



SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE

WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR DUTY? LET ME SUMMARIZE IT FOR YOU.

FIRST, TEND YOUR PARENTS WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE AND GRATITUDE.

SECOND, SATHYAM VADA, DHARMAM CHARA: SPEAK THE TRUTH AND ACT VIRTUOUSLY. THIRD, WHENEVER YOU HAVE A FEW MOMENTS TO SPARE, REPEAT THE NAME OF THE LORD WITH THE FORM IN YOUR MIND. FOURTH, NEVER INDULGE IN TALKING ILL OF OTHERS OR TRYING TO FIND FAULT IN OTHERS. AND FINALLY, DO NOT CAUSE PAIN TO OTHERS, IN ANY FORM.

-BABA

(from Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. IV)

QUOTATIONS OF SATHYA SAI BABA ON MARRIAGE

(taken from a recent marriage performed by Swami)

The significance of marriage is like milk and sugar. Men are milk, ladies sugar. Without sugar the milk is only protein, there's no taste. Without milk, only taste is there, no protein. Physically, mentally, spiritually, milk and sugar together make the right mixture.

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Marriage means that you must live a whole lifetime together. It's not for a few days or a few months or a few years. Marriage is not like a shirt that you change every day. It's the breeding of one's character, an eternal bond.

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When a child cries, it is given a sweet. In the same way, human beings are governed by their senses and so God has created the union of marriage to satisfy them. Marriage is for self control.

* * *

The Self which is selflessness is God. Selfishness - "my, my, my," - this is ego. This is not God. It is to kill the ego in us that he brings two souls together so that they can learn to adjust to one another and overcome their egos.

* * *

The most important thing in marriage is understanding. After understanding, adjustment easily follows.

* * *

The wife is half of the husband and the husband is half of the wife. Half plus half makes one. "I" plus "I" equals "we". Always "we", "we", "we". When the husband gets into trouble, the wife should think "we". When the wife has trouble, the husband should think "we". This is a real promise. Life is full of troubles and full of challenges. We should not separate because of them, but we should face them and face them together. When trouble comes nowadays, even some small trouble, the husband and wife think of separating. This should not be the tendency; rather they should make the effort to adjust.

SAI FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- New books now available from the Sathya Sai Baba Book Center of America, P.O. Box 278, Tustin, CA: Primer for Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Students; Sri Sathya Sai Avatar (Reprint of a pictorial of Sai Baba's life, first issued at the 1975 World Conference); Vision of the Divine (reprinted in soft cover); Shri Sai Satcharita (again available in hard cover), the wonderful life and teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba; Ramkatha Ras Vahini, the Ramayana epic told by Sathya Sai Baba; and Ideals of Sri Sathya Sai Education.
- New cassette now available from the Sathya Sai Baba Center of Hollywood, 7911 Willoughby Avenue, Los Angeles, CA: Lakshmi Shankar sings bhajans (Stereo, #SC-005, 45 min., \$4.00).
- A new list of Sathya Sai Baba Centers in the Americas is being mailed to centers in July. You may contact any center if you wish to consult the list.
- Two new committees are being formed by the Sathya Sai Baba Council of the Americas, a National Service (Seva) Committee and a National Children's Education (Bal Vikas) Committee. If you know of a person who is qualified to serve on one of these committees, send his or her name and address to the Council of the Americas, P.O. Box 668, Soquel, CA, 95073, as soon as possible.
- Additional Sathya Sai Baba Centers: add to each location, S.S.B. Center of:
 - Phoenix, 6804 N. Joshua Tree Lane, Paradise Valley, Arizona, 85253, Barbara Bozzani.
 - Lafayette, 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, California, 94549, Perri Pettyjohn.
 - Concord Village, 25 Fawnwood, St. Louis, Missouri, 63128, Rita Bruce.
 - South St. Louis, 4215 Osceola, St. Louis, Missouri, 63116, Brian Hillyard.
 - Shady Cove, Box 1137, Shady Cove, Oregon, 97539, Denise Dake.
 - Del Pellegrino, Via Del Pellegrino 177, 00186 Roma, Italy, F.F. Nerina.
 - Mexico City, XOLA 518 G, Col. Del Valle, Mexico 12, DF., Luis Muniz.
 - Bello Campo, Edif El Trebol, Apto 35-B, Av Avila, Ubb. Bello Campo, Caracas 106, Venezuela, Arlette Meyer.
- Change of address: S.S.B. Center of Tucson, 2330 No. Tanque Verde Place, Tucson. tel. (602)749-5807.

Please delete from the previous list the following locations:
Santa Monica, California; The Mile High City, Colorado;
Edwards, Mississippi; Franklin, Pennsylvania; and Montego
Bay, Jamaica

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

- The third annual meeting of the directors of the Sathya Sai Baba Council of the Americas was held in Hollywood, California on July 8th and 9th. In addition to two wonderful days of satsang, there were many hours of fruitful meetings. The Council passed a resolution to encourage each center to write to every other center once a year to talk about their programs, ideas, and other useful information, so that there would be an ongoing dialogue between them and a more strongly knit Sai Family. There was discussion about the growth of centers and ways in which centers might fill the needs of devotees.

At the meeting of directors it was also decided to amend the Guidelines so that all centers charge the same prices for Sai books, tapes, etc. by charging the RETAIL PRICE as stated in the price lists of the Sathya Sai Baba Book Center of America and the Hollywood Sai Center. This will also enable centers to recover part of their postage and incidental operating expenses. over
but

- The Guidelines for Sathya Sai Baba Centers contain specific instructions on the organization of centers given directly by Sathya Sai Baba, and administrative rules and advice formulated by the Sathya Sai Baba Council of the Americas. In answer to a frequently asked question, Guideline paragraphs # 16, 17, 21, 23, 26, 27, 30, 34, 51, 55, 60, 69, 74, 76, 80, 83, 88, 92, 94, 96-101, 124, 125, plus the direct quotes are the items that come directly from Sathya Sai Baba.

- This year's Summer School classes were held from May 19 to June 20 at Whitefield. There were about 1,250 participants including about 150 to 200 foreign observers, mostly from the U.S. All were accommodated for free in the newly constructed hostel in the Brindavanam Campus. Three meals, prepared especially without chillies, were served daily. Baba gave 33 discourses and foreigners had a chance to read the daily summaries and sing bhajans on stage in Baba's immediate presence. The summaries of lectures were read by Craig Smith of Greenwich, Connecticut and Ellen Lamm of New York City. The foreigners were also allowed to take the examination and Dr. John Liefie of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Robert Baskin of Salinas, California, and Sita Eitman of New York received special awards for their high marks in the examination. The main topic of the summer course this year was the Srimad Bhagavatha, a classic Hindu text which deals with the life of Sri Krishna. Baba in his lectures described the devotion of the gopis to Sri Krishna and held that as the ideal for all devotees to emulate.

- A regional Guru Purnima celebration is scheduled for July 23 at the Poughkeepsie, New York Sathya Sai Baba Center.

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

- At the time of World Conference in 1975, Swami asked that centers in an area meet together at least once every several months. Regional meetings allow for an interchange of ideas and the sharing of devotion and study, interaction and cooperation among centers. They provide an atmosphere similar to Prashanti Nilayam and offer a spiritual respite from our worldly life. Herewith follow reports on several recent regional meetings around the country.

- In the Northeast, there was a Sunday afternoon regional meeting in April at the Planetarium Station Center in New York City. Then, on June 23 through June 25 there was a regional gathering at Fairview Lake Camp in New Jersey. One hundred and seventy devotees from North Carolina to Vermont participated. The mornings started at 5:30 in the Prayer Hall where devotees gathered to chant Omkar as it is done at Prashanti Nilayam. They then assembled for Nagasankirtan (singing bhajans while walking), an appropriate start for two closely packed days of study circles, workshops, and bhajans. The study circles ranged from a scholarly discussion of the Upanishads to a practical study of the devotee's role in raising children. A discussion of Sai Baba and the arts led to the concept of an Arts Committee and there was much interest in a workshop on the Gayatri Mantra with a tape of Swami teaching the mantra. The weekend included a slide show and a film. Many addresses, bhajans, slides, and Baba stories were exchanged. The meeting ended with a three-hour bhajan followed by a closing address by Dr. Hislop.

- The Manhattan Sai Center hosted an open meeting July 13th at the Indian Consulate located off Fifth Avenue in New York City. A large gathering filled the ornate reception hall for bhajans, films, and a talk by Don Heath. The dignity of the surroundings seemed quite appropriate for the occasion. It was a good opportunity for visitors to become acquainted with Baba.

- The first Midwest Regional Conference was held at Pine Creek Camp, Pine Creek, Indiana on the weekend of May 19th. It was attended by over 100 Sai devotees and families. They came from as far as Mississippi, Colorado, and Canada to share this beautiful Sai Family experience. The program began Friday with the welcome and then evening bhajans. Saturday began with Omkar and Nagasankirtan in the early hours. Morning activities included bhajans, study groups, and activities for the children. In the afternoon there was a panel discussion relating Baba's concepts of Truth, Duty, Peace, and Love to our daily life. Afterwards, a question and answer session was held. In the evening there were bhajans and sharing of personal Sai experiences. Then, later in the evening, several films were shown.

REGIONAL MEETINGS CONT.

- Midwest Conference cont:

Sunday activities were again Omkar, Nagasankirtan, bhajans, study groups, and children's activities. In addition there was an English bhajan workshop. Here bhajans in English were rehearsed and sung for taping. Dr. Hislop conducted a workshop for new and small centers providing organizational advice. Later he participated in a workshop on presenting Baba in the American context. The General Chairperson was Marjorie Robinson, wife of Director Duane Robinson. The conference was so much appreciated that the Midwest Committee has already chosen Memorial Day weekend of '79 for their next meeting.

- The Second West Coast Regional Retreat was held on the weekend of May 12 - 14 at Cottontail Ranch in Southern California. More than 200 devotees attended the program which included a 12-hour bhajan and a wide variety of speakers, study circles, and open discussions. At a meeting of West Coast presidents of Sai centers, it was decided to hold the Fall 1978 retreat in Northern California (see next item).

- The next West Coast Regional Retreat will be held at the beautiful YMCA Camp at La Honda, California (55 miles south of San Francisco) on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1978. Located in the coastal redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the retreat will offer study circles on "Women on the Spiritual Path," and many other topics; workshops for those involved or interested in the organization of Sathya Sai Baba centers; a separate meditation hall available throughout the weekend; and showings of two new films: Richard Bock's 90-minute film "The Lost Years" (the middle years of Jesus's life, investigating travels in India, Tibet, etc.) and a new film on Sathya Sai Baba by Richard Kaplowitz. Details of the program and registration forms will be available about September 1st. If you would like them to be sent to you, please write to SAI Retreat, P.O. Box 11239, San Francisco, CA, 94101.

BHAJAN COLUMN

"Bhajan is one of the processes by which you can train the mind to expand into eternal values. Teach the mind to revel in the glory and majesty of God; wean it away from the petty horizons of pleasure. Bhajan induces in you a desire to experience the truth, to glimpse the beauty that is God, to taste the bliss that is the self. It encourages man to dive into himself and be genuinely his real self. Once that search is desired, the path is easy."

The love for God that is within each heart is beyond words. Ideally, the words we sing will uplift us and inspire our devotion. They will be faithful to the purest love and highest truth that we know; they will bring us as close as possible to the experience of one-ness.

BHAJAN COLUMN CONT.

Understanding the meaning of bhajans helps us to feel closer to them and sing them whole-heartedly. For Western devotees, some learning is involved. Because centers have expressed a real interest, the Bhajan Committee is trying to provide more meaningful and complete translations. The committee is also preparing an English bhajan cassette. The cassette will include a few bhajans with translations that are sung in the same melody and rhythm, as devotees have requested. They can be sung in the slower speed in either English or Sanskrit and followed at the quicker speed in the alternate language. The translations were kept as precise as possible but some small changes were necessary to maintain the melody and rhythm. "Pyare Nanda Lal" is given below with a singable translation.

Pyare Nandalal Darashana Deejo	O Nanda's Dear Child Give Us Your Blessing
Yashoda Ke Bal Darashana Deejo	Yashoda's Sweet Son Give Us Your Blessing
Pyare Nandalal Darashana Deejo	O Nanda's Dear Child Give Us Your Blessing
Natavara Lal Darashana Deejo	Divine Dancing Child Give Us Your Blessing
Giridhara Bal Darashana Deejo	Dear Lord of Our Hearts Give Us Your Blessing

Pyare - dear, beloved

Nandalal - son of Nanda; Nanda - Krishna's father; Lal - son, delight of Darshan(a) - the blessing of seeing the Lord

Deejo - give us

Yashoda Ke Bal - child of Yashoda; Yashoda - foster mother of Krishna
bal - child; ke - of

Natavara - name for Krishna meaning the great dancer

Giridhara - name for Krishna meaning he who held aloft the mountain;
Giri - mountain; Dhara - to hold, to bear

(Pyare Nandalal is on Bhajan Learning Tape #4, C-032)

God's ways are mysterious, yet filled with subtle teachings. Lord Krishna gave eternal freedom to many but just as the soul is encased in the body, his birth took place in a prison cell. It had been foretold that the eighth child of Devaki and Vasudeva would end the life of the tyrant king Kamsa; thus Kamsa chained them in a cell in Mathura. Miraculously, at the onset of the divine birth, the chains fell from their limbs and the gates of the prison opened; the guards were overcome by sleep. Vasudeva carried his newborn child to the home of Nanda and Yashoda in the town of Gokul, where he would be raised.

Like a mischievous child, Krishna would break Yashoda's clay pot and sneak away with the butter or curds. Yashoda would trace Krishna to his hiding place by following his footprints. Symbolically, the milk is our love which is purified in a spiritual process that is like churning which takes place in a clay pot - or human body. The final form is pure devotion, which is compared to butter. The shattering of the pot is like the breaking of body identification. As Yashoda was vigilant in pursuing Krishna's footprints, we must also unswervingly follow the Lord.

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