. They expressed their deep appreciation and offered profound thanks to the Sai brothers for their kind gesture.

Sai Youth of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Chennai Metro (west district) also celebrated the holy festival of Id Ul Fitr and distributed sweet sherbet to about 1,600 brothers and sisters with the greetings of Sai Ram. The Muslim brothers were extremely happy with the dedicated service of Sai volunteers and offered their profuse thanks to Bhagavan Baba and the Sai Organisation.



God First, World Next, I Last

BEFORE THE MAHABHARATA WAR, both Arjuna and Duryodhana went to Lord Krishna to request for His help. Actor and director of the cosmic drama as He was, Krishna closed His eyes and pretended



Arjuna sat near the feet of Krishna with great devotion and humility while Duryodhana in his pride occupied a seat near His head.

to sleep as both of them came to see Him. After entering the chamber of Krishna in His palace, Arjuna sat near His feet with great devotion and humility while Duryodhana in his pride occupied a seat near His head.

After some time, Krishna opened His eyes. As Arjuna was sitting on the side of His feet, He first looked at him and asked, "Arjuna! When did you come? What is the matter?" Duryodhana was beset with jealousy, malice and hurt ego when he observed that Krishna had spoken first to Arjuna and not to him. In reply to Krishna's question, Arjuna said, "Krishna! I have come to pray for Your help." Krishna asked again, "What do you want?" Grippled by fear and jealousy that Krishna would give help to Arjuna first, Duryodhana said, "Krishna! I have also

come for Your help." Saying this, he stood in front of Krishna. "When did you come, brother-in-law?" Krishna asked Duryodhana and said, "Between you two, I alone will be on one side and My army will be on the other side." Then Krishna turned to Arjuna and asked him, "Do you want Me or My army?" "I do not need anything else except You, Krishna," replied Arjuna. Immediately, Duryodhana said with great happiness, "Krishna! I want Your entire army." Krishna sent Duryodhana away with His army. He lovingly patted the back of Arjuna and admired his choice.

What do we learn from this incident? The person who keeps God first, world next



"I do not want anything else except You", said Arjuna to Krishna when He asked him whether he wanted Him or His army.

and I last in his life is always victorious. The Pandavas gave the highest place to Krishna in their life. The Kauravas, on the other hand, kept I first, world next and God last in their life. In this way, they became distant from God and suffered downfall.



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*Name and Form are
Inseparable*

My name is not distinct from My form. The name recalls the form as soon as it is pronounced or heard. When the form is seen, the name comes into the consciousness that very moment. So, when the name is ever dancing on your tongue, the form, too, has to be before you and beside you. What need is there to mention this as a gift from Me? I have to manifest the form, whenever My name is remembered with faith or sung with devotion.

– Baba

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